

ADVANCE COPY

UNEP/GC.27/4

Chemicals and wastes management

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report of the Executive Director provides information on the implementation of decision 25/5 of 20 February 2009 on chemicals management, including mercury and decision 26/3 of 24 February 2011 on chemical and waste management. It is divided into five chapters: lead and cadmium; mercury; implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, waste management, including management of electrical and electronic waste and final provisions.

DRAFT

I. Suggested action by the Governing Council

1. The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision along the lines suggested by the Executive Director. The suggested action will be submitted separately to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in support of its preparation of draft decisions.

II. Background

2. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Governing Council decisions 25/5 on chemicals management, including mercury, and 26/3 on chemicals and waste management. By its decision 25/5, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of that decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh regular sessions. Accordingly a report was submitted to the twenty-sixth session in document UNEP/GC.27/6 to cover progress in implementing decision 25/5 up to the time of the twenty-sixth session. The present report covers progress made on implementing decision 25/5 since the twenty-sixth session and covers reporting pursuant to decision 26/3. The document provides background information to support the Governing Council's deliberations and is divided into five chapters corresponding to the five parts of decision 26/3 that require the preparation of reports to the Governing Council: lead and cadmium; mercury; implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, waste management, including management of electrical and electronic waste and final provisions.

3. Attention is also drawn to UNEP/GC.27/INF/14 – Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment 2012: Sources, Emissions and Transport, which provides additional information relevant to the present report:

III. Activities by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section I, on lead and cadmium, of decision 26/3

4. The Governing Council, in section I of its decision 26/3, requested UNEP to undertake, subject to availability of resources, several actions on lead and cadmium as provided for in paragraphs 7, 8, 11 and 12 of that decision. The information below is provided in accordance with that request.

A. UNEP activities relating to lead and cadmium

5. Several Governing Council decisions reaffirm international interest in reducing the risks to human health and the environment posed by lead and cadmium¹. In response, UNEP established a dedicated project addressing risks posed by exposure to lead and cadmium under the harmful substances and hazardous waste subprogramme during the period 2010–2013 with the objective to reduce uses of lead and cadmium in key products and industry sectors that give rise to particular exposure concerns.

6. The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles has continued to focus its activities on six countries still using leaded gasoline, Afghanistan, Algeria, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iraq, Myanmar and Yemen, with the objective of having those countries set clear timelines to eliminate leaded gasoline. Notably, all six countries have introduced unleaded gasoline, the use of which has been increasing. In 2011–2012, three national events and one sub-regional event were held for Algeria, Iraq and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As a result, Algeria set March 2014 as the phase out date for leaded gasoline and Iraq set 2015.

7. The Clearing House of the Partnership is hosted by UNEP and since its launch at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, over a hundred countries have been supported to phase out leaded gasoline.

8. A report on the 'Global Benefits of Phasing out Leaded Fuel'² was published in December 2011 with the support of UNEP. The report, inter alia, estimates 1.2 million fewer deaths per year from the global effort to end the use of leaded gasoline and the contribution to the global economy from the phase out of leaded gasoline at US\$2.4 trillion (4% global GDP).

9. At its second session, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, the International Conference on Chemicals Management endorsed the establishment of a global partnership to promote phase-out of

¹ Decision 21/6, Section III of decision 22/4, section III of decision 23/9, section III of decision 24/3, section II of decision 25/5 and section I of decision 26/3.

² Hatfield, T. and Tsai, P.L., Environmental Health Journal, December 2011.

the use of lead in paint as an important contribution to the implementation of paragraph 57 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation as well as of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) were invited, within their respective mandates and available resources, to serve as the secretariat of the global partnership, called the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, the overall goal of which is to prevent children's exposure and to minimize occupational exposures to lead in paint with a broad objective to phase out the manufacture and sale of paint containing lead and, eventually, to eliminate the risks from such paint.

10. UNEP supported the development of the following studies: 'Current status and future of lead-based paints and pigments in Asia and the Pacific' (in collaboration with the National Institute of Advance Industrial Science and Technology and 'Support to the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint: Paint Testing in Nine Countries' (in collaboration with the International POPs Elimination Network'.

11. At its third session, held in Nairobi from 17 to 21 September 2012, the International Conference on Chemicals Management noted that lead paints had been identified as a significant source of childhood exposure to lead and took note of the information provided in the scientific reviews on lead and cadmium, but did not address the reduction of those risks at the national, regional and global levels. The Conference also adopted an omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues in which Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector were encouraged to contribute to the work of the Global Alliance and to provide technical and financial assistance wherever possible.

12. Current work and progress include completion of the operational framework for the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, organizational arrangements, and an inter-organization agreement setting out the scope of cooperation between and responsibilities of UNEP and WHO. Further, an interim advisory group to discuss crosscutting issues, review and promote actions and monitor progress was established.

13. The first meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Geneva, May 2010) developed overall goals and objectives and formulated workplans for priority focal areas. The second meeting (Bangkok, July 2012) provided an opportunity to welcome new and potential contributors to discuss opportunities to cooperate on activities to eliminate lead paint.

14. The business plan for the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint was completed, which describes strategies, clear milestones and indicators for progress and possible means of achieving its overall goal and objectives.

15. With technical assistance and funding from UNEP, through the Post-Conflict & Disaster Management Branch, the Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone (EPA-SL) supervised the clean up of almost 12,000 litres of the dangerous and highly toxic substance, tetra-ethyl lead (TEL).

16. Activities not completed due to insufficient financial support included some activities of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, initiation of a partnership on lead and cadmium, and convening a meeting of the lead and cadmium working group.

B. Funding for the implementation of the decision

17. As at 1 October 2012, contributions made in 2011-2012 to support the implementation of this decision have been allocated to the project on addressing risks posed by exposure to lead and cadmium under the UNEP subprogramme on harmful substances and hazardous waste for approximately \$290,024 from the Governments of Norway and Sweden.

18. The Government of Thailand contributed to the implementation of this decision by co-hosting the second meeting of the Global Alliance in July 2012.

19. In 2011-2012, the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles received contributions from the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), Norway and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) amounting to \$236,568 to support specific national and sub-regional events to phase out leaded gasoline. In addition, the Partnership received \$1,522,940 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the European Commission, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, and the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society in general support, to be used to support clean fuels and vehicles activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including leaded gasoline phase-out. This brings the total amount received by the Partnership since its inception in 2002 to \$12,778,927.

IV. Activities by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section II, on mercury, of decision 26/3

A. Negotiations on a legally binding instrument on mercury

20. By paragraph 26 of its decision 25/5 III, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, commencing its work in 2010 with the goal of completing it prior to the twenty-seventh regular session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2013.

21. The report to the 26th session of the Governing Council, (UNEP/GC.26/6 and its addendum) provided an update on progress through to the end of January 2011, including progress made at the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. The present report will cover the activities conducted during 2011 and 2012.

22. The mercury negotiations process has involved four sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee until the end of 2012. The fifth and final session will be held in January 2013, prior to the twenty-seventh regular session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

23. The third session of the committee, was held in Nairobi from 31 October to 4 November 2011 at UNEP Headquarters. The committee considered a full draft text for the mercury instrument, which incorporated comments made during the second session, as well as submissions made after the second session. The Committee requested intersessional work to be undertaken, including the convening of an expert meeting on financial resources and technical assistance that was held in Inárcs, Hungary from 11 to 13 April 2012. The full report of the session is available on the UNEP mercury negotiations website as document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/8.

24. The negotiation process was recognized by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, concluded just before the fourth session of the committee. The Conference on Sustainable Development welcomed the negotiations and called for a successful outcome.

25. The fourth session of the committee, was hosted by the Government of Uruguay, and was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 27 June to 2 July 2012. The full report of the fourth session is available on the UNEP mercury negotiations website as document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/8.

26. At the fourth session, the committee requested that, as part of the intersessional work, the Chair prepare a Chair's text, that is, a version of the draft mercury instrument in which the Chair would propose compromise text in an effort to bridge the differences between the various positions espoused by the parties at INC4. Additionally, the Committee agreed that the secretariat would prepare draft elements of the final act to be adopted at the anticipated diplomatic conference at which the mercury instrument would be signed. The committee also agreed that the secretariat, in cooperation with WHO, would analyse the extent to which the provisions of the draft mercury instrument covered the content of article 20 bis of the draft text and to prepare a report setting out the results of its analysis.

27. The committee will consider the Chair's text at INC5. The proximate session of the committee following its fifth session is the preparatory conference immediately prior to the Diplomatic Conference, which is tentatively scheduled for October 2013, in Japan.

28. Current estimates of the costs for each session were between \$1,050,000 and \$1,300,000, depending on the sessions' location and venue. The total costs of the five sessions of the committee and the diplomatic conference are therefore estimated to be approximately \$6.5 million. These costs are met by financial or in kind contributions from Governments, including those who have offered to host sessions. This does not include local costs associated with holding the meetings outside a UN headquarters location, such as cost of venue, etc., which are to be covered by the hosting Government or organization. In addition to the above, other costs have been incurred in relation to secretariat staff and staff travel, expert assistance in the preparation of documents, communications, outreach activities and Bureau and regional preparatory meetings. These additional costs are estimated to be approximately \$8 million for the period 2010–2013.

29. By paragraph 33 of its decision 25/5 III, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate effectively in the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group and the intergovernmental negotiating committee.

30. Various regional consultations have been organized, at the request of different regional groups, to provide such support to Governments in preparing for the negotiations. These consultations have been made possible thanks to financial contributions from a number of donors. During the period covered by the present report, regional meetings to prepare for the negotiations were held for the African region in Ougadougou in September 2011 and in Pretoria in May, 2012, for the Asia and the Pacific region in Kobe, Japan in September 2011 and in Kuala Lumpur in May 2012, for the Central and Eastern Europe region in Brno, Czech Republic in October 2011 and in Lodz, Poland, in May 2012 and for the Latin America and the Caribbean region in Panama in September 2011 and in Brasilia in May 2012. Regional consultations also will be held in preparation for INC5. Provisions are made for the regional groups to meet immediately before each intergovernmental negotiating committee session.

B. Interim activities to reduce risks to human health and the environment from mercury

31. The Governing Council, by its decision 25/5 III, paragraph 36, requested the Executive Director to update the 2008 report on “Global Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport”. In response to that request, UNEP cooperated with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme working group under the Arctic Council to develop a technical report and, on that basis, the Governing Council report, which is a summary report for policymakers and addresses atmospheric emissions (focusing on the anthropogenic emissions), emissions trends, and results from recent research on atmospheric transport, modeling, and deposition of mercury. The report is available to the Governing Council as document UNEP/GC.27/INF/XX³. The detailed technical background report (the fully referenced scientific report); “Technical Background Report to the Global Mercury Assessment 2012” constitutes the basis for the summary report to the Governing Council. The development of the report has been funded by the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Japan, Norway and Sweden, as well as by the European Union and the Nordic Council of Ministers. In producing the global mercury emissions assessment, considerable efforts were made to engage a wide participation of national experts from the different regions. It should be noted that different methodologies were used to develop some emission elements not being directly comparable between the 2008 and 2012 reports.

32. The progress made by the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership was acknowledged in paragraph 19 of decision 26/3 and Governments and other stakeholders were urged to continue support and contribution to the Partnership. Since 1 January 2009, membership has grown from 23 official partners to a total of 111 as at 30 June 2012.

33. A report to the Executive Director from the Partnership Advisory Group of the Global Mercury Partnership on overall progress during the period from July 2010 to June 2012 is available on the mercury partnership website. The report provides detailed information on Partnership activities in all its areas of operation.

34. In addition to its direct support for the Global Mercury Partnership, during 2010-2012, other highlights include: UNEP translated the mercury awareness-raising package ‘Mercury – a priority for action’ into French and Spanish; developed the synopsis document ‘Mercury knowledge and gaps in the African region’; supported the expansion of the Mercury Watch database maintained by the Artisanal Gold Council; and supported the development of the following documents: ‘Squeezing gold from a stone’, ‘Reducing mercury use in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining: A practical Guide’; and ‘Analysis of formalization approaches in the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold mining sector’. The partnerships also disseminated a range of outreach materials.

35. Building on reports produced by the 2010 UNEP Mercury Regional Storage Projects in the Asia Pacific and Latin America, UNEP implemented a National Storage and Disposal project in Argentina and Uruguay in 2011. Supported by the Government of Norway, the project provided an assessment of relevant national legislation/regulatory framework and inventory of hazardous waste treatment facilities that could serve as temporary mercury storage facilities. The project resulted in national action plans aimed at the environmentally sound storage and disposal of mercury in both countries. A similar project is currently being implemented in Panama and Mexico. In 2011, UNEP also implemented pilot storage and disposal projects in 3 settings: industry with the chloralkali sector in Uruguay, household and community in China and in the health sector. The projects resulted in guidance and awareness-raising materials on mercury environmentally sound storage and disposal that could be replicated in other countries.

³ “Global Mercury Assessment 2012: Sources, Emissions and Transport”

36. UNEP has continued to support the Kyrgyz Republic in transitioning away from mercury mining in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The project aims to reduce risks to human health and the environment from mercury mining and to support economic and social transition to less hazardous economic activities. In November 2011, the Government of Norway provided 4,800,000 NOK of funding to support the environmental pillar of the project. A medium sized proposal was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in July 2012, with a total budget of \$944,000.

37. On mercury added products, UNEP commissioned a report on the “Economics of Conversion of Mercury Added Products” and is providing technical assistance to the GEF “en.lighten project” aimed at transforming the market to efficient lighting advocating low mercury content in compact fluorescent lamps. UNEP in collaboration with WHO and other partners is currently implementing a project that will demonstrate the “phase-down approach” to dental amalgam in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

38. A training workshop in the use of the UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases was held in Nairobi in September 2011 for representatives of 10 African countries. The training was followed up with technical support to those countries resulting in mercury release inventories being developed in 9 of the participating countries. Funding for this work was provided by the Government of Norway and was co-funded by the Government of Switzerland via UNITAR. With assistance from the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Toolkit was revised in 2011. UNEP is developing a portfolio of projects (national and regional) for GEF funding on mercury release inventories and the development of national action plans to reduce mercury releases.

39. UNEP has initiated subregional projects in Bolivia, Cambodia, Peru and the Philippines with support from the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to build the capacity of participating countries to tackle the human health and environmental challenges arising from the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. The key outcome of the project was the development of National Multi-stakeholder Strategic Plans to reduce mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. A global forum, supported by UNEP, to discuss approaches to artisanal and small-scale gold mining was held in Manila in December 2010.

40. UNEP initiated a project on ‘Training and Technology Transfer on Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining’ in Indonesia, funded by United States Environmental Protection Agency. A national workshop which engaged various Government ministries, miners, miner’s associations, academia and other stakeholders was held in December 2011 as part of this project.

41. UNEP, with funding from the European Union and with technical assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, is working with four countries on their unintentional emissions of mercury from coal combustion for electrical power generation. UNEP worked with the Clean Coal Centre of the International Energy Agency to develop a guide on how coal-fired power stations can reduce mercury emissions by optimizing existing systems. With further funding from the European Union and the Government of the United States, UNEP will initiate similar activities focused on the coal-fired power sector in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

C. Funding for the implementation of the decision

42. As a follow-up to the adoption of decision 26/3, UNEP circulated an invitation to Governments to support, both financially and technically, the implementation of the decision.

43. In 2011, pledges and contributions to the mercury and other metals trust fund were received from the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, amounting to \$3,358,883. Funding of €1,000,000 was also made available from the European Commission and of \$57,302 from the Nordic Council of Ministers, both to support the mercury negotiations.

44. As at 1 October 2012, pledges had been received for 2012 from the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and Uruguay amounting to \$2,532,562. Additional funding has been provided by the European Commission, who contributed €950,000 for the intersessional work on financial and technical assistance requested by the third session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee as well as for mercury activities relating to the assessment report and to inventories. In addition to this, pledges were made by Sweden for 1,500,000 Kroner and by Switzerland for 400,000 CHF, which have not yet been received. Additional funding of \$50,000 was provided for the regional consultations to prepare for the fourth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee by the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility.

45. The Government of France has contributed the full costs of a Junior Professional Officer, for a period of two years from July 2010, and has continued to provide part support for the officer since July 2012. The Government of Spain has provided part support for a Junior Professional Officer who began work with the mercury negotiations team in February 2012.

46. The Government of Uruguay met all local costs for the fourth session of the intergovernmental negotiation committee held in Punta del Este, Uruguay in June and July 2012, as well as making a contribution to cover the incremental costs of holding the meeting away from UN headquarters.

V. Support by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section III, implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, of decision 26/3

A. Introduction

47. By section III of decision 26/3, the Governing Council urged UNEP to continue to implement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, particularly in relation to emerging policy issues and those elements of its programme of work related to the environmental aspects of the Strategic Approach, including mainstreaming activities and the assessment of the economic and social costs of unsound chemicals management, together with the assessment of economic instruments that internalize the external costs related to chemicals. The decision also welcomed the enhanced engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach and urged Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others in a position to do so to contribute financially and in kind to the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including through the Quick Start Programme, the secretariat and the UNEP programme of work.

48. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development called for the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle, including to respond to emerging challenges and encouraged continued enhanced coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and with the Strategic Approach.

B. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in UNEP

49. UNEP plays a leading role in the implementation of the Strategic Approach by promoting and implementing activities to address environmental aspects of the Strategic Approach as a participating organization of the IOMC. In addition, UNEP, with WHO, acts as the secretariat for the Strategic Approach and UNEP also provides trustee services for the Quick Start Programme.

C. Activities of the SAICM secretariat

50. As at June 2012, over \$31 million had been made available to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, supporting 146 projects under the Quick Start Programme that is managed by the secretariat. The projects are being implemented by 102 Governments and 16 civil society organizations and involve activities in 105 countries, including 54 least developed countries and small island developing States. Other core functions of the secretariat involve servicing meetings of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and subsidiary bodies and regional meetings.

D. Third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

51. The third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, marked an important milestone in the implementation of the Strategic Approach at which several resolutions were adopted covering some of the issues outlined below.

52. The Conference reviewed and assessed, for the first time, progress on the implementation of the Strategic Approach achieved since 2006 based on the 20 indicators selected during its second session in May 2009. Work on emerging policy issues and the Quick Start Programme have been of special relevance in achieving progress in implementation, as well as efforts made by private industry, the non-governmental community and the participating organizations of the IOMC.

53. The Conference agreed to include nanotechnologies and nanomaterials, as well as hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electric and electronic products as new work areas in the Global Plan of Action, and adopted an omnibus resolution supporting further collaborative actions on lead in paints, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electric and electronic

products, and nanotechnologies and nanomaterials. In addition, the Conference agreed on further collaborative actions on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, and decided to implement cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policy makers and other stakeholders.

54. Consistent with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, calling for the strengthening of the Strategic Approach, the third session of the Conference decided to extend the term for contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund until the fourth session of Conference scheduled for 2015. The Conference reviewed and discussed the Executive Director's draft proposal on the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes and requested that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management be part of any integrated approach to long-term financing of the chemicals and waste cluster. The Conference invited the Executive Director and the Governing Council to take into account the need for strengthening the implementation of the financial considerations as laid out in Paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy in the context of the existing chemicals and waste cluster, taking into account the debate reflected in the report of the third session of the Conference. The Conference further invited the Global Environment Facility, in the process of the sixth replenishment, to consider the priorities and activities identified in the Strategic Approach in support of the achievement of its objectives.

55. The Conference also agreed to adopt the strategy on strengthening the engagement of the health-care sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach and requested WHO to report, in collaboration with the secretariat, on the implementation of the strategy at sessions of the Conference, commencing at its fourth session.

56. The Conference welcomed the contributions made by UNEP and WHO in providing the secretariat with, respectively, a P-5 position and a P-4 position, but noted with concern the withdrawal of support by WHO owing to its financial constraints and called upon WHO to continue to support, in its areas of expertise, the work of the secretariat by reassigning a staff member at the earliest date possible. The Conference also drew the attention of all governments to the financial needs contained in the indicative budget and invited the Executive Director of UNEP to make that information available to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

57. Further to the calls of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to increase synergies in amongst multilateral agreements on chemicals and wastes, the Conference invited the Coordinator of the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to Chemicals Management and the Joint Executive Secretary of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions to further increase synergies in the implementation of their respective information clearinghouses.

58. Following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, reaffirmation of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management, a high-level dialogue was held during the Conference to provide a platform for interaction between stakeholders on strengthening the Strategic Approach for its more effective implementation towards the 2020 goal and to identify further guidance for its achievement.

E. UNEP's implementation activities for the Strategic Approach

59. Most aspects of the Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste sub-programme of UNEP's Programme of Work address the priority objectives of the Strategic Approach.

60. UNEP leads work to address the chemicals in products and lead in paint Emerging Policy Issues agreed at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. For Chemicals in Products (CiP), UNEP presented a report of project activities to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Recommendations for future actions were adopted by the Conference, shaping the work for the intersessional period 2013-2015. The work will focus on the development by UNEP of a voluntary CiP programme, which will facilitate information exchange related to chemicals contained in products throughout the product lifecycle and specifically will: (a) identify the roles and suggestions for responsibilities of the major stakeholder groups for this information exchange; (b) develop guidance on what information could be transferred and how information access and exchange could take place; and (c) implement pilot project(s) to demonstrate the applicability of the guidance. For lead in paint, UNEP continues to support the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint in collaboration with WHO. Work in the intersessional period 2013-2015 will focus on the implementation of short-term objectives set out in the Global Alliance Business Plan. UNEP also participates in work to address harmful substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products. Activities are set out in the section on waste below.

61. The third session of the International Conference also agreed to take up work, proposed by UNEP in collaboration with WHO, on endocrine disrupting chemicals. The agreed work to be

undertaken in the intersessional period before fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will focus on increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders,

62. The United Nations Environment Programme and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have, as a follow up to the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, established a Global Group on Perfluorinated Chemicals as an important mechanism to gather and exchange information on these chemicals to support the transition to safer alternatives.

63. The Global Chemicals Outlook was launched in September 2012 and contains an analysis of the quantitative and qualitative changes in the production, use and disposal of chemicals in developing countries as well as the potential costs of inaction on sound management of chemicals. In addition it identifies a useful methodology and decision-making tools for the prevention of toxic chemical pollution and the promotion of safer alternatives together with general and specific recommendations for future activities.

64. The United Nations Environment Programme supports the implementation of the Strategic Approach through a number of strategic alliances and partnerships. These include the UNDP-UNEP partnership initiative on the integration (mainstreaming) of sound management of chemicals into national plans and development policies, and the integration of health and Environment in Africa through the UNEP/WHO Health and Environment Strategic Alliance. Activities to combat illegal trafficking of chemicals are being implemented in several regions through regional enforcement networks that bring together national and international agencies with responsibilities for cross-border trade and movement of goods

65. A flexible framework developed by UNEP for chemical accident prevention and preparedness is being implemented in several countries in the African and Asian regions, including with support from the SAICM Quick Start Programme.

VI. Activities by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section IV, waste management, including management of electrical and electronic waste, of decision 26/3

66. In its decision 26/3, the Governing Council called on the Executive Director to undertake a number of activities in relation to waste management, a cross-cutting issue that is rapidly growing in importance for sustainable development. The decision further noted the role of UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) based in Osaka, Japan, established under a 1992 agreement with the Government of Japan and which, since late 2011, has concentrated exclusively on waste management issues.

A. Integrated waste management

67. UNEP has continued its long-standing programme on integrated solid waste management in order to build local capacity and assist in the formulation of municipal plans. During 2011 and 2012, projects have been implemented in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Thailand and Vietnam. Training has been provided to local project teams on waste data collection, assessment of current waste management systems, target setting, identification of stakeholders' concerns and planning. Other related activities have included support to Thailand in developing draft guidelines for management of flooding debris and a UNEP international expert mission to the tsunami-damaged Tohoku region of Japan to exchange experience in managing disaster debris.⁴ IETC organized an Asia-Pacific workshop on integrated solid waste management, in Osaka on 19 and 20 April 2012, to review its pilot projects, training and online information. UNEP has also collaborated with UNITAR to provide regional training on municipal solid waste management for the Asia-Pacific region.

68. The Governing Council's emphasis on integrated waste management was echoed by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which called for the development of comprehensive national and local waste management policies, strategies, laws and regulations and committed to further reduce, reuse and recycle waste. In August 2012, UNEP and UNITAR initiated preparation of guidelines for the development, review and updating of national waste management strategies.

⁴ <http://www.unep.org/ietc/InformationResources/Events/SeminarinOsaka/tabid/79552/Default.aspx>

B. Waste to energy

69. During 2011 and 2012, UNEP expanded its work on waste agricultural biomass by delivering demonstration projects in Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The projects included characterization and quantification of waste agricultural biomass, assessment of current patterns of use and disposal, identification of suitable technologies for conversion of the waste into energy and advice on implementation. UNEP also conducted a technical and economic feasibility study on converting waste palm oil trees into a sustainable resource in Malaysia. A regional workshop on waste agricultural biomass for Central America and Panama is scheduled for December 2012. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development committed to increase energy recovery from waste.

C. Electrical and electronic waste

70. UNEP continued to support governments in building capacities and formulating strategies for environmentally sound management of e-waste and in meeting their international obligations. In 2011 and 2012, a particular focus of the work has been on so-called take-back schemes to facilitate the recovery of used devices for recycling and proper disposal and on public-private sector cooperation. A new manual on take-back systems⁵ provides guidance on how to develop strategies in partnership with the private sector, consumers and other stakeholders, complementing earlier manuals on e-waste inventories and management. An international training workshop on take-back systems was organized in Osaka from 13 to 15 July 2011. A multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on "addressing e-waste challenges and opportunities through public-private sector cooperation" was held in Osaka from 18 to 20 July 2012, and produced an outcome document entitled "The Future WEEE Need: A Call for Action⁶."

71. UNEP has assisted coordination through the Global Partnership on Waste Management, under which the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) leads a focal area on e-waste. UNEP offices contributed to a "Pan-African Forum" on e-waste organized by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Nairobi, from 14 to 16 March 2012. UNEP supported the "Solving the e-waste problem" initiative ("StEP") in delivering an "e-waste academy" training session in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012. Other cooperative activities in which UNEP has engaged include a World Intellectual Property Organization workshop on counterfeit goods, held in Bangkok on 4 and 5 July 2012, a training workshop on e-waste management organized by UNIDO and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in Hanoi from 10 to 13 July 2012, and a workshop of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste in Cebu, Philippines, from 20 to 23 November 2012. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development noted the particular challenges associated with solid wastes such as electronic waste and plastics.

D. Global Partnership on Waste Management

72. The Global Partnership on Waste Management was launched in November 2010 and IETC serves as its secretariat. In December 2011 the lead organizations for the initial six focal areas under the Partnership, namely, integrated solid waste management, e-waste, waste agricultural biomass, waste and climate change, marine litter, and waste minimization, developed their respective work plans. On 5 and 6 November 2012, the first biennium conference of the Partnership will be held in Osaka, to review activities and discuss challenges, opportunities and new trends in waste management, including the 'waste as resource' approach.

73. Several consultations on the Partnership already have been undertaken. In order to enhance the Partnership's responsiveness to the waste management needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the secretariat prepared a report during 2012 on capacity building needs, based on stakeholder inputs. This needs assessment will be updated on a biennial basis. The online information platform of the Partnership has been broadened and will continue to be developed. To strengthen cooperation and coordination, the Partnership built a network that has included UNIDO, UNITAR, UNCRD, the World Bank, as well as civil society organizations such as the International Solid Waste Association.

74. To ensure complementarity and avoid duplication, the secretariat of the Partnership has maintained regular contact with entities such as the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm

⁵ http://www.unep.org/ietc/Portals/136/Events/WEEE-E%20workshop%20July%202011/UNEP_Ewaste_Manual3_TakeBackSystem.pdf

⁶ The workshop proceedings including the outcome document is available at <http://www.unep.org/ietc/OurWork/WasteManagement/MeetingsWorkshops/E-WasteworkshopJuly2012/tabid/79644/Default.aspx>.

Conventions. The Partnership was recognized by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in decision 10/19 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme at its 10th meeting held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 17 to 21 November 2011.

VII. Activities by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section V, final provisions, of decision 26/3

75. Pursuant to the request to the Executive Director to submit input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, UNEP submitted an input document to the preparatory process of the Conference in November 2011. The UNEP submission included inter alia, text on chemicals and waste in a number of areas including the strengthening of the Strategic Approach.

76. In the outcome document “The future we want” paragraphs 213-223 address chemicals and wastes issues many of which support UNEP’s input to the Conference. Inter alia it was stated that additional efforts are needed to enhance work towards strengthening capacities including through partnerships, technical assistance and improved governance structures. Countries and organizations that had made progress to meet the 2020 goals on sound management of chemicals were encouraged to assist other countries by sharing knowledge, experience and best practices and further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in the implementation of commitments was encouraged.

77. There was a call for continued, new and innovative public-private partnerships to enhance capacity and technology for environmentally sound chemicals and waste management including waste prevention. The development of environmentally sound and safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals in products and processes was encouraged through, inter alia, life cycle assessment, public information, extended producer responsibility, research and development, sustainable design and knowledge-sharing as appropriate.

78. The Conference urged countries and other stakeholders to take all possible measures to prevent the unsound management of hazardous wastes and their illegal dumping particularly in countries where the capacity to deal with these wastes was limited.
