



SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/37

Distr.: General
29 March 2019

Original: English



**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management**

Third meeting

Montevideo, 2–4 April 2019

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**The Strategic Approach and the sound management of
chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Resolutions adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Note by the secretariat

1. A number of relevant resolutions were recently adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly that took place from 11-15 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The secretariat has the honour to share in the Annex to the present note the resolutions adopted on the sound management of chemicals and waste as well as environmentally sound management of waste.

2. Other related resolutions were adopted, including on marine plastic litter and microplastics as well as addressing single-use plastic products pollution. All UNEA resolutions may be found at the following link: <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/ministerial-declaration-resolutions-and-decisions-unea-4>

* SAICM/OEWG.3/1.

Annex

UNEP/EA.4/L.9 Sound management of chemicals and waste*

Submitted by the European Union and its member States, the African Group and Switzerland

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda target 12.4 to "By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water, and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment",

Emphasizing the cross-cutting relevance of the sound management of chemicals and waste to achieve numerous goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, including those on health,

Expressing strong concern over the present situation, trends and challenges, as reflected in the Global Chemicals Outlooks, the Global and Regional Waste Management Outlooks, the Global Mercury Assessment 2018, and the Global Environment Outlook 6, which show insufficient progress and that it is unlikely that target 12.4 will be achieved by 2020,

Aware that the production and use of chemicals in the world is expected to increase threefold and that the global use of materials has been estimated to more than double by 2050,

Recalling the need for effective implementation of the global chemicals and wastes conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM); and emphasizing the importance of the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal, as endorsed by the International Conference on Chemicals Management,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening the science-policy interface and the global evidence base for chemicals,

Stressing the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels to support and promote science-based local, national, regional and global action on sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; use of science in monitoring progress; priority setting and policy making throughout the life cycle of chemicals and waste, taking into account the gaps and scientific information in developing countries,

Noting the initiatives under the Basel Convention and the activities conducted by the Basel and Stockholm Regional Centres to address the pressing issue of marine plastic litter and microplastics,

1. *Urges* Governments, industry and the private sector, civil society, the scientific and academic community and all other relevant stakeholders to intensify and prioritise efforts on the sound management of chemicals and waste, towards the achievement of target 12.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for urgent and resolute action at all levels to implement the 2030 Agenda on these matters, including through an improved enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term, in line with UNEA resolutions 1/5, 2/7 and 3/4; and welcomes the initiative of the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste in this regard;

3. *Highlights* the importance of minimizing and preventing when feasible hazardous substances in material cycles and managing chemicals in products throughout their lifecycle, from the design to the waste phases, in order to adapt production and consumption models to achieve sustainable consumption and production, including but not limited to circular economy and other sustainable economic models;

4. *Underlines* the importance of waste prevention and minimization at source through, *inter alia*, the minimization of packaging materials and the discouragement of planned obsolescence of products, as well as improving products reusability and recyclability and resource efficiency through, *inter alia*, better design and use of secondary raw material;

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5. *Welcomes* the Global Chemicals Outlook-2; and highlights its potential to contribute to the chemicals science-policy interface in the future;
6. *Looks forward* to the upcoming Global Waste Management Outlook-2, including its information on and consideration of the product, chemicals and waste interface; as well as the complementarity and interlinkages with relevant developments and policies, for example in relation to plastics and marine litter;
7. *Welcomes* the analysis of best practices in sustainable chemistry by the United Nations Environment Programme and recognises the value to develop a better understanding of sustainable chemistry opportunities globally;
8. *Also welcomes* the evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste; notes with appreciation the establishment and operation of the Special Programme, encourage member states in a position to do so, especially developed countries to scale up financing and encourages countries to promote and further increase mainstreaming in national budgets and sector policies as well as the involvement of industry and the private sector and the allocation of responsibilities to them;
9. *Encourages* the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including industry, in strengthening the science-policy evidence in this area, including consideration of relevant socioeconomic aspects;
10. *Underlines* the importance of cooperation and coordination between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the joint secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as appropriate and agreed by their respective COPs for the sound management of chemicals and waste;
11. *Welcomes* the decisions on coordination and cooperation between the Minamata Convention and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions taken by the Conferences of the Parties to these conventions, including Minamata Convention decision 2/7, which inter alia requested the Executive Director to present a proposal for a stable framework on the sharing of services between the secretariats of these conventions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, and invited the BRS COPs to also consider such proposal.
12. *Calls on* governments and all other relevant stakeholders, including United Nations agencies as appropriate, industry and the private sector, civil society and the scientific and academic communities, to:
 - (a) Take into account the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance in efforts towards the achievement of the 2020 goal;
 - (b) Follow up on the conclusions and recommendations of the Global Chemicals Outlook II, building on the Global Chemicals Outlook 1, the Global Waste Management Outlook 1 and the Regional Waste Management Outlooks completed to date;
 - (c) Address the importance of the product, chemicals and waste interface in relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks, where appropriate;
 - (d) Improve the information of chemicals in products in consumer goods as well as throughout the supply chain;
 - (e) Support technical assistance and capacity building for implementation of the integrated approach to financing, for example through contributions to the Special Programme, as part of official development aid or through business to business cooperation;
 - (f) Encourage all stakeholders involved in the sound management of chemicals and waste, to seek the establishment of permanent programs of information directed to consumers and the public in general, on the risks generated by chemicals and raise awareness of the responsibilities related to the management;
 - (g) Support relevant science-policy interface platforms, including input from academia, and to enhance cooperation in the environment and health areas; and consider at the SAICM OEWG3 and at the intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 ways of strengthening science-policy interface, including its relevance for implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the national level;

(h) Engage in the discussions launched following UNEA resolution 1/5 and ICCM resolution IV/4, including the preparation of recommendations for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

(i) Take note of the achievements of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in contributing to the sound management of chemicals and wastes, and take actions to reduce waste generation at source, manage waste in an environmentally sound manner in the country where it is generated, minimize the transboundary movements of waste, and develop and implement, as appropriate, national legal instruments to control the export and import of chemicals and waste;

(j) Join in the pursuit of an improved enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through information of and consideration by UN bodies related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as the High Level Political Forum and the UN General Assembly, as appropriate;

13. *Invites* the SAICM Open-Ended Working Group to prepare the ground for relevant resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth meeting regarding a crosscutting and holistic approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term, including enhanced involvement of all relevant stakeholders, taking into account UNEA resolutions 1/5, 2/7 and 3/4;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and, where appropriate, in cooperation with the member organizations of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), to:

(a) Step up the technical assistance and capacity building to Member States to meet relevant goals and targets of the 2030 agenda as soon as possible, including for improved access to scientific information strengthening the science-policy interface at the national level, taking into account the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance and the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of the sound management of chemicals and waste;

(b) Strengthen cooperation and avoid duplication of actions undertaken by each IOMC organisation, under their own mandates, towards the achievement of target 12.4 and all other goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda impacted by the sound management of chemicals and waste, as an essential element to improve the current multilateral framework on this matter;

(c) Enhance the support to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in preparation of the fifth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including with sufficient staff and resources for the SAICM Secretariat, in view of its role as decided by the ICCM for the improved enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste;

(d) Synthesize UNEP's analysis of best practices in sustainable chemistry into manuals on green and sustainable chemistry, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, by UNEA5, and to continue the work on a holistic approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term, taking into account both the importance of the sound management of chemicals and the potential benefits of chemicals for sustainable development;

(e) Follow the trends in the design, production, use and release of chemicals and the generation of waste in order to identify issues of concern in future Global Chemicals and Waste Management Outlooks and catalyse sound management actions;

(f) Prepare a report by 30 April 2020 on relevant issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment identified by SAICM, the GCO and under sub-paragraph (e) above, including an analysis of existing regulatory and policy frameworks and their ability to address these issues towards the achievement of the 2020 goal, in particular for lead and cadmium;

(g) Prepare by 30 April 2020 an assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste, taking into account existing mechanisms, including under UNEP, and relevant examples in other areas, in order to maximise cost-effectiveness, make best use of new technologies, track progress and improve implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements at the national level, and to make it available for consideration by all stakeholders prior to ICCM-5;

(h) Provide technical advice, policy support and capacity building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly in order to put in place the necessary

legislative and regulatory frameworks and to mainstream sound management of chemicals and waste in national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies; and to further encourage industry and private sector involvement throughout the value chain, including through designated responsibilities and measures to promote cost recovery and the polluter pays principle;

(i) Report to the United Nations Environment Assembly, at its fifth session, on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on the implementation of the programme of work activities with respect to chemicals and waste; and to make a progress report available for ICCM-5.

UNEP/EA.4/L.8 Environmentally sound management of waste*

Submitted by the League of Arab States, Chile, Sri Lanka and Turkey

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Appreciating UNEA 4's focus on Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" in particular those paragraphs relevant to sound management of chemicals and waste as well as those on sustainable consumption and production, and recognizing the relevance of encouraging changes on the patterns societies consume and produce as an important means for achieving global sustainable development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recognizing the international community's commitment to the sound management of waste and its significant contribution to the sustainable development goals (SDGs),

Recalling previous UNEA resolutions addressing the issue of solid waste management among other topics,

Recognizing that resource efficiency and waste management are relevant policy topics to achieve sustainable consumption and production, including but not limited to a circular economy and other sustainable economic models, and recognizing as well the co-benefits of a sound waste management policy in areas such as GHG emissions reduction, improving human health, appropriate food management, and marine environment protection;

Noting that solid waste management has yet to be given sufficient attention in many member states as a key environmental issue of concern,

Recognizing that 10% of the waste generated in the world are plastics, and 500 billion plastic bags are used within a year around the world,¹

Realizing that challenges associated with solid waste management include, but are not limited to, prioritizing waste prevention adopting or selecting relevant technologies, establishing local institutional and/or regulatory frameworks, and developing and managing information and tracking systems and the particular needs of countries in post-conflict situations or countries affected by conflicts,

Acknowledging the success stories of member states in developing and implementing innovative solid waste management solutions, technologies and engagement of local constituents, including innovative projects/programmes such as national and local Zero Waste initiatives in some countries to foster environmentally sound management of waste, particularly minimization and where feasible prevention of waste,

Appreciating UNEP's International Environment Technology Centre (IETC) and its activities including the production of Global and Regional Waste Management Outlook and Global Mercury Waste Assessment and expecting its further works in the field of the environmentally sound waste management,

1. *Invites* member states, considering differing national circumstances, and in cooperation with relevant national, regional and international organizations and institutes to:

(a) Promote the integrated approaches of solid waste management through sustainable consumption and production, including but not limited to a circular economy and other sustainable economic models, as well as other innovative means, including the removal of hazardous substances from waste before recycling, as well as giving special attention to prepare waste for reuse and recycling, as well as the reduction of landfilling and application of the waste hierarchy for all waste;

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¹ UNEP (2015) Global Waste Management Outlook; and UNEP (2018) World Environment Day 2018: Overview.

- (b) Prevent and reduce waste at source of origin through, inter alia, the minimisation of packaging materials and the discouragement of planned obsolescence of products, as well as improving products safety, reusability and recyclability and resource efficiency through, inter alia, better design of products, use of easy to recycle materials, and use of secondary raw material in replacement, where feasible of primary raw material;
- (c) Effectively engage the private sector, civil society, waste producers, local authorities and the public, and promote public private initiatives and alliances, in the sound management of solid waste including through market mechanisms and capacity building to promote sustainable consumption and production, including but not limited to a circular economy and other sustainable economic models;
- (d) Support the development or, where appropriate, the enhancement of adequate institutional and regulatory frameworks to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined;
- (e) Work towards establishing indicators and conducting on a regular basis assessments of impacts of selecting and implementing technological options to address waste management along the value chain with the objective of protection of health and environment;
- (f) Promote use of modern technologies, innovations and innovative policy alternatives to support environmentally sound management of solid waste, and the development of economic instruments and other measures to support waste management, green entrepreneurship and generation of green jobs;
- (g) Support the innovative waste management initiatives such as national and local zero waste initiatives in some countries to minimize and develop adequate infrastructure and other facilities for waste management;
- (h) Promote public and private sector waste management innovative financing solutions such as:
- (i) Development of innovative financial models and creation of enabling environment for investment and market-based schemes
 - (ii) Support for job/income generation schemes
 - (iii) Cost recovery schemes;
- (i) Implement and support innovative economic incentive schemes to promote sound management of waste such as, extended producer/ trader responsibility, recycling incentives, deposit refund schemes, and other alternatives;
- (j) Promote evidence-based research on environment and health benefits of environmentally sound waste management;
- (k) Develop and/or encourage innovative programs and tools for raising awareness;
- (l) Set standards for food grade plastics, to minimize toxins getting in to food;
- (m) Strengthen monitoring activities to avoid disposal of waste into the marine environment from all sectors;
- (n) Reduce microplastics, including in wastewater treatment plants, and encourage producers to use alternatives for microbeads;
- (o) Strengthen legislation to prohibit open burning of plastics to avoid air pollution and its associated health impacts;
- (p) Support the recycling of plastics including the improvement of waste collection, transportation and recycling infrastructure;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, and in cooperation with relevant international partners to:
- (a) Strengthen UNEP's International Environment Technology Centre (IETC) and its role in provision of technological advice and capacity building on the environmentally sound waste management and enhance cooperation with Basel and Stockholm regional centres as appropriate;

(b) Maintain inventories of environmentally sound waste management technologies and practices including those which have been introduced in the global and regional waste management outlook to share with member states;

(c) Assist member states in use of BAT/BEP (Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices) in solid waste management;

(d) Continue to foster sharing experiences, lessons learned and success stories amongst Member States and key stakeholders through existing global and regional platforms;

(e) Coordinate with member states and relevant UN and humanitarian agencies to incorporating, as appropriate and feasible, waste management in humanitarian recovery and response plans “building back better”;

(f) Assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to strengthen and enhance national and local implementation of environmentally sound management of waste, through the regional waste management outlooks, improving information on environmentally sound technologies to integrate waste management;

3. Call upon member states in the position to do so, especially developed countries, international organizations and international financial institutions to provide developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular those in conflict, financial assistance, capacity building and promotion of technology transfer based on mutually agreed terms for the purposes of implementation of this resolution.
