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**Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)**  
Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 September 2022

## **Possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the document entitled “*Possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste*”. The document presented in the annex has been developed and submitted by the German Environment Agency and has not been formally edited.

## **Annex: Possible funding Sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste**

### **1 Introduction**

The fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 aims at finalizing the recommendations to forward to the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, with a view for ICCM-5 to adopt several resolutions. To that end, through various modalities, the intersessional period has progressed work on the elements for a new, overarching policy strategy.

The Virtual Working Group on financial considerations was mandated to discuss, among several other topics, the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in its three basic aspects of mainstreaming, private sector involvement and dedicated external financing, as well as the role of the Global Environment Facility to date and how it should respond to the “beyond 2020” programme of work, next to developing recommendations about dedicated financing in the light of the multisectoral scope of the matter.<sup>1</sup>

### **2 State of the discussion on financial considerations**

With a view to finalise the financial considerations during the Fourth meeting of the intersessional process, participants of the Virtual Working Group on financial considerations have advanced on various aspects of the theme and convergence of positions seems to be under way with regard to, among others:

- tracking development aid for the sound management of chemicals and waste;
- identifying and accessing new potential sources of funding;
- mapping funding sources;
- matching initiatives that require funding with potential donors;
- the role of mainstreaming national chemicals and waste priorities in the development planning processes of developing countries;
- the integration of sound management of chemicals and waste activities in the development assistance aid programming of donors and in the strategies and activities of international and regional organisations, development banks, etc.;
- the importance of private sector involvement for achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste;
- strengthening the component of dedicated external financing;
- adjusting finance to the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature and scope of the Strategic Approach.

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<sup>1</sup> SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1/Add.4, Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on financial considerations.

### 3 Study: Possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste

#### a) Background

The need for financial resources, the availability and access to them, in support of the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, remains an important aspect of the follow-up of those agreements and thus also in the context of SAICM beyond 2020. It is not uncommon to hear some countries state that there are many funds available, while others believe that there are not. An additional challenge related to this is the ease of access to the variety of funds that are out there.

In order to address this issue of possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste, given the broad nature of the full life cycle world of chemicals, it speaks to reason that a comprehensive study is in order. In line with the UNEP Assessment on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management<sup>2</sup>, such a study should look to sustainability fields beyond the obvious sources for the management of chemicals and waste.

While the case has been made with regard to opportunities for coordination and cooperation on areas of common interest with the fields of:

- i. health;
- ii. labour,
- iii. biodiversity,
- iv. climate change,
- v. agriculture and food,
- vi. sustainable consumption and production, and
- vii. human rights.

It remains to be seen if these broader sustainability fields are also relevant for funding.

#### b) Objective and methodology

The aim of the study, which is ongoing, is to identify and describe the entities that may provide financial support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to address their challenges with the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The inventory of those entities is providing an overview that should allow to identify:

- i. the kind of activities that can currently be funded;
- ii. an estimate of the total amount of funding available over a given time span;
- iii. the types of funding that can be provided and where;
- iv. who can access the resources; and
- v. how one can apply for the funds.

The inventory of funding sources is being conducted through an internet search of entities, i.e. organizations/institutions/programmes, that are operating in the fields of environment, development and finance. In order to document the aspects above (see i to v under b) above), the websites of those entities

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<sup>2</sup> SAICM/IP.4/INF/3 (2020) Submission from UNEP: Assessment on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options to coordinate and cooperate on areas of common interest.

are being searched for their activities related to chemicals and waste management, for their strategy and planning instruments, for the specifics of their operations, for their requirements for access, their budgets, etc.

Verification of unclear or incomplete information is occasionally sought through phone calls, email communications and interviews.

For each of the entities a general form is filled out with all relevant information for the study and links to the entity's website for further details (Figure 1).

The forms are being translated into an Excel file with the aim of building a directory of possible funding sources that countries can access in order to have an initial overview of them (Figure 2). This file should allow to identify which organisations may be of interest for countries' needs and is to be consulted in conjunction with the individual forms where further details can be found.

### **c) Preliminary results**

To date, 46 organizations/institutions/programmes have been reviewed and documented. These include international organisations, national and international NGOs, multilateral development banks, special programmes (UNEP, Minamata), etc. The findings so far indicate that:

- i. While the information that the entities provide on their websites follows a logical structure in order to explain to the general public their mandate, areas of work, overall strategies, and activities, the degree of detail varies considerably. The description of the general topics and specific activities that can be funded, in particular, is sometimes so general that either everything or nothing could relate to chemicals management;
- ii. In most instances the overall budget of the entity can be found rather easily, but allocations for chemicals and waste management are hidden in a multitude of objectives, outputs or outcomes. Very rarely there are clear budget lines;
- iii. The types of funding that the entity can provide are usually clearly indicated, but can also vary a lot in the details, especially for the non-grant funding;
- iv. The description of the geographical destination to which the funding can go is normally fairly obvious, but lack of clarity may appear when strategic shifts contradict the previous general eligibility criteria;
- v. In general, it is clear which countries can access the funding, but there is no uniform way of designating those countries. The detail of the in-country recipients is often little specified;
- vi. The description of the application procedure varies between the extremes of non-existent to the hyperlink that opens the application form. In some cases, a considerable number of documents needs to be consulted, in particular when there are different types of funding;
- vii. On a general note, a considerable variation in the nomenclature has been noted for many aspects of the study. This is the case for the description of general areas of work and specific activities of the entities, of their associated general or specific budget lines, of the non-grant financial instruments, of the recipient countries and their in-country entities, and of the application procedure. As a result, the identification of the underlying aspects with the key words used in the study may be subject to change, correction or fine-tuning.

## d) Preliminary conclusions

Based on the findings above and on some general observations, the study suggests the following preliminary conclusions:

- i. The information provided by entities on their websites mainly serves the purpose of showing to the outside world their mandate and work. Most of the times it is not conceived as a tool for countries to access resources of the organisation;
- ii. The lack of detail and clarity of the financial information provided doesn't allow to estimate the total amount of funding available for the sound management of chemicals and waste;
- iii. The types of funding available basically fall into two general categories: grants and loans, but the combination of both also occurs. When loans are the main type of funding, they can be of different types and usually exist next to other financial instruments;
- iv. Entities usually provide their financial resources on global, regional or sub-regional scale. In a few cases support is available for a limited, well-defined group of recipient countries;
- v. Recipient countries are categorised, according to different criteria, as developing countries, countries with economies in transition, emerging countries, low-income countries, middle-income countries, etc. At the national level recipients can be government, governmental institutions, private sector, NGOs, academia, etc., or unspecified;
- vi. There is considerable variety in the descriptions of how to apply: none, the email address of a contact person, referral to the country office of the entity, referral to implementing agencies, direct link to the application form;
- vii. With respect to the relevance of the sustainability fields taken from the UNEP assessment on linkages for financial information, so far, there is no direct evidence from the field of human rights. On the other hand, the fields of development and development finance has been added.

## e) Next steps

While the study is still ongoing, albeit in its final phase, it does provide a snapshot of possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste. It is also clear that more work can be done in order to identify additional entities and provide more details about them with the aim to develop a practical tool for countries in search of support for addressing their challenges with regard to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Before initiating another phase of this research, it may be fruitful to gather opinions from the variety of stakeholders that are involved in the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The Fourth meeting of the intersessional process may be an opportunity to receive feedback.

Therefore, the study calls upon any organisation, institution or programme that is active in the field of the sound management of chemicals and waste and that has the possibility to provide financial resources to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to contact [anja.Klauk@uba.de](mailto:anja.Klauk@uba.de) and [jozefbuys@gmail.com](mailto:jozefbuys@gmail.com) in order to cooperate in expanding, improving and fine-tuning the study.

## **4 Possible action by the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Should IP-4 find the objective of the present study useful, it may consider preparing guidance for the consideration of the Fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on:

- a) developing an inventory of possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste, based on the present study;
- b) identifying and inviting an entity to develop the inventory and be its custodian;
- c) inviting the different categories of stakeholders to cooperate in expanding, improving and fine-tuning the information to be contained in the inventory;
- d) making the inventory publicly available as a practical tool for countries to access the possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

## **5 References**

SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1/Add.4, Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on financial considerations.

SAICM/IP.4/INF/3 (2020) Submission from UNEP: Assessment on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options to coordinate and cooperate on areas of common interest.

Figure 1: Example of individual organisations' form

Office Update To keep up-to-date with security updates, fixes, and improvements, choose Check for Updates.

UNEP SP

Home Insert Design Layout References Mailings Review View

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Check for Updates

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

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**UNEP SPECIAL PROGRAMME**

Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the Chemicals Cluster

**Description**

The Special Programme, also known as the Chemicals and Waste Management Programme, provides support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their sustainable institutional capacity to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation for effective frameworks for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM.

The Trust Fund for the Special Programme is open to receive voluntary contributions for seven years from the date it was established, in September 2015.

**Topics/activities/ measures funded**

Institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the sustainable financing of sound management of chemicals and wastes. Activities that fall outside the mandate of the Global Environment Facility.

**Overall budget and specifics**

Approved budget (24 May 2022): 18.11 million USD.

**Type of funding**

Grants:

**Maximum funding amount for individual activities**

50,000-250,000 USD per project proposal, including possible administration fees and monitoring and evaluation and financial audit. In certain circumstances, an applicant country may request up to a maximum of 500,000 USD. Projects requesting more than US\$ 250,000 should fulfil specific criteria (see Scope of Special Programme).

**Maximum funding period**

Projects should be fully completed within three years.

**Who can be funded**

Developing countries that are Parties to any one of the relevant conventions or have demonstrated that they are in the process of preparing for ratification of any one of the

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conventions, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States, and for countries with economies in transition, with priority given to those with least capacity. Countries should also be on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of Official Development Assistance (ODA) at the time of application.

**Selection criteria**

Seg Scope of Special Programme.

**Application process**

The sixth round of applications is now open to receive applications through 12 August 2022. Applications must include:

- The duly signed [Project application form](#)
- A [project budget form](#)
- Endorsement letter from the Official focal point
- Letters of support from the project partners confirming its/their role(s)
- Projects with an implementing organization/institution, a letter from the organization/institution confirming its role (if relevant)
- Annexes providing any relevant additional information regarding the measures and activities to be funded

**Required information**

Identification of the associated domestic measures to be taken to ensure that the national institutional capacity supported by the Special Programme is sustainable in the long term.

**References**

**General information:**  
<https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme>  
 Scope of the Special Programme:  
<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/ZO-500.11822/39717/6SSP6.pdf>  
 Applying for funding: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/applying-funding-through-special>  
 Special Programme Application Guidelines:  
<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/ZO-500.11822/39714/SPAG6.pdf>

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