2023 session of United Nations High Level Political Forum and Economic and Social Council

Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels

10 to 19 July 2023 / Ministerial Segment 17 to 19 July 2023

Input by the Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Instruction

The General Assembly in resolution 75/290 B defined the theme of the 2023 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC to be "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels". The HLPF in 2023 will also review in-depth Goals 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The forum will take into account the different and particular impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across these SDGs and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.

The HLPF in July 2023 will also help prepare for the September 2023 SDG Summit – the HLPF to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly from 19 to 20 September 2023. Substantive inputs are invited to be provided for the 2023 HLPF on its review of the above five SDGs and its theme, bearing in mind the preparations for the SDG Summit. Contributions could showcase the views, findings, research, data and policy recommendations from your intergovernmental bodies on specific aspects of an SDG-driven response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the SDGs.

Introduction

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March 1989 and entered into force in 1992. As at February 2023, it has 190 Parties and thus its coverage is global. The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects that may result from the generation and management of hazardous and other wastes. Its scope covers a wide range of wastes defined as "hazardous wastes" based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics or so defined by domestic legislation and notified to the Secretariat, as well as wastes defined as "other wastes" requiring special consideration - household waste and incinerator ash, certain plastic wastes.

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2004. As at February 2023, it has 165 Parties and thus its coverage is global. The objective of the Convention is to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use, and to contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was adopted on 22 May 2001 and entered into force in 2004. As at February 2023, it has 185 Parties and thus its coverage is global. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is, mindful of the precautionary approach as set forth in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). These are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health and on the environment.

(a) Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts of the COVID-19pandemic on the implementation of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the SDGs and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs.

Under the Basel Convention, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the inter-dependance of countries in the area of waste management and its transboundary movements. It revealed the lack of capacities in some countries to manage their waste in the environmentally sound manner as well as the importance of having a system for the environmentally sound management in place which could absorb increasing volumes of some waste streams as it happened with clinical wastes during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 restrictions limited enforcement capabilities of Parties to prevent and combat illegal shipments of wastes.

Under the Rotterdam Convention, chemicals play a major role with respect to a wide range of products for various applications from construction to household appliances as well as agriculture and food, for example in plant protection and food conservation. This link has long been recognized, and many countries have long-standing legislation to control chemicals, in particular used in agriculture and food production. International agreements and bodies that address these and related topics include the Rotterdam Convention, the Code of Conduct and the Codex Alimentarius, a collection of international food standards.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the international trade of chemicals. There were some temporary relaxation to facilitate safer ways of working or shopping at the height of the pandemic. In response to sanitary and hygiene concerns, many regulators across the world have paused or delayed bans, taxes, or fees on items, including chemicals. A number of national regulatory authorities sought to ease the procedures of regulation to enable products such as disinfectants or hand-gels to come to the market quickly, or to seek to moderate the economic damage caused by the pandemic and the lockdown measures necessary to control it. Governments experienced reduced capacities for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, including environmental and/or agricultural regulations, customs controls, and other enforcement measures.

Under the Stockholm Convention, with regard to the implementation of the Convention at the national and regional levels, economic processes, including certain manufacturing and the use of chemicals, and waste management processes or facilities have been interrupted or altered due to lockdowns. With the situation being stabilized and the economy slowly going back to pre-COVID-19 levels, the chemicals industry is recovering, including the use and production of POPs and their unintentional releases.

A number of national regulatory authorities have sought to ease the procedures of regulation to enable products such as disinfectants or hand sanitizers to get into the market quickly, or to seek to moderate the economic damage caused by the pandemic and the lockdown measures necessary to control it. During the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have experienced reduced capacities for the implementation of the Convention, including environmental controls, customs controls, and other enforcement measures.

From the viewpoint of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions, the Covid-19 impacted the progress on the implementation of the selected SDGs in the following manner:

SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation

Under the Basel Convention, pollution represents a significant challenge for clean water and sanitation. Plastic pollution in particular is an environmental problem occurring on a global scale today. The exponential growth of trade in plastic wastes, which are in some cases hazardous and in others unsuitable for recycling has become a major concern. Global plastic production has reached 320 million tonnes a year. Only 9% has been recycled and another 12% incinerated of the estimated 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste produced since the 1950s. 95% of disposable plastic

packaging is wasted and marine debris remain intact in the ocean for long period of time. With the Plastic Waste Amendments, adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2019, the Basel Convention is at the forefront in promoting the prevention, environmentally sound management and control of transboundary movements of plastic waste, thus protecting human health and the environment, including rivers, lakes and oceans.

Parties have built on the momentum under the Basel Convention to take additional measures to regulate their imports and exports of plastics. As reported by UNCTAD, 83% of all trade-related measures notified to WTO are related to plastics originating from developing countries, including Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), demonstrating their awareness of controlling influx of plastics into their countries and the need to safely manage them once becoming wastes.

Land-locked countries face challenges linked to polluted rivers and lakes that threaten their ecosystems and jeopardize their livelihoods. Land-locked countries have no territory connections to either an ocean or endorheic basins, however inland fishing activities play a critical role in providing livelihoods for both local communities and private sector players. Discarded waste of plastic fishing nets constitutes a significant part of river plastic litter.

Plastic wastes also represent risks to sanitation systems and can incite floods due to the blockage of the drainage waste systems.

To address challenges related to plastic wastes there are various work streams and processes that are taking place under the Basel Convention:

(a) Updating of the 2002 technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and for their disposal[1];

(b) Consideration by the expert working group on the review of annexes whether any additional constituents or characteristics in relation to plastic waste should be added to Annexes I and III to the Convention[2];

(c) Consideration by the Open-ended Working Group, as part of its work programme for 2022-2023, of whether, how and when the COP should assess the effectiveness of the measures taken under the Convention to address the plastic waste contributing to marine plastic litter and microplastics; and which further activities could possibly be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics[3];

(d) Development of a practical guidance manual on the development of inventories of plastic waste[4];

[1] Mandated by part V of decision BC-14/13 on further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention.
[2] Mandated by part IV of decision BC-14/13.
[3] Mandated by part VIII of decision BC-14/13
[4] Mandated by decision BC-14/10 on national reporting.

(e) Submission of a draft proposal to the World Customs Organization on amendments to the Harmonized System with respect to plastic waste, taking into consideration the amendments to annexes to the Basel Convention adopted by decision BC-14/12[5];

(f) Cooperation and coordination with other international organizations, within the scope of their mandates, on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics in particular the multi-stakeholder platform within the UNEP established by fourth meeting of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4)[6];

(g) Technical assistance and capacity building in the area of plastic wastes. This includes a series of projects on plastic waste being undertaken under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions' Regional Centers Small Grants Programme (SGP)[7]. Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and the Government, these projects aim to improve the management of plastic waste in partner countries and thus contribute towards preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution. In total, 15 projects have been selected for funding. The projects benefit 32 countries in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe.

(h) Furthermore, the Secretariat is managing a number of projects on marine litter and microplastics aimed at promoting the environmentally sound management of plastic waste and achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of plastic waste in Ghana and Sri Lanka, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and in Malawi and Zimbabwe, funded by the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund.

(i) Efforts to curb plastic pollution are also undertaken by the Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP) established under the Basel Convention to mobilize business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to improve and promote the environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels and to prevent and minimize its generation.

Under the Rotterdam Convention, water quality is determined by many factors including polluting of water supplies by toxic chemicals. Safe and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene could present more than 350,000 deaths of children under five years annually, representing 5,5% of total deaths in that age group.[8]

[5] Mandated by decision BC-14/9 on cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

[6] Mandated by decision BC-14/13 and decisions BC-14/21, RC-9/9 and SC-9/19 on international cooperation and coordination

[7] http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/Technicalassistance/Projects/BRSNorad2/SGPonplasticwaste/tabid/8402/Default.aspx

[8] Chemicals and waste management: Essential to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs), Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, 2019.

Once pesticides are sprayed on land, water molecules, via rain, watering or groundwater flows, act as vehicles that pick up and transport chemical substances from land, into the water cycle, and eventually the ocean. The production and use of industrial chemicals, too, results in releases to water bodies, with potential adverse effects on human health and the environment. Other factors contributing to the increase of environmental pollution in oceans and seas is urbanization and soil sealing. In areas with more permeable land, polluted runoff can be absorbed before reaching the ocean, but in urban areas that are heavily concreted, contaminated water has nowhere to go but the sewer system or directly into coastal waters.

The global growth of crop production has been achieved mainly through the intensive use of inputs such as pesticides and chemical fertilizers. The trend has been amplified by the expansion of agricultural land, with irrigation playing a strategic role in improving productivity and rural livelihoods while also transferring agricultural pollution to water bodies.[9] Production and consumption of industrial chemicals has also been growing rapidly and is expected to continue to do so in the foreseeable future, with potential adverse consequences on water bodies, including rivers, lakes and groundwater.[10]

Under the Stockholm Convention, the occurrence of POPs in river water and water treatment plants has raise serious concerns, especially due to the high costs and energy consumption that comes with the mitigation of these challenges – because it involves a variety of steps, and over thirty processes have been primarily used[11].

Persistent chemicals whose production and use have not yet been banned or restricted may thus create future legacies. PCBs which are regulated by the Stockholm Convention have been detected at high concentrations in small animals (amphipods) captured 10,000 metres deep in ocean sediment. Some concentrations were higher than in those of animals living in highly polluted rivers in industrialized regions. Another study found certain organochlorine pesticides, regulated under the Stockholm Convention, in Himalayan glaciers. These studies demonstrate that chemicals whose production and use have long been banned may still be found at high concentrations in the environment due to their persistence.[12]

Plastic waste and its burgeoning impact on human health, the environment, including clean water and economic systems present a big challenge. The problem is multidimensional, including the widespread disposal of single-use plastics and other items and their impacts on marine biodiversity.

The Stockholm Convention controls various POPs which have been used in plastics as additives, flame retardants, plasticizers or in the manufacture of fluoropolymers. Of the 32 POPs listed under the Stockholm Convention, 15 are either plastic additives or by-products.

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[9] Water pollution from agriculture: a global review, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome and the International Water Management Institute on behalf of the Water Land and Ecosystems research program Colombo, 2017.

[10] Global Chemicals Outlook II, From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2019.

[11] Drinan JE, Spellman F. Water and wastewater treatment: A guide for the nonengineering professional: Crc Press; 2012.

[12] Global Chemicals Outlook II, From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Synthesis Report, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2019.

The POPs listed in Annexes A, B, or C to the Stockholm Convention that are relevant in relation to plastic waste, *inter alia,* as additives, processing aids or unintentional contaminants, are:

(a) The following polybromodiphenyl ethers: decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209) present in commercial decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE), hexabromodiphenyl ether (hexaBDE) and heptabromodiphenyl ether (heptaBDE), tetrabromodiphenyl ether (tetraBDE) and pentabromodiphenylether (pentaBDE);
(b) Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD);
(c) Hexabromobiphenyl;
(d) Hexachlorobutadiene;
(e) Mirex (as a flame retardant);
(f) Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCP);
(g) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF);
(h) Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts, and PFOA-related compounds;
(i) Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds;
(j) Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB);
(k) Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCN);
(l) Polychlorinated dibenzo-*p*-dioxins; and
(m) Polychlorinated dibenzofurans.

In the environment, plastics are known to absorb POPs such as PCB and those are frequently detected in marine plastics. In addition to the detrimental consequences that ingestion of plastics by marine biota may entail, worrying environmental consequences of marine litter also stem from microplastics (less than 5 mm in diameter) and nanoplastics (less than 100 nm in at least one of its dimensions), which could potentially affect marine biota both from their physical nature if ingested and by transfer of chemicals associated with them, including POPs and endocrine disruptor chemicals.[13]

The Global Environment Facility, which operates the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention ad interim, has explicitly included the work on plastics in its programming directions, including for the chemicals and waste focal area, since the seventh replenishment of the Facility's trust fund.

The Stockholm Convention Article 6 makes cross-reference to provisions of the Basel Convention in relation to POPs wastes including e.g., definition, thresholds, guidelines for the environmentally sound management, storage, and transboundary movements.

SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy

Under the Basel Convention, while the Convention doesn't have a direct impact on affordable and clean energy, some of its issues are related to clean energy. In particular, one may refer to the

13 Gallo F., Fossi C., Weber R., Santillo D., Sousa J., Ingram I., Nadal A., and Romano D. (2018) "Marine litter plastics and microplastics and their toxic chemicals components: the need for urgent preventive measures", Environ Sci Eur. 2018; 30(1): 13.

technical guidelines on the environmentally sound co-processing of hazardous wastes in cement kilns adopted in 2011. Co-processing is the use of alternative fuel and/or raw materials for the purpose of energy and/or resource recovery. Co-processing of wastes in properly controlled cement kilns provides energy and materials recovery while cement is being produced, offering an environmentally sound recovery option for many wastes. As countries strive for greater self-sufficiency in hazardous waste management, particularly in developing countries that may have little or no waste management infrastructure, properly controlled co-processing can provide a practical, cost-effective and environmentally preferred option to landfill and incineration. In general, co-processing of waste in resource-intensive processes can be an important element in a more sustainable system of managing raw materials and energy.

Under the Rotterdam Convention, chemicals play a central role in incorporating resource efficiency and climate friendliness in energy generation, storage, distribution and use. Chemistry is essential to the development of innovative battery technologies, wind turbines and solar panels, among others. Chemistry innovations can help decrease the costs of renewable energy solutions and increase their durability. However, hazardous chemicals used in renewable energy solutions may pose threats to human health and the environment and create future legacies

Under the Stockholm Convention, PCB in Annex A to the Convention are listed for elimination. The Convention has specific provisions for the use of PCB in articles including equipment such as transformers, capacitors or other receptacles containing liquid stocks, and use should be eliminated by 2025. Moreover, all Parties to the Stockholm Convention must manage waste containing PCB in an environmentally sound manner by 2028. A huge effort has been done to eliminate PCB with more than 600,000 tonnes of PCB waste having so far been treated and disposed. Replacing PCB containing electrical installations and appliances with PCB free equipment has been an opportunity for turning to energy sources with higher efficiency and less hazard to the environment.

SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure

Under the Basel Convention, the infrastructure for the management of hazardous and other wastes is critical to ensure that wastes are indeed managed in an environmentally sound manner. The environmentally sound management (ESM) of hazardous and other wastes means taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes.

Parties regularly develop, update and promote policy guidance for the environmentally sound management of different waste streams. For example, at its 2022 meeting, the COP decided to update the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries as a priority and a matter of urgency, and that technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste batteries other than waste lead-acid batteries should be developed.

One of the aspects related to the industry, innovation and infrastructure in waste management is the extended producer responsibility (EPR) and financing. Investments in infrastructure and costs relating to the operation and maintenance of facilities require a sustainable flow of financing. In principle, it means that the producers of a product are held responsible for the collection and disposal of that product once it has become waste. Generally, producers include these costs in the

pricing of their products. EPR instruments aim at making producers responsible for the environmental impacts of their products throughout their life cycle, from design to the waste phase. EPR policies seek to shift the burden of managing certain wastes from municipalities and taxpayers to producers, in line with the polluter pays principle.[14]

It is also important to promote the environmentally sound management in the informal sector. Informal waste pickers undertake a significant share of the collection of wastes, in particular plastic waste, in many developing countries. Working with little societal or personal protection, informal waste collectors face a double risk: to their livelihoods, because they cannot work or can only work at reduced capacity; and to their health, as they often do not have access – or lack the necessary awareness – to protective equipment and/or to adequate government support. The poor and marginalized are among those worst impacted by both COVID-19 and environmental harms, such as plastic pollution, which directly and indirectly threaten the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights including the rights to life, water and sanitation, food, health, and housing.

Under the Rotterdam Convention, production of pesticides alongside with plastics, fertilizers and pharmaceuticals, per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFASs), flame retardants, nanomaterials and other groups of chemicals is increasing in many regions.

Industry involvement refers to resources for the chemicals agenda generated by the involvement of industry. A number of countries have clarified responsibilities between the public and private sector; promoted the EPR and the internalization of costs by industry; and used fiscal instruments. Industry involvement has also been important in mobilizing resources and has built capacity, including through testing, material safety data sheets, information-sharing and voluntary product stewardship. However, gaps remain in increasing contributions to match responsibility and the required level of support. [15]

Agro-chemicals and pesticides play a critical role in sustainable food and agriculture. Unsustainable use of agro-chemicals and pesticides lead to polluted agriculture ecosystems and risks to human health. Innovation in agro-chemicals and efficacy of agro-chemicals and pesticides will contribute to sustainable agriculture and ecosystem health[16]. The Rotterdam Convention promotes replacing chemicals listed under the Convention with alternatives for sustainable food production and protection strategies, such as an integrated pest management and empowers national and regional pesticide regulators to make informed decisions about the identification, removal and replacement of hazardous chemicals in use in their jurisdictions.

Under the Stockholm Convention, advancing innovative solutions through enabling policies and action holds significant potential to reduce chemical pollution and exposures, thus complementing traditional action to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste. Advancing a future chemistry that is fully sustainable requires the engagement of new actors and enabling policies and

[14] More information is available in the ESM toolkit on the website: http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Overview/tabid/5839/Default.aspx

[15] Global Chemicals Outlook II, From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Synthesis Report, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2019.

[16] Innovation for sustainable food and agriculture, FAO, 2020.

approaches, ranging from education reform, support for technology innovation and financing, to innovative business models, sustainable supply chain management and empowerment of citizens, consumers and workers through information and participation rights[17].

One of the essential purposes of the Stockholm Convention is to support the transition to safer alternatives. Some of the POPs targeted by the Stockholm Convention are already virtually obsolete. Their toxic effects became obvious early on and they have been banned or severely restricted in many countries for years or even decades. Replacement chemicals and techniques are in place. The remaining challenge is to find any leftover stocks and prevent them from being used. Some developing countries may need financial support to dispose of these stocks and replace them with chemicals whose benefits outweigh their risks.

But with other POPs the transition to safer alternatives will require more efforts. Alternatives may be more expensive and their manufacture and use more complicated. That could put developing countries in an awkward position – struggling from day to day, the world's poor tend to use what they can afford and what is available. Parties also need to make sure the alternatives do not have the same properties as the POPs they are replacing. Although it is difficult to fully evaluate potential risks of alternatives, the replacement of POPs should not result in creating another problem.

POPs possess a particular combination of physical and chemical properties such that, once released into the environment, they:

- remain intact for exceptionally long periods of time (many years);
- become widely distributed throughout the environment as a result of natural processes involving soil, water and, most notably, air;
- accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms including humans, and are found at higher concentrations at higher levels in the food chain; and
- are toxic to both humans and wildlife.

Alternatives to POPs should be quantitatively assessed, including human health and environmental risks, using hazard data and an estimate of exposure, including a comparison of toxicity or ecotoxicity data with detected or predicted levels of a chemical resulting or anticipated to result from its long-range environmental transport. Such a full risk assessment, however, may be impossible. Where that is the case, efforts should be made to collect information to ensure that:

- The alternative chemical does not have hazardous properties that raise serious concern, such as mutagenicity, carcinogenicity or adverse effects on the reproductive, developmental, endocrine, immune or nervous systems;

- The risk resulting from the use of the alternative is considerably lower than that resulting from the use of persistent organic pollutants, in view of its known hazardous properties and exposure conditions.

[17] Global Chemicals Outlook II, From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Synthesis Report, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2019.

POPs can be difficult to replace quickly. A number of Parties have cited compelling reasons to use remaining stocks of linden for control of head lice and scabies.

Fortunately, these challenges can be met through win-win solutions that reconcile eventual elimination with immediate human needs. By signaling to governments and industry that certain chemicals have no future and at the same time respecting their legitimate short-term concerns, the Convention stimulates the discovery of new, cheap and effective alternatives to the world's most dangerous POPs.

SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities

Under the Basel Convention, escalating challenges in household waste management across the globe are widely acknowledged and draw attention to the importance of its environmentally sound management. While most developed countries already introduced complex household waste management practices, many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are still struggling with the sound management of the ever-increasing volume of household waste. The problems related to household waste may be attributed to many causes such as:

- Poverty and high rate of population growth;
- Unplanned urbanization;
- Increase in quantities and volumes of household waste;
- Increase in waste management costs/lack of financial resources;
- Inefficient institutional arrangements;
- Inappropriate technology and equipment;
- Inadequate legislation;
- Low awareness of the public and informal sector;
- Enforcement.

A significant part of household waste in developing countries and countries with economies in transition is burnt in open air in the back yards or at uncontrolled dumping sites and poorly managed landfills. Overflowing landfills are often intentionally set on fire to reduce the total volume of deposited waste. Open burning releases POPs and other hazardous chemicals into the air. Leachate from landfills and dumpsites contaminates surrounding soil and water. Plastic waste comprises a large portion of household waste and plastic pollution in oceans, rivers and lakes is a great concern globally.

The environmentally sound management of household wastes includes source separation, collection, transportation, storage, recycling, energy recovery and final disposal. Based on their origin, composition and characteristics, household waste may contain hazardous materials co-mingled with non-hazardous materials. Because of the potential for contamination with hazardous

substances, the Basel Convention classifies waste collected from households as requiring special consideration (Basel Convention, Annex II, Y46).

One of the tools used to support Parties with the environmentally sound management of household wastes is the Household Waste Partnership which was established by the COP to the Basel Convention in 2017 to address this important issue and to provide technical assistance worldwide, supporting all countries to benefit from already available solutions for environmentally sound management, including issues such as separation at source, collection, transport, storage, recycling, energy recovery and final disposal.

The COP to the Basel Convention took note in 2022 of the Practical guidance for the development of inventories of plastic waste which also use the data on the generation and collection of household wastes for calculating the generation of plastic wastes.

The issue of generation and environmentally sound management of household waste is important from the perspective of the SDGs indicators 12.5.2: National recycling rate, tons of material recycled, and 11.6.1: Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated by cities.

Under the Rotterdam Convention, the rate and scale of urbanization will likely lead to the need to develop accompanying infrastructure and an increasing use of chemicals, including in the housing and transportation sectors. Growth in construction, as well as increasing demand by inhabitants will all lead to increased use of chemicals.[18]

Under the Stockholm Convention, the Stockholm Convention does not have a direct impact on sustainable cities and communities, however some parallels could be drawn, for example in relation to the use of POPs in various products and materials. In this regard indicator 11.1.1 refers to informal settlements and inadequate housing. Target 11.6 addresses air quality in cities. Unintentional POPs emissions and releases such as polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDD), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), hexachlorobenzene (HCB), and pentachlorobenzene (PeCBz are addressed by the Stockholm Convention as it requires Parties to take measures so that releases from unintentional production are eliminated or reduced.

SDG 17 on partnerships

Under the Basel Convention, partnerships have been used for a number of years as a mechanism to enhance collaboration between stakeholders; tap into expertise and knowledge at a broader level, bring together experts and policymakers to develop guidance and guidelines leveraging scare resources at all levels; and reduce costs by working together to identify options and solutions and developing needed tools and strategies to enhance the environmentally sound management of used products and wastes.

[18] Global Chemicals Outlook II, From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2019.

The Partnership Programme was initiated pursuant to the adoption of the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management by the COP at its fifth meeting (COP-5) in 1999. The Declaration emphasized the importance of partnerships with industry, NGOs and academia.

Five global multi-stakeholder Partnerships have to date been established under the Partnership Programme under the Basel Convention:

(a) The Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, established in 2002 and the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), established by the Basel Convention Parties in 2008 were public - private multi-stakeholders platforms to support developing countries in tackling the growing e-waste challenge, focusing on new solutions for enhancing the environmentally sound management of mobile phones and computing equipment, respectively, as well as the overall compliance with the Basel Convention. [19] In 2019, the Parties decided to establish a new partnership as a follow up to PACE, since it had concluded its activities, in 2017. The follow-up to PACE continues to implement pilot projects to promote activities on the environmentally sound management of computing equipment, mobile phones and e-waste. In 2022, Parties extended the scope of this partnership to include activities on used and wastes TV screens, audio and video equipment as well as on refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment. To reflect this broader scope, the Parties adopted a new name: Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste or PACE II. The partnership is mandated to promote innovative solutions for the environmentally sound management of e-waste, undertake outreach and dissemination activities, for example conducting awareness raising campaigns or promoting training in schools and universities, implement projects to enhance the environmentally sound management of e-waste and develop guidance on environmentally sound repair and refurbishment of used equipment and on environmentally sound management of wastes of TVs, audio and video equipment, refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment.[20]

(b) The Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic or ENFORCE was established by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting (COP-11) in 2013, with the objective of promoting compliance with the Convention's provisions on preventing and combating illegal traffic through the better implementation and enforcement of national law, through a network of relevant experts. ENFORCE facilitates information sharing between its members and observers through developing a roadmap of activities and helps to identify opportunities for cooperation. COP-15 strengthened ENFORCE by inviting it to undertake capacity-building activities on illegal traffic and increase cooperation with its members [21].

[19] http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/PACE/Overview/tabid/3243/Default.aspx
[20]http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/FollowuptoPACE/Overview/tabid/8089/Default.aspx
[21]
http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/ENFORCE/Overview/tabid/4526/Default.aspx

(c) The Household Waste Partnership has the following objectives: (a) promoting the environmentally sound management of household waste including its prevention and minimization and (b) enabling the decoupling of economic growth and environmental impacts associated with the generation of household waste and its initial handling by the public in their households. The Partnership developed an overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste to promote and share existing practical and concrete solutions in order to assist stakeholders in achieving the ESM of household waste. Its adoption and dissemination is of particular importance with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic and the management of infectious waste at the household level, particularly in light of gender disparities in this area.

(d) A Partnership on Plastic Waste was established by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting (COP-14) in 2019 to mobilize business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to improve and promote the environmentally sound management of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels and to prevent and minimize its generation so as to reduce significantly and in the long-term eliminate the discharge of plastic waste and microplastics into the environment, in particular the marine environment. The reduction of the discharge of plastic waste into the environment was particularly topical during the COVID-19 pandemic, where single-use plastic, including personal protection equipment such as masks and packaging were increasingly being found in the marine and terrestrial environment. The Plastic Waste Partnership is carrying out work in four areas, namely prevention and minimization, plastic waste collection, recycling and other recovery, including financing and related markets; transboundary movements of plastic waste; and outreach and awareness raising. Pilot projects are being implemented under the Partnership in countries or at regional level to improve and promote the environmentally sound management of plastic waste and to prevent and minimize its generation. A total of 23 pilot projects are currently being implemented, with information on the selection of the project proposals is to be released in February 2023.[22]

Under the Rotterdam Convention, there are currently no partnerships established by the COP to the Rotterdam Convention, however there are initiatives and partnerships that support the implementation of the Convention.

One example of the partnerships related to the Rotterdam Convention is the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) which is a network of over 600 participating nongovernmental organizations, institutions and individuals in over 90 countries working to replace the use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives[23]. PAN work is guided by five common strategic objectives, which were collectively developed by representatives from all regions:

- Protect health and the environment by eliminating highly hazardous pesticides from the market and replacing them with sustainable solutions.

[22] http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/PlasticWastePartnership/tabid/8096/Default.aspx
[23] https://pan-international.org/

- Resist development and stop the introduction and use of genetic engineering into agricultural production systems.
- Promote empowerment of grassroots movements and citizens to fight agrochemical and seed corporations and challenge corporate globalization.
- Increase public investment, development, adoption and implementation of non-chemical alternative pest management systems.
- Develop further PAN international structures.

Under the Stockholm Convention, there are currently no partnerships established by the COP to the Stockholm Convention, however there are initiatives and partnerships that support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

The Global Alliance on alternatives to DDT was established by the COP to the Stockholm Convention in 2009 at its fourth meeting. Following decision SC-5/6, adopted at the fifth meeting of the COP, the leadership of the Global Alliance was transferred to UNEP. The Global Alliance adds unique value to existing efforts by harnessing the strength of collective action to enhance the development and deployment of alternatives to DDT and to focus on objectives that could not be achieved without the involvement of diverse stakeholders. Through the support of the COP of the Stockholm Convention, the Global Alliance is able to directly access Parties, and promote the understanding and the reduction of constraints that might hinder the deployment of alternatives to DDT[24].

Another example of the partnership related to the Stockholm Convention is the PCB Elimination Network (PEN)[25] established by the COP to the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting in 2009. It was transferred from the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2011. The Secretariat of this network works in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The PEN has been developing and implementing a new awareness raising strategy to put PCB back on the international agenda, including videos, a website, webinars and fact sheets. Other activities include supporting activities on PCB in open applications, preparations for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions COPs and the UNEA and coordinating the meetings of the Advisory Committee.

(b) Three key areas where transformative actions for accelerated progress have been successful, and three key areas where support is most urgently needed, with regard to the cluster of SDGs under review in July 2023

Key successful areas under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

- One of the key successes of the **Basel Convention** has been the **adoption of amendments of the Convention**, specifically on plastic waste and e-waste, in 2019 and 2022

[24] https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/ddt-global-alliance
[25] https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/pcb-elimination-network

respectively. This reflects the ability of the Convention to adapt to new realities and environmental challenges. These amendments ensure that the competent authorities to the Basel Conventions are involved in the national decision-making process for the import, transit and export of wastes that fall within the scope of the Convention. This serves to protect countries which are not in the position to manage imported wastes in an environmentally sound manner. The implementation of the amendments contributes towards achieving all SDGs which are under review in 2023 as more targeted sound management of waste and better control of its transboundary movements play an important role for clean water and sanitation, clean energy, industry, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, partnerships.

- **The Compliance Committee** of the **Rotterdam Convention** was established, with members elected and initiating work following the COP-10 in 2022. The Committee assists individual Parties through its specific submissions mandate and reviews systemic issues of general compliance The Committee held its first meeting in November 2022 and has initiated work on a number of issues, including related to laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures to implement the Rotterdam Convention, notifications of final regulatory actions, exports of chemicals listed in Annex III, information exchange and submission, and enhanced cooperation with the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance, and integration in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes.[26]

- One of the key successes of the **Stockholm Convention** was the continued effort **to list new chemicals** that meet POPs characteristics. The COP-10 to the Stockholm Convention listed perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds in Annex A to the Convention, setting them for elimination. PFHxS, its salts and related substances have a high resistance to friction, heat, and chemical agents. They are widely used in firefighting foam, carpets, and non-stick cookware. They have been found to influence the human nervous system, brain development, and thyroid hormone. This reflects on the ability of the Convention to adapt to the new realities and environmental challenges and be adjusted appropriately. These developments ensure that further actions will be implemented to restrict or eliminate the use and/or manufacturing of listed chemicals. The progress in this area contributes towards achieving goals on clean water and sanitation and industry, innovation and infrastructure, as trade control of chemicals in the scope of the Stockholm Convention protects human health and the environment, including water and the use of alternatives encourages innovation.

- **Under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, science-policy interface.** Science is a core component of each of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions[27], informing technical experts', policymakers' and other stakeholders' evaluation of problems, formulation of recommendations and policy responses, and

[26] http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/ComplianceCommittee/Meetings/CC1/Overview/tabid/9272/language/en-US/Default.aspx

[27] For more information see the information brochure and other related document: http://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/FromSciencetoAction/Overview/tabid/4749/language/en-US/Default.aspx

supporting implementation by Parties and other stakeholders at the regional and national levels.

The three conventions have been working at the interface of science and policy since their coming into force, meeting new challenges and emerging trends in their respective areas of responsibility for management of chemicals and waste. Each of these conventions is structured to ensure that science plays a significant role in policymaking; as such, stakeholders can draw lessons from the successes and challenges that Parties, technical experts, and diverse stakeholders encountered while working to fulfill the objectives of each of these conventions.

The "From Science to Action" initiative has yielded valuable insights into the challenges that need to be addressed to enhance science-based action to support implementation of the BRS conventions, such as the following:

- Essential data related to local and national environments are often difficult to access or entirely unavailable, making implementation of effective policy very difficult;
- Capacity to generate data at the national level as well as access to data is severely limited in many countries due to inadequate research facilities and infrastructure;
- Capacity for institutional data generation and management should be strengthened at the national level;
- Enabling environments should be created for publication of research;
- Industry should be incentivized to invest in scientific research; and
- Methods of communicating information to policymakers should be improved through training activities.

Science-policy interface is crucial for the implementation of all SDGs as policymaking based on science and knowledge promotes innovative solutions and effectiveness.

Key areas under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that require support

- **Capacity building under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**. In terms of key areas where support is most urgently needed, Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions still need support with meeting the obligations of the three conventions. Under the **Basel Convention** this includes developing or strengthening legislation, setting up collection, recycling and disposal systems, developing systems for effective collection of data and developing inventories of wastes; under the **Rotterdam Convention** this includes developing and strengthening national legislative and regulatory frameworks and sub-regional approaches consistent with the requirements of the Rotterdam Convention; compliance with export notification requirements for chemicals banned or severely restricted at national level; risk evaluation and reduction methodologies for hazardous chemicals and pesticides, monitoring and surveillance so as to take decisions on final regulatory action and preparation of notifications; submission of import responses; integrated approach on pesticide management both the work on identification of severely hazardous pesticide formulations and on highly hazardous pesticides on the national level; and under the **Stockholm Convention** this includes developing or strengthening legislation

and measures for restricting and eliminating use and production of listed POPs and reduced unintentional releases of POPs as well as development and implementation of the National Implementation Plans..

- **Illegal traffic in hazardous and other wastes** continues to pose challenges to environment and human health under the **Basel Convention**. Prevention and combatting of illegal traffic is a challenging task requiring effective national inter-agency mechanisms, and close collaboration among Parties and regions. Training, awareness and political will of the enforcement community is needed in detection, classification, investigation and prosecution of confirmed cases of illegal traffic.

- **Illegal trade in chemicals** pose challenges to environment and human health, with little information available on this issue under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Prevention and combatting of illegal trade is a challenging task requiring effective national inter-agency mechanisms, and close collaboration among Parties and regions. Training, awareness and political will of the enforcement community is needed in detection, classification, investigation and prosecution of confirmed cases of illegal trade.

- It is urgent to accelerate action to meet the deadlines related to the **elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCB and equipment contaminated with PCB by 2028 under the Stockholm Convention**. PCB is one of the original twelve POPs covered by the Stockholm Convention. They possess properties including longevity, heat absorbance and form an oily liquid at room temperature that is useful for electrical utilities and in other industrial applications**.** Due to their physico-chemical properties, PCB were manufactured worldwide for use in a wide range of applications, most importantly as insulating fluids in transformers. PCB were also used in other types of closed and semi-closed applications, such as capacitors, as well as in so-called ‘open applications, such as paints, sealants and carbon paper. PCB can cause serious health effects in humans and animals, including reproductive impairment and immune system dysfunctions. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified PCB as Group 1 “carcinogenic to humans”. PCB have been detected in human milk, and in some cases, observed levels for indicator PCB were several orders of magnitude higher than the WHO safety level. Once in the environment, PCB enter the food chain and more than 90% of human exposure to PCB is through food. The production and new uses of PCB are banned, and Parties to the Stockholm Convention must eliminate the use of PCB in equipment by 2025 and to ensure the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCB and equipment contaminated with PCB by 2028. Progress in this area is still lacking and Parties and other stakeholders are to take urgent measures in order the meet the 2025 and 2028 deadlines.

Improvements in these areas will contribute towards achieving goals under review by HLPF in 2023.

(c) Examples of specific actions taken to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic that also accelerate progress towards multiple SDG targets, including actions identified by your intergovernmental body, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving SDGs

Under the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, one of the examples of specific actions to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic that also accelerates progress towards multiple SDG targets is the work under the Basel and Rotterdam conventions to further explore the integration into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework of obligations to transmit information under the conventions. With regards more specially to the Basel Convention, at its fifteenth meeting (COP-15), the Conference of the Parties reiterated the importance of the connection between achieving Sustainable Development Goal 12 and the transmission of national reports under the Convention and emphasized the possibility that the lack of transmission of national reports under the Convention indicates an underlying need for support for the implementation of other obligations set out in the Convention, for instance in relation to the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes, minimization of the generation of wastes and the environmentally sound management of wastes. In this regard, Parties with reporting needs were called upon to integrate actions to address their needs with respect to the implementation of the Convention into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (formerly the United Nations Development Assistance Framework), in particular, during the national development planning process, the agreement of Cooperation Framework outcomes and outputs and the drafting of the Cooperation Framework document. [28]

There are a number of measures and policy recommendations[29] within the mandate of the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions** which will support Parties in accelerating progress for those affected by hazardous and other wastes, with focus on SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17. In light of enhancing coordination and cooperation of the implementation between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, some of the recommendations address all three conventions:

1) To encourage Parties to develop or strengthen national legal frameworks and take measures to promote the implementation and enforcement of the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**.

2) Emphasizing the important role that the **Basel Convention** plays in addressing the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic wastes and microplastics and associated marine pollution, to urge States to commit themselves to support efforts to achieve the prevention, the minimization and the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, as well as the effective control of its transboundary movements.

[28] Decision BC-15/17: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance
[29] Please see reports and decisions of the COP to the Basel Convention:
http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/ReportsandDecisions/tabid/3303/Default.aspx

3) Given the complexity and accelerating growth of e-waste, to intensify efforts of Parties to the **Basel Convention** in addressing e-wastes through its environmentally sound management and controlling its transboundary movements using a circular approach and positive contribution to climate change.

4) Emphasizing the important role that the **Stockholm Convention** plays in addressing the additives in plastics, to urge States to commit themselves to support efforts to eliminate or restrict POPs production and use as required by the Convention

5) To encourage efforts of Parties and stakeholders to join and actively contribute to the activities of Partnerships established under the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**.

6) To encourage efforts of Parties to the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions** to promote gender equality to ensure that women and men from all Parties are equally involved in the implementation of the three conventions and are represented in their bodies and processes and thus inform and participate in decision-making on gender-responsive hazardous chemicals and wastes policies.

(d) Assessment of the situation in the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and within the respective areas addressed by your intergovernmental body, and policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Pursuant to Article 15, paragraph 7 of the **Basel Convention**, the COP among other things is required to undertake an evaluation of its effectiveness. In 2011 the COP adopted the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for the period 2012-2021. The framework consisted of a vision, guiding principles, strategic goals and objectives, means of implementation, indicators for measuring achievement and performance and evaluation.

In 2022 the COP adopted the final evaluation of the strategic framework for 2012-2021[30] which provides information on the overall assessment of the implementation of the Basel Convention by 2021. Currently there is ongoing work to develop recommendations to improve the framework.

Article 16 of the **Stockholm Convention** requires that effectiveness of the measures adopted by the Convention is evaluated in regular intervals.

The objective of the effectiveness evaluation is to assess whether the Stockholm Convention is an effective tool to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. In practice this happens through evaluating whether:

- Releases from intentional production and use are eliminated or reduced;
- Releases from unintentional production are eliminated or reduced;

[30] http://www.basel.int/Implementation/StrategicFramework/Evaluation/Finalevaluation/tabid/6108/Default.aspx

- Releases from stockpiles and wastes are eliminated or reduced; and
- Environmental levels of POPs are decreasing over time

The second effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention, covering the period 2016 to 2021, highlights the progress made since the first evaluation in 2017, and confirms that the Convention provides an effective and dynamic framework for regulating POPs throughout their life-cycle, addressing the production, use, import, export, releases and disposal of these chemicals worldwide, and that progress has occurred since the first evaluation, but that ongoing issues hindering the full implementation of the Convention persist.

The evaluation notes that all mechanisms and processes required by the Convention to support Parties in meeting their obligations have been put in place, except for procedures and mechanisms relating to compliance pursuant to Article 17 of the Convention.

The evaluation also identifies 8 priority areas for action to address implementation challenges identified by the effectiveness evaluation committee, namely strengthening legal, administrative and other measures to control POPs; addressing compliance by establishing compliance procedures and mechanisms; strengthening information collection; strengthening the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant waste; strengthening awareness-raising and information exchange; strengthening the provision of technical assistance; strengthening the provision of financial assistance; and improving effectiveness evaluation.

In terms of policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery the following is to be considered:

1) To call for States and Regional Economic Integration Organizations to increase their efforts on the implementation of global treaties on hazardous chemicals and wastes, including the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions** with the purpose of protecting human health and the environment and in support of circular economy and recourse efficiency.

2) To increase efforts of Parties towards the coordinated implementation of the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions** including through the establishment of coherent and comprehensive legal and institutional frameworks and multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.

3) To provide safe and decent jobs involving hazardous chemicals and waste in manufacturing, design, processes and productions, including resources recovery and recycling.

4) Given the cross-cutting nature of hazardous chemicals and waste in our lives, to promote an integrated approach to chemicals and waste management by mainstreaming chemicals and wastes issues into plans and strategies on sustainable development, health, agriculture and other sectors.

5) To provide priority attention to developing, enforcing and/or strengthening national legislation and/or regulations implementing the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.**

6) To mainstream gender considerations in policies and strategies that promote the sound management of chemicals and waste.

7) To promote the adoption of best practices on the sound management of hazardous chemical and wastes throughout the value chain, including extended producer responsibility, publicly available information about chemical hazards and risks, green design and best available techniques and best environmental practices, and monitoring of contamination of air, water and land by hazardous chemicals and wastes.

8) To call upon Parties, in particular those with reporting needs to integrate their needs with respect to the implementation of the **Basel Convention** into the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, in particular during the national development planning process.

9) To encourage States and others to invest in research related to alternatives for hazardous pesticides and industrial chemicals and take measures for replacing them with safer alternatives.

10) To develop and adopt integrated pest management and integrated vector management in national agricultural and public health strategies.

11) To promote knowledge building and information sharing on hazardous chemicals and wastes, including chemicals in products through labeling and other methods, for the better management and risk reduction throughout their lifecycle.

12) To promote knowledge building and information sharing on hazardous chemicals and wastes, including POPs in products through labeling and other methods, for the better management and risk reduction throughout their lifecycle.

13) To encourage Parties and other stakeholders to invest into research related to alternatives for the use of POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention and take measures for replacing them with safer alternatives.

14) To encourage the further development of national inventories among Parties to provide a mechanism for a quantitative global inventory of production, stocks and releases of POPs.

(e) Key messages for inclusion into the Political Declaration of the September 2023 SDG Summit

1) To recognize the importance of multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous chemicals and wastes, including the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

and their evolving role in the overarching architecture of environmental governance in building post-COVID-19 a resilient path to achieve the Agenda 2030.

2) To recognize the role of the **Basel Convention** as the only global legally binding instrument that currently and specifically addresses plastic waste and its important contributions towards the future legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

3) To accelerate efforts of Parties to implement and comply with their obligations under the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm** Conventions to protect human health and the environment from adverse impacts of chemicals and hazardous and other wastes.

4) To mainstream the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions** into plans and strategies on sustainable development, health, agriculture and other sectors and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in light of raising profile and visibility of chemicals and waste at the national level, thereby facilitating the integration of information and national reporting needs into such Frameworks and supporting the implementation of the conventions.

5) To mainstream gender considerations in policies and strategies that promote the sound management of chemicals and waste.

6) To emphasize the importance of data transmission in accordance with the obligations under the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions** to avoid non-reporting, incomplete reporting or late reporting and add value to the global indicator framework for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7) To promote knowledge building and information sharing on hazardous chemicals and wastes for better management and risk reduction throughout their lifecycle.