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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX VI

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Annual Action Plan for Planet (Global Challenges) for 2021

Action Document for Improving international environmental governance through targeted support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	<u>Improving international environmental governance through targeted support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes</u> [OPSYS/CRIS] number: N/A Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out globally
4. Programming document	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	4.2. Planet: <u>Specific objective 2: Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and in the ocean.</u> <u>Specific objective 3: Supporting the green transition in key areas</u>
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Environmental sustainability / Climate change (DAC sector: General Environment Protection – 410)
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 15 Life on land (targets 6, 9) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: 2 Sustainable agriculture (Target 4), 3 on good health (Target 9), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 Clean water and sanitation (target 3), 8 decent work for all (Targets 5, 8), 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure (target 4), 12 sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 1, 2, 4, 5, 8), 13 Climate action (targets), 14 Life below water (target 1), 17 Partnerships for the goals (targets 7, 9)
8 a) DAC code(s)	410 – General Environment Protection 41010 - Environmental policy and administrative management

	41020 - Biosphere protection 41081 - Education and environmental training 41082 – Environmental research 15130 - Legal and judicial development 99820 - Promotion of Development Awareness 121 - Health General 12110 - Health policy and administrative management 130 - Population Policies/Programmes and Reproductive Health 13010 - Population policy and administrative management 321 - Industry 32164 - Chemicals			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	40000 – Multilateral Organisations 41116 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 51000 - University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item): NDICI (Global Europe) – Global Challenges: 14.020241</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 18,773,500</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 15,150,000</p> <p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by EUR 3,623,500</p> <p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by:</p> <p>Component 1: 0</p> <p>Component 2: OECD for an amount of 200,000 EUR;</p> <p>Component 3: OECD for an amount of 1,500,000 EUR;</p> <p>Component 4: WHO for an amount of 500,000 EUR</p> <p>Component 5: UNEP for an amount of 1,423,500 EUR.</p>
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MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Type of financing¹	<p>Direct management – grants</p> <p>Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2.</p>
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1.2. Summary of the Action

The five components included in the proposed action aim to act at the global level to achieve better environmental governance for sound policy-making on different topics (biodiversity, circular economy, chemicals...), promoting the external dimension of the European Green Deal. This action will provide voluntary support to international organizations and to Secretariats of environmental conventions. The components aim to get developing and middle-income countries be better prepared for and involved in multilateral negotiations, and be provided with suitable tools and guidelines to support implementation.

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

Component 1: Strengthening international environment and climate governance through the publishing of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin.

This component aims to improve equity in participation among countries in international environmental, sustainable development and climate governance and contribute to enhancing global environmental sustainability and achieving the environment-related SDGs. International environmental negotiations are complex, intertwined, and vital to address global environmental problems. Many developing countries not only have small delegations but also, sometimes, have high turnover within their delegations. As these delegates cannot be physically in the room when all negotiations occur, they often struggle to participate effectively. They lack information on what occurred in negotiations they could not attend, a record of countries' positions on a range of issues, and a sense of which issues are nearing agreement. High turnover within delegations can disadvantage some countries' ability to maintain institutional memory of processes. Through the production, publication and dissemination of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, and the development of information tools to address barriers to developing countries' and civil society's participation, the project will contribute to make delegates from developing countries to be better equipped to participate in multilateral environmental and climate negotiations. This flow of information may also stimulate developing countries to introduce measures to protect the environment, enhance co-benefits, and to implement sustainable development patterns. This component directly contributes to SDG 13 (Climate action) and 15 (Life on land).

Component 2: The Transition towards the circular economy – Economic and policy analysis

This component aims to increase awareness of the opportunities for women and men in all their diversity that are presented by the circular economy globally, as well as concrete support for a number of concrete initiatives that would lead to the implementation of measures that are required for the just transition including better policy analysis. Activities will contribute to a better management of plastics and plastic waste and the role of economic instruments in this context, as well as on one specific sector of the economy (either construction and buildings or textiles) and the policies required to achieve more circularity. Activities will also foster better environmental analysis of policies, to support the just transition to a circular economy, based on an understanding of what makes for successful transitions, while taking into account the impacts on different target groups, and the effect on their rights (such as the right to decent work) in a proportionate manner. In so doing, they should support implementable policy options, and this action also consists in developing analysis and to provide a set of policy recommendations that are directly useful for policy makers in the EU, other OECD countries as well as emerging and developing economies in order to support the up-take and implementation of these policies. The analysis should ensure synergies and leverage by complementing other work streams and actions. The component contributes directly to SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and will provide several reports: i) on economic and environmental impacts of different economic instruments aimed at reducing the leakage of plastics into the environment; ii) on circular economy transition in a specific sector of the economy; iii) on best practices on ex ante and ex post evaluation of environmental policies; and iv) on updated guidance on the mortality risk valuation in environment, health and transport policies. Studies should where possible and proportionate include a gender equality perspective and consider the rights of the target groups involved.

Component 3: Strengthening international standards for the sound management of chemicals

This component aims to improve the implementation of chemicals management systems in participating countries, in particular in developing countries that are setting up such systems. Global chemicals production is estimated to double by 2030, and much of the expected rise in chemical production will shift to developing countries and economies in transition. In such countries, the management of hazardous chemicals manufactured and used is, however, often poor or lacking altogether, resulting in health risks for workers and the general population as well as environmental pollution. This action will directly contribute to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 3 (Good Health and wellbeing) by: i) Expansion and Maintenance of the OECD system of Mutual Acceptance of Data; ii) Chemical Accident prevention, preparedness and response; iii) Development of tools to facilitate the use of biopesticides; and iv) Managing the risks of Perfluorinated Chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives.

Component 4: Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Towards Achieving the SDGs

This component aims to improve the sound management of chemicals and waste in countries worldwide that use the IOMC Toolbox and its content. Despite the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and regional and national efforts to strengthen the management of chemicals, the global goal to minimize impacts of chemicals and waste by 2020 has not been achieved and further investments are urgently needed to ensure that chemicals are used in a safe way without unnecessary impact on human health and the environment, especially on the health of children, women and groups living in vulnerable situations. This applies especially in resource poor countries where efforts to manage chemicals are lacking behind most. Activities under this component will directly contribute to the achievement of SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) with a view to achieving the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment at global level by 2030. While updating the Toolbox from a gender and human rights perspective, the Action will also contribute to the achievement of SDG 5 (Gender equality). Activities will foster that i) IOMC Toolbox and its content is increasingly used at national level to develop chemicals management capacities and infrastructure, including control and enforcement and ii) Greater collaboration and networking between countries and IOMC Partner Organizations towards achieving the sound management of chemicals and the implementation of related SDG 12.

Component 5: Programme Cooperation agreement with the UN Environment Programme

This component aims to improve international environmental governance by concluding a new cooperation agreement between the Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It directly contribute to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by improving international environment governance, and focusing on the promotion of EU Strategies adopted in the context of the Green Deal and jointly shared with UNEP. It will enable further EU voluntary support to the implementation of the programme of work of both UNEP and related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in the areas of the protection of biodiversity and the sustainable management of ecosystems, the just transition to more circular economies, the sound management of chemicals and waste, the making and enforcement of environmental laws and policies, and the generation and management of knowledge for policy-making. It will ensure that these processes effectively engage and benefit developing and emerging economies, while contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

The action is a central element of the **external dimension of the European Green Deal and its various components** (i.e. circular economy action plan, biodiversity strategy, Farm-to-Fork, Chemical Strategy, Zero-Pollution Action Plan etc...). It also directly contributes to a Stronger Europe in the World by promoting effective multilateralism on global environmental and climate issues, contributing to the Planet component of the European Consensus, but also to People and Prosperity. By strengthening international governance and global knowledge, innovation and action, it will support achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Multilateral Environment Agreements, global organisations and platforms or networks. It is essential to enable the EU to promote its interests and values, influence global processes and present itself as a credible and strong global leader.

The action delivers on commitments taken by EU (and its Member States) as a Party to key Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), as well as political commitments taken in the UN context, to provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries and support their participation and compliance in these processes.

Further support to the multilateral agreements on environment is considered all along their process, from the high-quality information production, the implementation, to the global progress monitoring and reporting, with a large range of stakeholders.

The **European Green Deal**, detailed in a Communication², aims at transforming the European economy and society to put it on a more sustainable path. It resets the Commission's commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges that is this generation's defining task. The atmosphere is warming and the climate is changing with

² COM(2019) 640 final of 11.12.2019

each passing year. One million of the eight million species on the planet are at risk of being lost. Forests and oceans are being polluted and destroyed.

The European Green Deal is a response to these challenges. It is a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and **where economic growth is decoupled from resource use**.

It also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. At the same time, this transition must be just and inclusive. It must put people first, and pay attention to the regions, industries, groups living in vulnerable situations and workers who will face the greatest challenges.

The EU has the collective ability to transform its economy and society **to put it on a more sustainable path**. It can build on its strengths as a global leader on climate and environmental measures, consumer protection, and workers' rights.

The environmental ambition of the Green Deal will not be achieved by Europe acting alone. The drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss are global and are not limited by national borders. The EU intends to use its expertise and financial resources to mobilise its neighbours and partners to join it on a sustainable path. The EU will continue to lead international efforts and wants to build alliances with partner countries and organisations.

The EU was a strong supporter of the process that led to the **2030 Agenda and the SDGs**, and is committed to implement it in the EU and with partner countries. The EU Council Conclusions of 20 June 2017 "A sustainable European future: The EU response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and "The New European Consensus on Development – Our World, our Dignity, our Future"³ both fully recognize the societal challenges posed by climate change, pollution, growing pressure on all natural resources and unsustainable economic growth patterns. Within the "Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy"⁴, the EU international action integrates the fact that environmental sustainability, including a stable climate, is indispensable to poverty eradication and sustainable development, particularly for the poorest sections of society.

The EU is also a party to a number of MEAs (mostly United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) or United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) related) alongside its member states and other parties, including developing countries. The Conferences/Meetings of the Parties (COP/MOP), governing bodies of these agreements, meet regularly and are responsible for negotiating and adopting programmes of work and budgets, including for voluntary contributions from donors.

The EU also participates in a number of multilateral environmental processes piloted by or involving partner international organisations such as UNEP (e.g. the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production / One Planet Network⁵, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership⁶).

The **circular economy package**⁷, adopted by the Commission on 2 December 2015, has created an important momentum to support the transition towards a more circular economy in the EU. The overall goal of the circular economy action plan is to boost competitiveness, create jobs, reduce GHG emissions as well as reduce pressure on the environment. The transition to the circular economy also has a strong global dimension and the plan includes a provision for externalisation of the actions.

In the context of the **European Green Deal**⁸, the new **Circular Economy Action Plan**⁹ (the 'Action Plan') adopted by the European Commission on 11 March 2020 notes that half of total greenhouse gas emissions and more than 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing. The Action Plan launched a concerted strategy for a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy, requiring scaling up the circular economy from front-runners to the mainstream economic players to make a decisive contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and decoupling economic growth from resource use.

³ COM(2016) 740 final of 22.11.2016, adopted by the Council of the EU on 19 May 2017

⁴ *Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe – A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy*, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, June 2016; See Council conclusions on the Global Strategy on the European Union's foreign and security policy, Council of the European Union, 17 October 2016 (13202/16)

⁵ <http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/>

⁶ <https://www.bipindicators.net/>

⁷ COM(2015)593, COM(2015)594, COM(2015)595, and COM(2015)596 of 02.12.2015

⁸ COM(2019) 640 – The European Green Deal.

⁹ COM(2020) 98 – A new Circular Economy Action Plan. For a cleaner and more competitive Europe

The circular economy transformation worldwide is about going from linear, highly resource depleting systems with high emissions, waste creation and high impacts on ecosystems and natural capital, towards circular, less wasteful systems that make a more optimal and sustainable use of resources, while providing high quality of life, up-skilling/re-skilling and work opportunities. This is a key contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and other commonly agreed international targets under e.g. the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

In the area of **biodiversity**, the EU is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (14th CBD COP was in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2018). It endorsed a review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; the process for the preparation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and for the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*; enhancing integration under the Convention and its Protocols and the Convention. The EU adopted the **Biodiversity Strategy 2030**¹⁰, the **Farm-to-Fork strategy**¹¹ as well as the **8th Environment Action Programme**¹², that will help us keep track of our joint environmental and climate objectives.

In the area of **pollution**, and more particularly the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste, the EU is an active supporter of SAICM, and a Party to the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions. The EU adopted the **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability**¹³ and the **Batteries Strategy**. On 12 May 2021, the European Commission adopted the EU Action Plan: "**Towards a Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil**¹⁴", Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All - a key deliverable of the European Green Deal.

Through the United Nation's Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)¹⁵, countries committed to achieve by 2020 the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle, so that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimisation of adverse effects on human health and the environment.

The EU is an active driver and supporter of the process for implementing SAICM and for setting up its successor and has a well-developed acquis of chemical legislation in place to achieve the objectives of those agreements, based on scientific tools and assessments to achieve a high level of protection for humans and the environment. The European Green Deal sets a goal to protect better human health and the environment as part of an ambitious approach to tackle pollution from all sources and move towards a toxic-free environment. The **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability** developed to this end includes the commitment that the EU steps up its international advocacy to meet the 2030 Agenda's goals and targets for the sound management of chemicals, in particular by having a leading role and promoting the implementation of existing international instruments as well as EU standards globally.

In November 2016, the European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union adopted a Joint Communication entitled *International Ocean Governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans*¹⁶. The EU adopted it, as a part of its response to ocean-related Agenda 2030 and SDG 14 and, in the 'European seas', the **EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive** gives a strong mandate for regional ocean governance based on ecosystem approach and with the aim of reaching Good Environmental Status, based on the regional cooperation and interactions with the relevant Regional Seas Conventions (RSCs).

As the world is currently dealing with the impacts of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the EU has made a strong statement as regards its leadership role in the response at the global level. As outlined in the recent communication on the subject¹⁷, EU's global response will integrate the strategic objectives the EU has set itself as regards the environment and climate, as set out in the European Green Deal. SDGs should form the backbone of the post COVID-19 recovery due to the origin of the pandemic and its multifaceted impact. The crisis is a reminder that the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remain crucial to help better equip the world for future systemic shocks. The action will reinforce the multilateral efforts to enhance resilience of people and ecosystems and address the short and long-term challenges linked to the pandemic.

Adopting a gender sensitive approach, this action will also contribute to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025), notably its thematic area of engagement "Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition", as well as the gender strategies developed by UNEP and MEAs. It will

¹⁰ COM(2020) 380 final

¹¹ COM(2020) 381 final

¹² COM(2020) 652 final

¹³ COM(2020) 667 final

¹⁴ COM(2021) 400 final

¹⁵ www.saicm.org

¹⁶ JOIN(2016) 49 final

¹⁷ JOIN(2020) 11 final.

notably aim at ensuring that “Women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions”.

2.2. Problem Analysis

The world is facing **numerous interrelated global challenges**; foremost are the eradication of poverty and achievement of sustainable development in all its three dimensions. The challenges are of such magnitude and complexity that they require a global political commitment and coordinated and coherent action by all countries, at every level and across different policy areas. Around 1.3 billion people still live in extreme income poverty and the human development needs of many more are still not met. In the meantime, nature is under severe pressure and biodiversity is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history -- the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely (IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019). Global goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors. As an example, the production, use and trade of chemicals are growing in all regions, driven by global megatrends (Global Chemicals Outlook II, 2019). Under a business as usual scenario, the rate of growth of chemical production is projected to exceed that of population growth at least until 2030. This means per capita consumption of chemicals is increasing steadily – highlighting the need to achieve sustainable consumption and production. Similarly, the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) points to the need of improving waste management as the most urgent short-term solution to reducing input of litter to the ocean, and to circular economy as one of the key approaches to achieving sustainable development through reducing, reusing, remanufacturing and refurbishing products. To address existing gaps, a global framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 needs to be developed, that is aspirational and comprehensive and creates incentives to foster commitment and engagement by all relevant actors in the value chain. In these contexts, specific attention is to be given to the gender disparities and the varied roles of women and men in society shaping their exposure to chemicals. Moreover, attention for groups living in vulnerable situations is crucial, given that exposure to chemicals also depends on geographical location, behavioral patterns, age, nutritional status, and other biological factors.¹⁸

Global environment policies have intensified in the last few years to respond to the world’s evolving challenges. These include, at international level, the adoption of the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and its SDGs, the Paris Agreement (December 2015), the developments in international biodiversity policies, the entry into force of the Minamata convention on mercury.

The flagship UNEP “Synthesis Report” (Making Peace with Nature)¹⁹, co-financed by the EU, was launched right before UNEA5 by the UN Secretary-General. This report states that the well-being of today’s youth and future generations depends on an urgent and clear break with current trends of environmental decline. Earth’s environmental emergencies and human well-being need to be addressed together to achieve sustainability. The development of the goals, targets, commitments, and mechanisms under the key environmental conventions and their implementation need to be aligned to become more synergistic and effective.

At the last UNEA5, in his opening remarks, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted that the Environment Assembly was meeting at a time of global crisis and fragility as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause turmoil worldwide, with millions of people being pushed into poverty, and with women bearing the heaviest burden. Inequalities among people and countries continued to grow in the face of a triple environmental emergency - climate disruption, appalling biodiversity decline and a pollution epidemic that was cutting short some 9 million lives a year. Emphasizing the importance of a healthy planet for sustainable development and of nature-based solutions for improving human well-being and prosperity.

The EU, together with UNEP, UNIDO and several partner countries (eleven have already joined) launched successfully the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE). More, however, remains to be done to effectively tackle the alarming environmental trends that we are currently witnessing. Within this context, UNEP remains committed to serving as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, including through strengthening the relevant global governance agenda.

¹⁸ Policy Brief SAICM - Gender and the sound management of chemicals and waste [2018], http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/SDGs/SAICM_Gender_Policy_Brief.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.unep.org/resources/making-peace-nature>

Plastics are one of the most commonplace materials on the planet. In 2015, global plastics production reached 407 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa).²⁰ If growth persists at similar rates, plastics production is expected to reach 1 600 Mtpa in 2050.²¹ The extraction of materials required for plastics production, as well as the use and disposal, is creating significant environmental pressures, with serious consequences for ecosystem health, economic growth, and human well-being. The most apparent environmental impact is plastic pollution: plastics are now present in all the world's ocean basins, including around remote islands, the poles and in the deep seas.²²

The OECD's Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060 (OECD, 2019^[2]) projects that global materials use will rise from 89 Gt in 2017 to 167 Gt in 2060. Among these, construction materials represent half of material use today and most of the doubling of material use to 2060 is due to construction materials.

In this context, while research to date has largely focused on recycling construction and demolition waste, there is large scope for investigating how optimising resource efficiency in design and in manufacturing techniques and implementing circular economy business models could contribute to slowing down or narrowing material loops²³ in the construction and building sector.

Similarly, the current system for the production, distribution, use, and disposal of textile products bears severe environmental and climate impacts. Upstream in the value chain, textile manufacturing requires approximately 93 billion cubic metres of water and 98 million tonnes of non-renewable resources, mainly to produce synthetic fibres, fertilisers to produce cotton, and chemicals to manufacture and treat fabrics (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2017^[25])

In 2019, the Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA) adopted the resolution 4/8 on sound management of chemicals and waste and requested, among others, the international community to step up technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States to meet the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as soon as possible; to strengthen cooperation and avoid duplication of actions undertaken by member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals; and to provide technical advice, policy support and capacity-building assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. At its 5th session in 2021, the UNEA encouraged all countries and relevant stakeholders to continue implementing green and sustainable chemistry, and engage in more ambitious worldwide action towards the sound management of chemicals, including on heavy metals.

The Global Chemicals Outlook (UNEP 2019) predicts that global chemicals production will substantially increase in the next 10 years and notes that consumption and production are rapidly increasing in emerging economies. Due to this relocation of production, global supply chains, and the trade of chemicals and products, are becoming increasingly complex. Therefore, the outlook recommends developing and implementing comprehensive, multi-stakeholder and prevention oriented chemical management strategies tailored to the economic and development needs of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to enable those countries to cope with current and future challenges in chemicals management.

Whilst the burden of disease and environmental damage caused by exposure to hazardous chemicals is significant worldwide, it is more severe in developing countries and countries with economies in transition where chemical safety measures are still insufficient. Issued in 2019, the evaluation of SAICM (2006 – 2015) demonstrated that the gap between countries in achieving the sound management of chemicals is widening with the poorest countries and communities left behind if no further investments are made in these countries. Yet, over the coming years, those countries are projected to greatly increased chemicals production and use, which is expected to result in increasing problems caused by hazardous chemicals.

The need for strengthened international environmental governance and an enhanced role for UNEP have also been reaffirmed on the multilateral stage together with the recognition of the significant contributions from Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to sustainable development. The outcomes of the COPs of CBD and Minamata,

²⁰ USGS (2016), *Aluminum Legislation and Government Programs*, <https://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/aluminum/myb1-2015-alumi.pdf> (accessed on 28 March 2018).

²¹ EMF (2017), *Rethinking the future of plastics and catalysing action*, https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/NPEC-Hybrid_English_22-11-17_Digital.pdf.

²² Jambeck, J. et al. (2015), "Marine pollution. Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean.", *Science (New York, N.Y.)*, Vol. 347/6223, pp. 768-71, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1260352>.

²³ Previous OECD work has conceptualised the circular economy along these three elements, see (McCarthy, Dellink and Bibas, 2018^[4])

as well as decisions from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions COP, CITES and CMS, as well as the adoption of the Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will also frame the cooperation between the EU and those MEAs in 2021 and beyond. However, delegates from developing countries face serious limitations as to their participation in multilateral environmental negotiations. Developing countries need encouragement to introduce measures to protect the environment, enhance co-benefits, and to implement sustainable development patterns.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

- UN agencies (such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), etc.), the European Environment Agency (EEA), as well as the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and other regional development banks, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and bilateral aid agencies;
- Private Sector, including business associations and the financial sector;
- Major Groups and Stakeholders, including civil society organisations, trade unions, NGOs, academics.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **overall objective** is to contribute to improved international environmental governance, thereby enhancing the delivery of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development while simultaneously advancing environmental sustainability and better health with economic development.

Component 1: Strengthening international environment and climate governance through the publishing of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin

The overall objective, or impact, of this project is to improve equity in participation among countries in international environmental and sustainable development governance and contribute to enhancing global environmental sustainability and achieving the environment-related SDGs. The Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB)'s vision is to improve transparency and equity in international negotiations on environment and sustainable development through its publication. They contribute to heightening transparency through their first-hand presence at MEA negotiations and providing open access to neutral and authoritative information distilled from these international negotiations. Countries' diplomatic capacity varies in terms of delegation size, technical expertise, and institutional knowledge of the treaty and history of the negotiation process. By providing equal space to both developing and developed country interventions in the *ENB*, the written record of these negotiations, it is a fundamental mechanism to improve equity among countries in the negotiation space.

The first specific objective (SO.1) Delegates from developing countries will be better equipped to participate in multilateral environmental negotiations.

SO.2. Stimulate developing countries to introduce measures to protect the environment, enhance co-benefits, and to implement sustainable development patterns.

The expected results (ER) of this intervention are twofold:

ER 1.1: Improved access to information relevant to all major international environment and climate related meetings, through publications.

ER 1.2: Identified barriers to developing countries' participation, developed and executed strategies to help overcome these barriers, also by increasing the amount of readers from developing countries, including women.

Component 2: The Transition towards the circular economy – Economic and policy analysis

The overall objective is an *increased awareness* of the opportunities that are presented by the circular economy globally, as well as *support* targeted on a number of initiatives that would lead to the implementation of concrete measures that are required for the transition including better policy analysis.

SO 2: to develop analysis and to provide a set of policy recommendations that are directly useful for policy makers in the EU, other OECD countries as well as emerging and developing economies in order to support the up-take and implementation of these policies.

The expected results are:

ER 2.1: Report on social, economic and environmental impacts of different economic instruments aimed at reducing the leakage of plastics into the environment published;

ER 2.2: Report on circular economy transition in a specific sector of the economy published;

ER 2.3: Report on best practices on ex ante and ex post evaluation of environmental policies published;

ER 2.4: Report on updated guidance on the mortality risk valuation in environment, health and transport policies published.

Component 3: Strengthening international standards for the sound management of chemicals

The overall objective is to improve implementation of chemicals management systems in participating countries, in particular in developing countries that are setting up such systems.

The specific objectives are:

SO 3.1: Expansion and Maintenance of the OECD system of Mutual Acceptance of Data

SO 3.2: Chemical Accident prevention, preparedness and response

SO 3.3: Development of tools to facilitate the use of biopesticides

SO 3.4: Managing the risks of Perfluorinated Chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

The expected results are:

ER 3.1. Seminars or training courses, each held in a different region of the world in areas with growing industrial chemical sectors and new or expanding chemical management programmes, organised.

ER. 3.2 New and updated Test Guidelines published

ER. 3.3 Guidance document on the risk management of Natech accidents produced

ER 3.4 Revised and consolidated OECD legal instruments relating to chemical accidents produced

ER 3.5 Tools to facilitate the use of biopesticides developed

ER 3.6 Webinars on risk reduction approaches for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals, with subsequent dissemination on OECD PFAS portal, produced

ER 3.7 OECD PFAS portal with risk reduction information updated from countries, including beyond OECD member countries, produced.

Component 4: IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Phase IV: Towards Achieving the SDGs

The overall objective is to improve the sound management of chemicals and waste in countries worldwide that use the IOMC Toolbox and its content, thereby contributing to the achievement and implementation of nearly all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), multi-lateral environmental and other international agreements.

SO 4: to ensure that IOMC Toolbox and its content is increasingly used at national level to develop chemicals management capacities and infrastructure, including control and enforcement. The action also fosters greater collaboration and networking between countries and IOMC Partner Organizations towards achieving the sound management of chemicals and the implementation of related SDGs.

The expected results are:

ER 4.1. Updated Toolbox, i.e. new tools and language versions of tools added to existing management schemes and entry points, including to improve the integration of human rights and gender equality aspects.

ER 4.2. Broadened Toolbox, i.e. new or broadened chemical management schemes and related tools added, thereby increasing scope and applicability.

ER 4.3. Improved guidance and tools for the management of chemicals, i.e. new guidance and tools developed by IOMC Partner Organizations upon request by countries, especially developing countries, thereby closing the gap where guidance is missing or outdated (including where applicable aspects of gender equality challenges and human rights violations).

ER 4.4. Language versions of guidance and tools, i.e. guidance and tools are available in UN languages other than English.

ER 4.5. Authoritative, comprehensive and stand-alone web-based training courses aimed at target audiences in developing countries for building capacities towards the implementation of IOMC guidance and the use of IOMC tools, including fostering collaboration and networking.

ER 4.6. Global, regional and country targeted virtual and face-to-face training and promotional events for building capacities towards the implementation of IOMC guidance and the use of IOMC tools and the IOMC Toolbox.

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

The overall objective is to contribute to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by improving international environment governance, and also the promotion of EU Strategies adopted in the context of the Green Deal.

This includes halting biodiversity achieving a greener growth, protecting human health and the environment from hazardous substances, and ensuring the transparency and efficiency of natural resources management thereby enhancing the delivery of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

While contributing and more specifically to improving international environment governance, the PCA III pursues the following two specific objectives:

SO 5.1. International agreements, partnerships and alliances on environmental governance and issues are strengthened and promoted through targeted supports in areas linked to, inter alia, halting biodiversity loss, transitioning to greener and more circular economies, protecting human health from pollution, sound management of chemicals and waste, and ensuring the transparent and sustainable management of natural resources.

SO 5.2: Capacities of countries to develop evidence-based policies and decisions, ownership and implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the MEAs is strengthened through the provision of advisory services, information and knowledge products, tools, methodologies and guidelines. This includes supporting efforts aimed at supporting a gender equal international governance allowing women in all their diversity to influence decision making process on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions, in line with the Gender Action plan.

The expected results are:

- ER 5.1.1: Strengthened capacities of countries to effectively engage in regional and global international processes addressing issues of international relevance, to strengthen the environmental dimension of the SDGs and to promote the progressive development on international environmental law, including MEAs;
- ER 5.1.2: Strengthened institutional capacities, policies and legal frameworks to implement action to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and those of relevant MEAs;
- ER 5.1.3: Development and implementation of policies, strategies and mechanisms for maintaining the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, supporting the transition to greener and more circular economies and promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, including plastics, within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

- ER 5.1.4: National emissions sources identified, policies and legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air, soil and water quality and quality assessments.
- ER 5.2.1: Strengthened institutional capacities for development and implementation of education and monitoring programmes and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels targeting health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.
- ER 5.2.2: Enhanced capacity of policymakers in the public and private sectors to consider the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making.
- ER 5.2.3: Strengthened capacities of countries to adopt science-based approaches that enable them to transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including an inclusive green economy and sustainable trade, and adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns at all levels.
- ER 5.2.4: Developed guidelines, methodologies and provision of technical support for public, private and financial sectors to foster the adoption and implementation of sustainable management frameworks and practices, including on the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- ER 5.2.5: Awareness raised among public and private sectors and increased support for the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns.
- ER 5.2.6: Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Component 1: Strengthening international environment and climate governance through the publishing of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Production, publication and dissemination of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, and development of information tools to address barriers to developing countries' and civil society's participation. Activities will provide neutral, authoritative, and up-to-the-minute record of ongoing multilateral negotiations on environment and sustainable development.

Component 2: The Transition towards the circular economy – Economic and policy analysis

Activity 1: Analysis of economic instruments to reduce the environmental impact of plastics use

As part of the global policy package to reduce the environmental impacts of plastics use, the OECD's Global Plastic Outlook will include economic instruments aimed at reducing the demand for plastics or supporting the uptake of recycled plastics. These instruments, such as taxes on single-use plastics or on primary plastics, are efficient at encouraging the substitution towards other materials, including recycled plastics. Instruments focusing on fossil fuel-based plastic feeds can also support markets for recycled plastics.

The Global Plastics Outlook, which is currently being developed by the OECD, only presents a global policy package and does not discern the impacts of each policy instrument. Therefore, follow up work could consider more specifically the economic consequences and environmental benefits from economic instruments in specific sectors and subsets of countries. The analysis would be performed with the OECD ENV-Linkages computable general equilibrium model, relying on the model improvements that have been developed in the framework of the Global Plastics Outlook, and/or other quantitative tools, as appropriate.

The modelling analysis would focus on policy instruments aimed at changing how products containing plastics are designed and produced as well as promoting the use of recycled plastics over plastic produced from fossil-fuel feeds in specific sectors of interest, such as food distribution (packaging), construction, electronics or the automotive sector. The policies would aim at reducing the negative impacts of plastics use on the environment implementing instruments such as a tax on single-use plastics or user charges on specific materials and designs that are not conducive to enhance longevity, reparability, reuse or recycling.

Different regions will have different benefits and costs from reducing plastics and differences in economic structure and policy stringency across countries might imply competitiveness issues. The OECD ENV-Linkages model has often been used in the past to study competitiveness impacts of environmental policies with varying levels of

geographical coverage of policy action. A similar analysis could be done to study the competitiveness impacts of economic instruments to address plastics, possibly relying on empirical analysis on the consequences of economic instruments on plastics use.

The analysis could take into consideration the partial geographical implementation of the policies, differentiating for instance between OECD and non-OECD countries. In OECD countries, several environmental policies are already in place to understand the political acceptability of additional economic instruments that target specifically the environmental externalities of the production, use and disposal of plastics. Therefore, especially in the context of the economic crisis caused by the covid-19 pandemic, additional taxes aimed at limiting consumption of single-use plastics might not achieve high levels of political acceptability, even in OECD countries. On the other hand, policy action in non-OECD countries is crucial as the largest sources of plastics leakage into oceans come from non-OECD countries. The analysis could additionally identify the bottlenecks for empowering women in the plastics value chain, while addressing the human rights violations in terms of decent work. Additionally it could address promising practices, through the existing networks

Activity 2: Analysis and policy recommendations for the circular economy transition in a specific sector of the economy

This activity could focus on the circular economy transition in one specific sector, either construction or textiles.

Construction and building sector

The twentieth century was an age of unprecedented growth in the use of natural resources and materials. These trends are projected to continue in the coming decades, in absence of further policy action to achieve a more resource efficient and circular economy. The OECD's Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060 (OECD, 2019) projects that global materials use will rise from 89 Gt in 2017 to 167 Gt in 2060. Among these, construction materials represent half of material use today and that most of the doubling of material use to 2060 is due to construction materials, driven in large part by continued population growth and rapid urbanisation in many emerging and developing countries. Therefore, a careful examination of economic drivers of construction and alternative technologies for construction are needed to moderate the use of these materials. Furthermore, GHG emissions linked with concrete production are projected to rise from 7% to 12% of total emissions in 2060 in the absence of dedicated policies. Therefore, improving resource efficiency and promoting circularity in the construction and building sectors is also critically important for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

There is nonetheless little research on circular economy applications for construction of residential and commercial buildings, as well as transport and production infrastructure. Research to date has largely focused on recycling construction and demolition waste. However, much of this recovered waste is downcycled, where the value, quality and functionality are lower than those of the original materials. Higher levels of circularity could be achieved through modular, flexible and durable design of buildings. Another way of increasing the sustainability of construction is through standardisation and modularisation of building components, combined with on-site assembly, and additive manufacturing techniques using construction waste, along with renewable and local materials. Several circular economy business models could be promising to close, slow down or narrow material loops in the construction and building sector.

Assessing the macro-economic consequences of circular economy transition in the construction and buildings sector

The analysis of the macro-economic consequences of circular economy transition in the construction and buildings sector would be based on modelling analysis, with the ENV-Linkages computable general equilibrium. The modelling framework could be enhanced by a focus on (i) the drivers of construction and construction materials uses (e.g. concrete and other non-metallic minerals) (ii) improving the assumptions about alternative building technologies and their resource efficiency potential and (iii) on developing alternative scenarios about buildings and infrastructure needs in the future. The enhanced model could then be used to assess the potential for material use savings and material efficiency at the country level, in parallel with macro-economic and environmental impacts. The objective would then be to evaluate the macro-economic impacts for a given reduction in environmental pressures, and thus quantify the consequences on economic growth. Moreover, given the importance of the construction sector in total employment in all countries, the social consequences of circular economy policies would need to be analysed.

Assessing the opportunities and challenges of the sharing economy for the construction and/or residential and commercial spaces (“slowing material loops”)

Sharing models or the sharing economy allows for using under-utilised consumer assets more intensively, and for decreasing demand for new items and their associated resource footprints. Sharing and leasing models for residential and commercial spaces have taken up significantly in recent years, enabled by adaptable multifunctional design of spaces and by digital solutions to matching spacing supply and demand. Most prominent examples of such initiatives is the sharing of residential spaces, leasing commercial spaces including, but not limited to, office spaces (e.g. co-working spaces via WeWork), vehicle parking (e.g. Mobpark) or restaurant kitchens (so-called “dark kitchens”). To date, little is known about the economic, environmental and social impacts, as well as about the scalability of sharing models in the building sector, but this could potentially lead to significant material and cost savings, generate new income through monetisation of spare capacities, and offer opportunities for bottom-up social innovation. At the same time, shared space business models might also have some unintended consequences, such as forcing local population to move outside of the city centres and thereby leading to urban sprawl. This would in turn increase the environmental footprint due to distances travelled and new housing built.

Assessing opportunities and challenges for reuse and recovery from construction and demolition waste (“closing material loops and narrowing material flows”)

Whilst sharing models can increase the utilisation rate of existing building assets, it is also important to increase the re-utilisation rate of end-of-life building assets and their embedded materials (to “close material loops”), and to increase resource efficiency in design and construction of buildings through industrialisation of construction processes (to “narrow material flows”). Therefore, while investigating the sharing of residential and commercial space uses, understanding the opportunities in their design, construction, and end of life phases should not be disregarded. Firstly, the design for disassembly and material reuse can facilitate the refurbishment and reconfiguration of buildings, enable buildings to function as “material banks”, and help materials and parts retain their value and return to productive use at end of life. Next, the use of alternative materials (which would be renewable and local) and industrial manufacturing of standardised and modular building components prefabricated off-site (potentially using 3D printing technology for modules and parts), may reduce construction costs, enable maintaining the asset value of buildings after deconstruction, and lower the material uses as well as the material waste. Finally, digitally enabled technologies might facilitate tracking and upcycling of building materials and components (such as through the utilisation of digital logbooks and product passports).

Although private sector initiatives towards resource efficiency and circularity are becoming increasingly popular in construction (e.g. social modular housing by Aktivhaus in Germany, 3D-printed housing by WinSun in China), a comprehensive overview of the opportunities and challenges, as well as resulting policy implications, is largely missing to date. This could therefore be discussed in a sub-chapter of this project.

Textiles sector

Alternatively, a similar approach could be taken to analyse opportunities in the textiles sector. The current system for the production, distribution, use, and disposal of textile products operates in an almost completely linear way, resulting in several negative externalities for the environment, both upstream at the production stage and downstream at the end-of life stage.

Upstream in the value chain, the intensive resource needs of textile production is putting high pressure on the environment. Approximately 93 billion cubic metres of water are utilised annually in the production of textiles. Additionally, 98 million tonnes of non-renewable resources are used every year in the manufacturing of textiles, mainly oil to produce synthetic fibres, fertilisers to produce cotton, and chemicals to manufacture and treat fabrics (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2017). In 2015, approximately 14% (59 Mt) of global primary plastic production was employed in the textile sector (Geyer, Jambeck and Law, 2017). Textile production is also a very carbon-intensive activity, contributing to 1.2 billion tonnes of GHG emissions in 2015 (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2017). Downstream, the current system of consumption is highly wasteful. Clothes are more and more underutilised: in the past 15 years, the average number of times a piece of garment is used before being thrown away has decreased by 36% (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2017). As a result, the generation of textile waste has also been increasing. In the UK alone, approximately 300 000 tonnes of textile waste are sent to landfills or incinerators, generating a cost for waste management systems of approximately 82 GBP billion (Environmental Audit Committee, 2019). The recovery of materials at the end of the life cycle of products is also very low: 87% of the total fibre input in textile manufacturing is landfilled or incinerated, and less than 1% of the materials used in textile manufacturing are recycled at the end of

the lifecycle of products (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2017). Overall, more than 500 billion USD in value is lost annually due to the underutilisation of resources employed in the manufacturing of textiles.

Work on the textiles sector could focus on assessing leakage of plastics into the environment originating from textiles, analysing opportunities for circular business models for textiles, and on assessing opportunities and challenges for material recovery from textiles and developing recommendations for policy intervention. The benefits of policies addressing the design of textiles in terms of the feeds used to produce them could be analysed in line with the approach being developed in the context of the Sustainable Product Initiative.

Activity 3: Sharing of best practice and policy recommendations on policy assessment

The green recovery measures introduced in response to the COVID-19 crisis illustrate the need for evidence-based evaluation of environmental policies. Indeed, one of the lessons of the green recovery in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2008 is the lack of ex ante and ex post evaluation of the economic, social and environmental effects of green stimulus packages. This weakness of policy assessment restricts countries' abilities to build back better, and to develop better regulation that is effective, efficient and delivers the maximum benefits for the minimum cost. The objective of the activity is to provide governments with recommendations and tools on how to improve the systems for, and the utilisation of, ex ante and ex post environmental evaluation of policies.

General recommendations on policy assessment

The first step will provide an overview of existing ex ante and ex post assessment mechanisms over several dimensions: mandatory aspects, internal or third party evaluation, openness to academics, regulation on data, scope, publication, etc. This overview will be complemented by the analysis of case studies that illustrate high-standard evidence-based assessments of environmental policies. Case studies could be either individual applications of evaluation, or system. From the analysis of the cases studies' strength, weaknesses and actual impact on policy making, suggestions for improvement of evidence-based assessments will be provided to improve current practices. This will allow for identification of good practices to improve the conception and utilisation of evidence-based assessments of environmental policies in OECD countries.

Recommendations on mortality assessment

Impacts on mortality tend to dominate the estimated benefits of environmental, health and transport policies. How mortality risk reductions are valued in monetary terms is therefore crucial in informing how resources should be invested in enhancing safety in society. Available estimates of how the public at large, in different circumstances, value a prevented fatality – or a “statistical life”, the common term – vary significantly. This variability can strongly influence whether or not the estimated benefits of a given policy measure exceed the estimated costs. A better understanding of the determinants of available estimates facilitates the provision of valid, reliable and robust recommendations for mortality risk valuation that are essential for the assessment and implementation of many environmental and other policies. Such monetised values play a crucial part in influencing decision-making in many institutional contexts.

To address these challenges, the OECD published in 2012 a book called “Mortality Risk Valuation in Environment, Health and Transport Policies” (OECD, 2012) that summarised the results of a four-year effort to compile and analyse the largest database to date containing all stated preference (SP) studies around the world from 1973 to 2008. This work on mortality risk valuation has since then been disseminated broadly and utilised by a number of individual countries, by the OECD and the EU, and various global initiatives, for evaluation of different policies that affect mortality risks in society.

Updating the 2012 OECD guidance on mortality risk valuation is strongly recommended since a large number of new primary stated preferences studies providing estimates of VSL have been published since 2008. These new studies include 12 countries that were not covered in the 2012 analysis offering room to improve value transfer over space and time. Moreover, the mortality risk valuation literature in general has been growing fast, investigating many of the methodological and conceptual issues where limited research evidence was found at the time of the last report, for example on the effects of age, income, type and size of risk and other factors on VSL.

The objective of this activity is to review the recent literature published since the 2012 OECD meta-analysis of “value of statistical life” (VSL) studies and provide a reflection on how developments since, most importantly the COVID-

19 pandemic, may influence estimation and utilisation of mortality assessment. To update the 2012 OECD meta-analysis of VSL studies, this activity will collect and clean data on studies estimating VSL and analyse these data via a meta-analysis. Based on this, the activity will present recommendations on how to value and account for mortality risk.

Component 3: Strengthening international standards for the sound management of chemicals

1. Expansion and Maintenance of the OECD system of Mutual Acceptance of Data

1.1 Provide assistance, through technical training courses or seminars, with emerging and developing countries on the OECD Principles on Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), compliance monitoring and the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) system. Expand the coverage of the MAD system to computational results by developing guidance on good computational methods practice for in silico tools that are integrated in OECD Guidelines to ensure GLP inspectors can carry out their duty for quality assurance and audit purposes.

1.2. Continue to establish internationally harmonised test methods that meet regulatory needs and adapt to evolving chemicals regulations in countries. Organise webinars to communicate progress made on on-going and recently completed projects, and receive feedback from regulatory authorities and the public. Develop review papers to identify candidate methods and endpoints that inform the testing and assessment of endocrine disrupting chemicals for less known modes of action and pathways. Promote contributions to the development of Adverse Outcome Pathways (AOPs) . Develop partnerships with scientific journals to facilitate the scientific review of AOPs.

2. Chemical Accident prevention, preparedness and response

Share experiences amongst governments and other stakeholders and recommend policy options for improving the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to, chemical accidents. It addresses a subject that concerns everyone who uses or handles hazardous chemicals, works in a chemical plant, or lives near one.

2.1. Develop a guidance document on managing the risk of Natural Hazard Triggered Technological Accidents (Natech), in cooperation with partner agencies. Data and projections show that the frequency and intensity of natural hazards linked to climate change will increase in the years and decades to come; and this also may cause natural hazards to occur at locations where they have never been observed before. The guidance aims to support stakeholders in including Natech risks as part of their chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response programme. It will also guide the reader to interact with the right set of experts as the prevention and management of Natech risks requires a multi-disciplinary approach.

2.2. Revise and consolidate the four OECD legal instruments related to chemical accidents, in order to strengthen their impact and relevance for dealing with the challenges faced by governments. These legal instruments cover chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response, the information to the public and its participation in related decision-making processes, the information exchange on accidents capable of transfrontier damages, and the application of the Polluter-Pays Principle to accidental pollution. The revision will ensure full consistency with the 'revised OECD Guiding Principles on Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response' to be published in early 2022.

3. Development of tools to facilitate the use of biopesticides

The use of biopesticides is part of the solutions towards the reduction of risks from the use of conventional pesticides. OECD plans to work with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to engage developed and developing countries to identify challenges and gaps, and make recommendations on regulation aimed to increase safer biopesticide registration globally, thereby reducing risks from conventional pesticide chemicals.

3.1. Organise workshops and seminars for regulators to discuss challenges and opportunities to increase biopesticide registration worldwide. One workshop may be targeted towards improving current test guidelines for microbial biopesticides and establish a framework for future test guidelines using New Approach Methodologies. The outcome of the workshop will provide recommendations to improve data to support pesticide registration.

3.2. OECD will also work to develop guidance and recommendations for microbial pesticides to expedite the registration process.

3.2. A second workshop may be organised in collaboration with other international organisations to review the global status of development and regulation of biological pesticides.

4. Managing the risks of Perfluorinated Chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

4.1 Support the dissemination of information, including on risk reduction approaches, for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) amongst countries with outreach to developing and in-transition economies. These outputs will

be increasingly relevant to these countries as the global market place shifts due to strongly increased regulatory actions in advanced economies (see for example the OECD report on Working Towards a Global Emission Inventory of PFASs - Focus on PFCAs²⁴). This activity supports the SAICM resolutions pertaining to shifting to safer alternatives for perfluorinated chemicals²⁵.

Component 4: IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Phase IV: Towards Achieving the SDGs

Output 1: Updated Toolbox, with improved integration of gender equality and human rights issues i.e. new tools and language versions of tools added to existing management schemes and entry points. Activities are:

- Review, revise, upgrade and add new tools to the existing IOMC Toolbox management schemes on (i) Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response; (ii) Classification and Labelling; (iii) Industrial Chemicals; (iv) National PRTRs; (v) National Management of Pesticides; (vi) Occupational Safety and Health; (vii) Public Health Management of Chemicals; and (viii) Best Available Techniques (BAT);
- Maintain, update and technically upgrade, if needed, the toolkits in the IOMC Toolbox, including on (i) Green Chemistry; (ii) Chemical Leasing; and (iii) Innovative Approaches for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Chemical Waste (IAMC);
- Update the Toolbox to better address gender and human rights issues, especially regarding groups living in vulnerable situations

Output 2: Broadened Toolbox, i.e. new or broadened chemical management schemes and related tools added, thereby increasing scope and applicability. Activities are:

- Develop and add to the Toolbox new management schemes on the control of illegal trade and use of pesticides, and the management of hazardous (chemical) waste;
- Broaden the pesticide management scheme by (i) adding tools on labelling of pesticides (GHS); and (ii) the control of illegal trade of pesticides;
- Broaden the IOMC Toolbox by adding a toolkit for the establishment of a national waste management strategy;

Output 3: Improved guidance and tools for the management of chemicals, i.e. new guidance and tools developed by IOMC Partner Organizations upon request by countries, especially developing countries, thereby closing the gap where guidance is missing or outdated. Activities are:

- Develop two new modules to be added to the pesticide toolkit in the IOMC Toolbox, including on (i) post-registration monitoring and surveillance of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP); and evaluation and authorization of semiochemicals (e.g. pheromones);
- Develop new guidelines on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) taking account request for guidance by countries to be added to the Occupational Health and Safety management scheme;
- Develop, establish and provide guidance for an automated system to report national data on chemicals, health and the environment to be added to the IOMC Toolbox;
- Develop new tools to be added to the Green Chemistry toolkit in the IOMC Toolbox, including on (i) access to financing; (ii) sector-specific guidelines; and (iii) green chemistry for policy makers;
- Develop new and/or update two guidance documents to strengthen the role of the health sector in the sound management of chemicals and to be added to the scheme for the public health management of chemicals.
- Develop tool on illegal pesticide trade;

Output 4: Language versions of guidance and tools, i.e. guidance and tools are available in UN languages other than English. Activities are:

- Translate from English into French and Spanish web pages and training materials on public health pesticides to be added to the new sections of the pesticide management scheme, the entry point for the health sector and the management scheme on the public health management of chemicals;
- Translate into other UN language and add to the pesticide scheme the three tools on (a) pesticide registration criteria; (b) effects of pesticides to soil; and (c) alternatives to Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs);

²⁴<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/Working%20Towards%20a%20Global%20Emission%20Inventory%20of%20PFASS.pdf>

²⁵ See resolution II.5 of ICCM2 [page 40 of <http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM2/doc/ICCM2%2015%20FINAL%20REPORT%20E.pdf>] and resolution III.3 of ICCM3 [page 39 of <http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM3/doc/K1283429e.pdf>]

- Translate from English into several other languages new material to be added to the Green Chemistry toolkit in the IOMC Toolbox.
- Translate from English into French and Spanish two new and/or updated guidelines to strengthen the role of the health sector in the sound management of chemicals to be added to the entry point for the health sector and the management scheme on the public health management of chemicals in the IOMC Toolbox;
- Translate additional two guidelines to be identified;

Output 5: Authoritative, comprehensive and stand-alone web-based training courses aimed at target audiences in developing countries for building capacities towards the implementation of IOMC guidance and the use of IOMC tools, including fostering collaboration and networking. Activities are:

- Develop web based e-learning courses for pesticide registration and the FAO Toolkit in the IOMC Toolbox, and on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs);
- Develop a web based e-learning course for remote training on Occupational Health and Safety, the management of industrial chemicals, and the public health management of chemicals;
- Promote e-learning courses through and make them accessible from the IOMC Toolbox;

Output 6: Global, regional and country targeted virtual and face-to-face training and promotional events for building capacities towards the implementation of IOMC guidance and the use of IOMC tools and the IOMC Toolbox. Activities are:

- Develop and organize face-to-face and virtual training to strengthen competencies for and promote: (i) the sound management of pesticides, including public health pesticides and illegal trade of pesticides; (ii) Occupational Health and Safety (OHS); (iii) collecting and reporting chemical data on environment and health; (iv) cleaner production; (v) PRTR; (vi) GHS; (vi) the public health management of chemicals; (vii) the management of industrial chemicals; (viii) other management schemes and toolkits in the IOMC Toolbox; and (ix) the use and application of the IOMC Toolbox itself.

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

The action consists primarily of a multi-annual EU contribution to a multi-donor trust fund dedicated to the provision of voluntary contributions to the work of UNEP and Secretariats of MEAs.

The approach should provide a more predictable EU financial voluntary support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes involving UNEP (when/if UNEP has a true comparative advantage to implement the activities).

The activities/projects from UNEP/MEAs' programmes of work to be supported with the EU contribution will be selected by a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) co-chaired by the European Commission and UNEP. The PSC will also provide strategic guidance and supervise the management of the cooperation.

A Programme Management Unit (PMU) will coordinate the implementation of the cooperation in accordance with the decisions taken by the PSC. It will support the coordination between and within respective organizations. A PMU Coordinator recruited by UNEP will head the Programme Management Unit embedded under Corporate Services Division. In addition, the Programme Management Unit and its Coordinator will work in close cooperation with Commission services, Secretariats of MEAs, and UNEP Divisions to ensure smooth implementation of the cooperation including on the financial management side.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Component 1: Strengthening international environment and climate governance through the publishing of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Gender, resilience and conflict sensitivity, environment and climate change and human rights and other relevant cross-cutting issues are fully integrated in the design of the action as the ENB is accessible to all categories of readers and it does not take any position. Environment and climate change are the core themes addressed by the ENB.

Component 2: The Transition towards the circular economy – Economic and policy analysis

Environment and climate change are well integrated in this action as the activities seek to evaluate and to improve the evaluation of the environmental impacts such as plastic leakage, GHG emissions and mortality risk of environmental policies.

Human rights, gender, resilience and conflict sensitivity will be taken into account in all activities. These cross-cutting issues are particularly relevant for Activity 1 because plastic leakage may affect the long term resilience of people living in developing countries by degrading their right to life (Article 3 of The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)) as well as their right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being (Article 25 of the UDHR). Plastic pollution can also have heterogeneous effect according to gender. Gender and conflict sensitivity will also taken into account by Activity 2 when analysing the circular economy transition in the construction and textile sector that are characterised by uneven distribution of gender among workers. Finally, Activity 3 seeks to improve the ex-ante and ex post evaluation of environmental policies. One source of improvement is to add outcomes related to gender equality or distributional consequences in addition to economic and environmental outcomes that are traditional analysed.

Component 3: Strengthening international standards for the sound management of chemicals

The focus of this action is on the protection of the environment and of human health.

With relation to gender, men and women can be affected differently from the exposure to hazardous chemicals due to differences in modes of action. This can especially be the case for endocrine disruptors and effects on reproductive toxicity. As part of the development of OECD Test Guidelines, these differences in modes of action are taken into account to prescribe the measurement of effects that are either male- or female-specific. This ensures that countries can take risk management decisions that are equally protective of men and women.

Objective 2 of this action on chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response will contribute to decreasing the risk of accidents and their environmental and health impacts. It will also aid to increase the resilience of countries towards the impact of shocks like natural disasters (e.g. floods), or more systemic effects, like aging or change of ownership of hazardous installations.

Under SAICM's 2006 Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, States, businesses and civil society all explicitly recognized that exposure to toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes is a human rights issue. The work of the UN report of the Special Rapporteur on the implication for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste²⁶ highlights the need for a stronger, more comprehensive global framework to protect human health from a toxic environment to help address the injustices resulting from divergent standards of protection between countries, a need that is supported by the harmonised tools and methodologies provided by OECD.

Component 4: IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Phase IV: Towards Achieving the SDGs

All activities under this action will be designed and implemented in accordance with principles of human rights, gender equality, good governance and environmental sustainability.

Environmental sustainability will be central in the implementation of the action as the project aims at improving the management of chemicals including pesticides at global level and in particular in developing countries. It will contribute in achieving environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

The project implementers will identify and address gender issues. Gender is relevant to the sound management of chemicals and waste because women and men have different physiological susceptibilities as well as varying roles in societies that can impact decision-making and chemical exposure. The project will incorporate gender considerations, including ensuring that (i) gender issues are being included and covered by the training courses developed and conducted; (ii) women are equally participating in training events; and (iii) newly developed guidance material address gender issues when needed. Furthermore, the project aims at promoting women's' engagement and leadership in decision-making processes as well as contributing to activities related to the sound management of chemicals and relevant SDGs.

The project will also contribute to human rights and good governance by ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to promote a safer, healthier and cleaner environment for all people, including the most vulnerable populations.

²⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SRTtoxicsandhumanrights/Pages/Index.aspx>

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

By supporting work on resource efficiency, green/circular economy, biodiversity targets, combatting pollution, and sustainable management on natural resources, the action will also contribute to help developing countries move towards a climate resilient and pollution free economy.

More generally by supporting tools for international environmental governance the action will benefit environment and climate processes equally.

UN Agencies are all committed to integrate gender equality and equity in all their activities, and to pay attention to the role of women in policy-making. All of the components are about good governance and, by supporting the participation of numerous stakeholders, contribute to effective democracy. In addition, the EU continuously advocates for enhancing gender mainstreaming in international environmental processes and agreements.

Gender equality: Activities include selection of sectors which have the highest potential for poverty alleviation, which goes hand in hand with gender inclusiveness. In addition, the project ensures gender equality in the project structures (i.e. the steering committee has gender balance) and in the deliverables (i.e. producing reports on gender equality opportunities). The Action will also pay attention to gender disparities in chemical and waste management. Additionally it addresses the fight against child labour (in particular the fight against the worst forms of child labour) and decent work, especially regarding groups living in vulnerable situations, due to their regional location, their age or their disability.

Good Governance and Human Rights: Good governance in the context of environment means integrated, inclusive, transparent, responsive, and participatory policy making. It also involves effectiveness, accountability and respect for the rule of law. This action will promote the understanding of the role of environment at large (i.e. biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production,...) in the context of resilience and SDGs by promoting the sharing of information with national, subnational authorities, private sector and other Non-State entities. The strengthening of environmental governance at the global, regional and national levels, including also the support to the implementation of MEAs, promotes good governance. Where applicable, the Action will apply the five working principles of the human rights based approach, throughout its implementation.

Conflict Sensitivity, Security and stability: Increased pressure on resources and unsustainable and exclusionary management of the same opens the avenue towards conflict and instability, which reinforce each other in a vicious circle. Consequently, there is an increased need for cooperation between stakeholders at all levels and types of resources governance from local to transboundary and global. Increased cooperation is dependent on and can only be sustained through good, inclusive, participatory and transparent governance frameworks to address, and ultimately prevent, conflicts. Enhancing information, such frameworks and the variety of instruments that constitute them, as well as providing appropriate tools for prevention and peaceful conflict resolution, are key to achieving these goals. At a minimum, from a conflict sensitivity perspective, do no harm risks should be taken into account, and conflict sensitivity requirements and analyses promoted with implementing partners (including UN agencies) and in synergy with other cross-cutting issues.

Environmental and climate change: Considerations on environment issues are at the core of the action, which will automatically support environmental sustainability issues and address the impact of climate change. Projects are developed in areas of common concern such as sustainable consumption and production, climate change, water, sound chemicals and waste management. Activities support developing countries in improving environmental protection and combating climate change while contributing to poverty alleviation.

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Component 1	ENB not reaching diplomats and other participants new to processes	L	M	Those new to negotiation processes arguably have the greatest need for <i>ENB</i> . However, being new to a process means these delegates may not know about <i>ENB</i> . To mitigate this risk <i>ENB</i> will improve dissemination efforts, targeting those new to a process, including

				through delegation-by-delegation electronic distribution of the <i>ENB</i> , in consultation with specific Secretariats. <i>ENB</i> will also reach out directly to national focal points (NFPs) for each convention via email, to ensure they are subscribed to the <i>ENB</i> .
	Delegates cannot easily locate the <i>ENB</i> at paper smart meetings.	L	M	The move to “paper smart” meetings in the UN System, has impacted the visibility of <i>ENB</i> . In meetings where the <i>ENB</i> is not permitted to be printed, <i>ENB</i> employs the following strategies to maintain visibility: Posters; stickers; hand distribution of limited paper copies; and emailing <i>ENBs</i> to delegates daily. During the grant period, additional measures will be undertaken, including consultation with chairs of the Africa Group, Asia-Pacific Group and GRULAC, to offer delivery of the <i>ENB</i> to daily coordination meeting for benefits of developing country delegates. <i>ENB</i> team members will also approach developing country delegates to subscribe them to the distribution lists.
	Failure to reach younger audiences in developing countries	M	M	To reach young developing country audiences, <i>ENB</i> utilizes new media including video and social media. These methods are geographically targeted and focus on Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific.
	Competition from other information providers and non-report transparency mechanisms (e.g., blogs, webcasts)	M	M	<i>ENB</i> has unique access to negotiations and commitment to neutrality. Reminding delegates in outreach activities of these comparative advantages can help to maintain our unique level of access as supported by states and Secretariats.
	<i>ENB</i> is inadequately funded and unable to continue publishing	M	M	<i>ENB</i> has put in place strategic fundraising specifically targeting new OECD member states, required to make DAC contributions, and key private sector firms, who may contribute as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.
	Vaccine inequity, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, delays a return to full, in -person meetings for one or more years	H	H	<i>ENB</i> will continue to provide coverage of online events and will introduce procedures for hybrid meetings.
Component 2	Declining interest and support from countries to support a just transition to a circular economy.	M	L	The Action will draw upon the strategic guidance on the Programme of Work of 2021-22 given by the OECD Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC), the parent committee of both WPRPW and WPIEEP, in order to correctly reflect the policy priorities of OECD members and partners, and to mitigate any potential risks arising from discontinued interest or support. The Action will consider, where appropriate, social analyses, including gender analysis and analysis of issues such as human rights violations and child rights.

	Lack of sufficient data to model more finely the construction or textile sector in the ENV-Linkages computable general equilibrium. For example, data on the drivers of construction and construction materials uses or data on alternative building technologies and their resource efficiency potential.	M	M	The Action will adopt additional hypotheses to the missing input data required to pursue the analysis or adapt the specific questions addressed.
	Declining interest and support from countries in the implementation of economic instruments to reduce the environmental impacts associated with plastics.	L	L	The Action will draw upon the strategic guidance on the Programme of Work of 2021-22 given by the OECD Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC), the parent committee of both WPRPW and WPIEEP, in order to correctly reflect the policy priorities of OECD members and partners, and to mitigate any potential risks arising from discontinued interest or support.
	Declining interest and support from countries in sharing best practices for policy evaluation i.e. providing insufficient case studies to analyse.	L	L	The Action will draw upon the strategic guidance on the Programme of Work of 2021-22 given by the OECD Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC), the parent committee of both WPRPW and WPIEEP, in order to correctly reflect the policy priorities of OECD members and partners, and to mitigate any potential risks arising from discontinued interest or support.
Component 3	Lack of approval of the projects by the governing body of the OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme	L	L	The projects foreseen under this action are either already approved or are in line with the 2021-2024 Programme of Work.
	Lack of agreement by OECD countries on the outputs	L	L	The OECD secretariat organises regular expert meetings to reach consensus on the instruments to be developed. Issues of contention are referred to the governing body of the OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme to be resolved.
	Lack of availability of suitable contractors	L	L	The OECD has extensive experience in working with contractors and has established lists of potential suitable contractors.
	Lack of implementation in countries	M	M	The EHS programme is construed in a way that only projects are started that respond to specific regulatory needs in countries (including non-OECD countries). In addition, the involvement of nominated national experts from beginning to the end of the projects ensured a high level of uptake of the resulting standards and guidance documents by countries, including by developing countries implementing the UN Globally Harmonised System.
	Slow-down of work due to COVID19	M	M	The OECD has successfully implemented the work mechanisms necessary to remain

				productive under the COVID19 restrictions. Collaboration with countries has remained strong and in 2020, only some on-the-ground activities, like inspections had to be postponed.
Component 4	Not to find expertise for some of the technical work, e.g. development of guidelines, development of web-based training courses and capacity building events.	L	L	A comprehensive list of potential experts will be developed at the outset of the project.
	Cancellation of face-to-face promotional and training events because of COVID-19 or other unforeseeable circumstances.	M	H	Project planning addresses a number of scenarios, e.g. travel and other restrictions are in place; travel and other restrictions are lifted; and travel and other restrictions are partially lifted. Depending upon the situation more or less virtual and/or face-to-face events will be organized.
	Project focuses too much on English-speaking countries.	L	L	Pilot countries and (sub-) regions will be selected taking into account languages. Key tools will be translated, if needed.
	The project will not lead to improvements in the management of chemicals in developing countries.	L	L	It is ensured that all relevant sectors and stakeholders are involved in the implementation of the project. Guidance will be provided to identify sectors and stakeholders to be involved in the project/trainings.
Component 5	Action at global level from EU thematic funding on environment is not enough to reverse the current trends of global environmental degradation. The risk is that developing/middle-income countries fail to mobilize own resources and resources from EU geographic programmes to properly address the environmental dimension of their economic development.	M	M	The difficulties of mainstreaming environmental considerations are well known and both the EU and its partners start realizing that earmarked thematic funding for environment can leverage substantial additional amounts at country/regional level and can achieve a noticeable impact on reversing environmental degradation. The Agenda 2030 now demonstrates that achieving a sustainable development is impossible without properly integrating the environment dimension.
	UNEP Corporate Services fail at ensuring effective coordination of the action with UNEP Divisions and Secretariats of MEAs. This coordination includes a strong backstopping from UNEP Corporate Services in terms of management of the trust fund, and financial and narrative reporting.	L	L	The experience gained from implementing the SCA, PCA I, PCA II and the recent restructuring of UNEP, including the UN-wide system centralizing management and accountability (Umoja) should mitigate that risk. In terms of financial management and compliance with the deliveries foreseen under the cooperation, the PMU monitors and reports on basis of a portfolio of projects that is gradually developed throughout the entire life-cycle of the agreement.
	The very wide range of possibilities for cooperation	M	L	This is expected to be mitigated by better-defined policy priorities to be elaborated by

	with UNEP could lead to dispersed efforts and ineffective impact of EU investment.		the Commission-UNEP High Level Meeting and regular thematic dialogues. It is also mitigated with the Framework Agreement modality of cooperation, which was also designed to address the fragmented programmatic approach and improve the implementation of the projects on the side of the operations through the establishment of the PMU as coordination mechanism. The link between the policy and the programmatic is effective if operationalized in practice.
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Assumptions:

Component 1: Delegates will continue to turn to the ENB for information, particularly as ENB style and language is revised to become more contextual and accessible.

ENB contains enough specific information to guide countries on what to do next – e.g. apply for funding for specific activities, contribute data, as requested by certain decisions.

A significant number of new delegates at each MEA meeting will subscribe to ENB.

Continued access to the negotiations will be given to the writers and photographers by the MEA Secretariats.

Component 2: Continued international efforts to promote a transition towards a circular economy and to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts associated with the use of plastics and continued international efforts to improve ex ante and ex post evaluation of environmental policies. These efforts should reflect an integrated approach to problems, including the social dimension (e.g. human rights, gender equality) at the same time as environmental issues.

Component 3: The work will be carried out within existing structures of the OECD, which have proven over the past decades to deliver high quality output. The OECD Secretariat coordinates the activities, supported by nominated experts from member countries. OECD member countries have a proven track record in this work and have committed to continue the cooperation. OECD is one of the Participating Organisations of the Inter-Organisation Programme on the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)²⁷, recognised as the international organisations that can support the implementation of SAICM and its successor. The OECD is the recognised (and unique) IOMC partner in the areas of this proposal. On this basis there are no significant risks with the project and the main assumption is that OECD countries continue to support work on the implementation of SAICM and its successor.

Component 4: Project partners have longstanding experience in the implementation of this type of activities and have established expert networks from which to draw expertise; Promotional and training events can always be done virtually; Target audience, including decision-makers and professionals have working knowledge in English or interpretation is available, if needed; Countries are committed to the sound management of chemicals through SAICM, international conventions (e.g. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions) and other national and international laws and agreements; Countries, sectors or stakeholders identify the chemical issues they want to address. They also identify the tools that would help them to develop the necessary capacities. The project assists them to identify and implement the tools.

Component 5: Willingness of project partners and local stakeholders, especially officials from developing/middle-income countries to undertake activities and consolidate results. UNEP is undertaking the Secretariat of MEAs and this fosters coherence between UNEP and MEAs work programmes.

Lessons Learnt:

Component 1: Strengthening international environment and climate governance through the publishing of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin

IISD has published the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* since 1992 with enthusiastic support from a large group of international donors. The management of the publication has remained consistent and the high quality of the publication has been maintained and even strengthened over the years.

Many intended beneficiaries of their reporting reaffirm the key impact of the *ENB* as improving engagement in decision making processes for multilateral environmental agreements by assisting delegations before, during, and after a negotiation.

²⁷ <https://www.who.int/iomc/en/>

A sample of received feedback showing stakeholder attitude towards the ENB is included below.

As a climate negotiator, I've always found the insights provided by IISD extremely useful and I've always considered them as valuable inputs in our reflection and dialogues. The "Earth Bulletin" has played and continues to play a vital role in providing data and analyses to all negotiators, and especially to those from the Global South. It has certainly contributed to the quality of the negotiations over the past years as it has probably also contributed to the positive and transparent environment of climate negotiations. It would be indeed a great loss if the Bulletin were to be discontinued. I hope IISD will manage to mobilize the necessary resources to keep the Bulletin running. (Hamza Tber, CoS Multilateral Negotiations, COP 22 Presidency, Morocco)

As Director General of Environmental Affairs with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, I use the Earth Negotiations Bulletin on a daily basis both at meetings of the many MEAs I am responsible for. Besides, while in the office in Buenos Aires I use it to catch up with meetings we could not attend and to get background information about past meetings. ENB neutral and unbiased reporting provides transparency and accountability to the environment agenda negotiating processes. (Marcia Levaggi, DG of Environmental Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Argentina)

Having attended numerous such meetings over the past forty years, I can definitively say that the availability of ENB each morning, presenting the previous day's highlights plus value-adding think pieces by knowledgeable experts is one of the most useful tools available to the delegations and, indeed to the observers present at the location or participating online. I have observed many delegates from the Global North carefully reading the Bulletin, of course, but the dependence on the information it contains is most evident with the diplomats from the South. This is only natural because many developing country delegations are small, and their members must cover a variety of issues on the Agenda, which means they need access to a friendly, unbiased and authoritative source of information on what is going on at the meeting. (Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives, India).

Component 2: The Transition towards the circular economy – Economic and policy analysis

On Circular economy transition:

The OECD has contributed to the advancement of policies related to the transition to a circular economy via work on the macroeconomic implications of a transition to a circular economy, work on plastics and plastics in the environment, and the assessment of business models and economic instruments for the circular economy.

- The OECD published the report Global Materials Resources Outlook to 2060, which presented projections of materials use and their environmental consequences at the global, sectoral and regional levels for 61 different materials, and indicated that a doubling of global primary materials use is projected between today and 2060 (OECD, 2019). Follow-up work analysed the consequences of a circular economy transition for international trade (Dellink, 2020) and for labour markets (Chateau & Mavroiedi, 2020; Laubinger, 2020), as well as the mechanisms through which resource efficiency and circular economy policies can achieve a decoupling between economic growth and material use (Bibas, Chateau, & Lanzi, 2021).
- Several past and ongoing projects have focused on the environmental impacts of plastics specifically, including via the ongoing preparation of a Global Plastics Outlook, and other work on i) measures to improve markets for recycled plastics (OECD, 2018), ii) the behavioural, economic, and environmental implications of waste prevention measures targeting single-use plastics, iii) policy guidance on mitigation measures that could help address the detrimental impacts of unintentionally-released micro-plastics on ecosystems and human health, and iv) the sustainable design of plastics from a chemicals perspective.
- The OECD report Business models for the Circular Economy presents a typology of five circular business models that could support the transition to a more resource efficient and circular economy and assesses their potential scalability. Follow-up work in this area analyses the role of digitalisation and of labels and information schemes for the circular economy.
- Work on economic instruments has in particular focused on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the publication of an updated guidance on the design and implementation of EPR for effective waste management (OECD, 2016). Follow-up work focuses on specific aspects related to the implementation of EPR, such as fee modulation and the combination with deposit-refund schemes.

The proposed work will build on this previous work and expand as well as deepen it with respect to the economic instruments to address plastics and with respect to the particular challenges and opportunities of transitioning towards a circular economy in specific sectors of the economy.

On fostering better evaluation of environmental policies:

The OECD has contributed to the better evaluation of environmental policies in several ways. First, the OECD published several empirical analyses on the effect of environmental policies on economic and environmental performance at the country, sector, and firm levels.²⁸ This decade of OECD analysis shows that environmental policies have had relatively small effects on economic outcomes while at the same time, they have been effective at reducing emissions from industry. Second, the OECD has provided indicators of the Economic Burdens of Environmental Policy Design²⁹ and Environmental Policy Stringency.³⁰ Both indicators have proven useful for the evaluation of environmental policies. Third, the OECD has published extensive guidance on Cost-Benefit Analyses³¹ as well as on the Mortality Risk Valuation in Environment, Health and Transport Policies that summarised the results of a four-year effort to compile and analyse the largest database to date containing all stated preference (SP) studies around the world from 1973 to 2008.³² This work on mortality risk valuation has since then been disseminated broadly and utilised by a number of individual countries, by the OECD and the EU, and various global initiatives, for evaluation of different policies that affect mortality risks in society. Finally, the OECD has mapped country efforts to improve regulatory quality finds that countries have made progress in the implementation of ex ante policy evaluation³³ and provided best practice principles for regulatory impact analysis.³⁴

On Workshops and outreach programmes:

The WPRPW and WPIEEP have organised several international workshops on various aspects related to the transition to a resource efficient and circular economy, including: an international high-level [Workshop on Reducing Marine Plastic Litter](#) (online, 2020), a [Workshop on International Trade and Circular Economy](#) (Paris, 2020), a [Global Forum on Environment on Plastics in a Circular Economy: Design of Sustainable Plastics from a Chemicals Perspective](#) (Copenhagen, 2018). These workshops have proved to be useful to establish dialogue and facilitate mutual learning between government officials and experts from both OECD member countries and non-member countries. The proposed Action will draw on these past experiences in engaging with various stakeholders from different regions and backgrounds.

Component 3: Strengthening international standards for the sound management of chemicals

The OECD has a long track record of developing tools and instruments for the testing, assessment and management of chemicals. Furthermore, the OECD has been a lead organisation involved in addressing Emerging Policy Issues covered by the action in the context of the implementation of SAICM and is expected to continue being a lead under the upcoming post-2020 UN framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste

The OECD has thereby developed high quality and internationally recognised products. For example the OECD initiated work, later continued at the SAICM level, on perfluorinated chemicals³⁵, which collected the necessary information to raise global awareness of the risks and supported the nomination of many chemicals in this class for worldwide bans under the Stockholm Convention.

The results of these previous projects also provide methodologies and practices to support the application of actions listed in the SAICM Global Plan of Action and the implementation of the Globally Harmonised System for classification and labelling of chemicals.

Over the last 10 years, the OECD programme has managed to significantly increase its influence and reach, as measured by the amount of savings to countries that the programme is generating. A recent report³⁶ shows that since 2010, the net savings for countries have grown by 75% to 309 million Euros every year, in large parts due to the fact that OECD standards are used by more and more countries. Furthermore, the latest available progress report for the implementation of SAICM³⁷ shows progress in implementation compared to the first two reporting periods, including in the Asia-Pacific and Africa regions. For Indicator 4 (Number of countries (and organisations) implementing agreed chemicals management tools) under Objective A: risk reduction, the report states that the OECD testing of chemicals, and the OECD eChemPortal (www.echemportal.org) were the top two selected tools by respondents for this reporting period. As an example of the reach of the OECD EHS Programme, Thailand joined the OECD system of Mutual Acceptance of Data for chemical safety data in 2020³⁸.

Component 4: IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Phase IV: Towards Achieving the SDGs

The amount of chemical related guidance is significant and finding the appropriate guidance for a specific situation or problem is not an easy task. IOMC organizations, in fulfilling their mandate to protect humans and the environment, have developed a number of guidance materials on chemicals management. These materials were often: a) hard to find on the worldwide web; b) not available in the national language; c) hard to assess if it is adequate to the national

conditions. The situation has been much improved as a result of the IOMC Toolbox project. During the project, countries have expressed the need to count on the Toolbox to assist them to find the most relevant and adequate guidance on chemicals management. They have also identified case studies and good practices from other countries very useful and relevant prior to use and/ or apply the guidance in their own country.

Phase I and II of the IOMC Toolbox project focused on the development and promotion of the Toolbox to identify available guidance material and other tools.

Feedback during these phases indicated that countries would now like the project to move towards implementation of the tools thereby strengthening the sound management of chemicals in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including assistance on resource planning gap analysis and stakeholder identification and involvement.

While the users of the IOMC Toolbox during earlier phases of the project highly appreciated that a single entry point/platform was made available for accessing in a structured way all tools relevant for the management of chemicals produced by the IOMC Participating Organizations, they also strongly recommended that additional training is needed to enable developing countries to properly implement the identified tools.

Phase III of the project included a major work package on technical training focusing on training on the tools identified by users. Training provided at face-to-face events at national and (sub) regional level (until COVID-19) involving all relevant sectors and stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, academia, NGOs, etc.. Initially, the face-to-face events were complemented by a series of technical webinars. Later and because of COVID-19, only webinars were organized to promote and train on the use of and the tools in the Toolbox.

COVID-19 showed the world that web-based and virtual training is possible and IT literacy has dramatically increased over the last year. In addition to the positive experience from webinars of previous phases of the project, it is proposed to continue organizing virtual training meetings and to develop web based training opportunities which can be attended remotely.

The Toolbox workshops organized in phase II provided participants with valuable networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunities that otherwise may not have gained so much prominence. Participants have appreciated peer-to-peer learning opportunities made available to them in the Toolbox workshops almost as much as the technical content. The Toolbox and its contents have been acting as 'boundary objects' allowing for the sharing and integration of knowledge and learning across sectoral and disciplinary boundaries which is necessary for the deep and cross-cutting changes required to help achieve the SDGs. By its inherent 'one-stop-shop' nature, Toolbox workshops by default bring together people from different sectors and disciplines. It is proposed that this phase of the project builds on the experience and offers platforms for networking and collaboration.

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

Builds on the lessons related to the implementation of the 2011-2013 strategic cooperation agreement and on the 2014-2017 and 2018-2020 programme cooperation agreements with UNEP and the Secretariats of the MEAs.

²⁸ OECD (2021), *Assessing the Economic Impacts of Environmental Policies: Evidence from a Decade of OECD Research*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/bf2fb156-en>.

²⁹ Koźluk, T. (2014), "The Indicators of the Economic Burdens of Environmental Policy Design: Results from the OECD Questionnaire", *OECD Economics Department Working Papers*, No. 1178, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5jxrjnbm8v-en>.

³⁰ Botta, E. and T. Koźluk (2014), "Measuring Environmental Policy Stringency in OECD Countries: A Composite Index Approach", *OECD Economics Department Working Papers*, No. 1177, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5jxrjnc45gvg-en>.

³¹ OECD (2018), *Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Environment: Further Developments and Policy Use*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264085169-en>.

³² OECD (2012), *Mortality Risk Valuation in Environment, Health and Transport Policies*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264130807-en>.

³³ OECD (2018), *OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2018*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264303072-en>.

³⁴ OECD (2020), *Regulatory Impact Assessment, OECD Best Practice Principles for Regulatory Policy*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/7a9638cb-en>.

³⁵ <http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/>

³⁶ OECD (2019), *Saving Costs in Chemicals Management: How the OECD ensures benefits to society*, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/saving-costs-in-chemicals-management_9789264311718-en#page4

³⁷ http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/meetings/OEWG3/doc/OEWG3-5-Report-on-Progress_e.pdf

³⁸ <https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/thailand-joins-oecd-agreement-on-mutual-acceptance-of-chemical-safety-data.htm>

Starting with the ENRTP SCA, the framework agreement modality of cooperation was designed to rationalise, simplify and increase the programmatic coherence of the cooperation between EC DG ENV, UNEP and MEA secretariats. The EU-UNEP Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) marked a shift in the way the cooperation between the EU and UNEP on international environmental governance was executed; a shift from multiple project agreements to a single framework agreement.

In 2018, an assessment of the performance of the management of this form of cooperation with UNEP and MEAs has been conducted in parallel. Among the recommendations, a strategic one is to enhance the strategic and programmatic orientation of the different actions under EU-UNEP framework agreements. To that aim, the selection of projects will continue to be prioritized by the annual Steering Committee on the basis of the EU-UNEP High Level dialogue.

Amongst others, the Assessment highlighted:

1. Important procedural benefits compared to the situation before the agreements include streamlined administration at the individual project level and increased flexibility in allocation of funding (re-allocation of savings to the project level instead of returning unspent balances to the EC, realizing one of the key benefits of the agreements);
2. Procedures have been steadily improved under the guidance of a Commission-UN Environment Corporate Services Division Programme Steering Committee and the Commission-UN Environment Corporate Services Division Programme Management Unit;
3. There is further potential to strengthen the partnership and dialogue on policy and programme linkages.

In the 2019 Final evaluation of the Strategic Cooperation Agreement, it is mentioned that projects provided a) improved access to knowledge, information and data, tools and guidelines, and b) capacity development vis-à-vis implementing and meeting the commitments made under MEAs, and vis-à-vis strengthening international environmental governance processes under MEAs. The conclusion of the Minamata Convention is a clear example of how the EU contribution could contribute to international environmental governance.

In the operationalisation of individual projects, the Project Management Unit introduced a four-monthly monitoring exercise, known as the 'Traffic Light System' (TLS) which continues to serve as a communication tool at the technical level between UNEP /MEAs and Commission task managers. It provides an alert system for project teams to raise issues including those that may affect project timing or expenditure and an opportunity for discussion with the Project Management Unit on possible solutions and risk mitigation.

This component will build on the lessons related to the implementation of the programme cooperation agreement with UNEP and the Secretariats of MEAs, and other EU-funded projects such as the EDF-funded project on Multilateral Environmental Agreements implemented by UNEP and FAO.

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

Component 1: Strengthening international environment and climate governance through the publishing of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Multilateral environmental negotiations are uneven spaces that leave many countries – particularly those vulnerable to environmental problems – on the side lines. The *ENB* helps overcome the barriers of delegation size, diplomatic capacity and language to effective participation of developing country negotiators and participants. Small delegation sizes are a common constraint for many developing countries. A typical day at a COP could entail four to six (and sometimes more) negotiation sessions occurring in parallel, while many developing countries only receive support for three delegates who cannot be physically in the room when all negotiations occur and often struggle to participate effectively. They lack information on what occurred in negotiations they could not attend, a record of countries' positions on a range of issues, and a sense of which issues are nearing agreement. By publishing daily *ENBs*, developing country participants can get up to speed each morning on the previous day's events, and use the *ENB* to take an informed decision on where they can most effectively participate. The *ENB* synthesizes 20 hours of negotiations into 2000-3000 words every day of the meeting. In addition, developing country delegates use the daily website, to visually identify contact group chairpersons and other key people they may need to consult. It also allows government officials from developing countries not attending the meeting to be informed on the meeting's progress, and provide support to colleagues attending.

Many developing countries lack diplomatic capacity, including institutional memory. The high turnover within several delegations can hamper preparation for negotiations, as some delegates lack a historic understanding of the process and outcomes. The *ENB* serves as the singular, comprehensive historical record of environmental treaty negotiations. Unlike

official meeting reports, it attributes statements to countries, making it easy for the reader to discern other countries' positions, and consequently, prepare for, and engage in, negotiations. The *ENB* provides a full, but concise picture. In addition, after each major meeting, the teams produce a brief analysis to put the meetings' outcomes in context.

Many negotiation sessions occur in English only. While plenary sessions are translated, most of the details are discussed and negotiated in English. For many delegations, this limits their ability to understand the negotiations, follow their process, and engage effectively. By publishing in languages other than English, including in French, Arabic, Japanese, and Chinese, they also provide condensed, accurate and timely information to those constrained by language, allowing non-English speakers to also keep track of negotiations, prioritize issues, and understand the history of the negotiations.

Component 2: The Transition towards the circular economy – Economic and policy analysis

The proposed outputs of at least four analytical reports, and the workshops and outreach programmes under the Action will contribute to the outcome to support the WPRPW and the WPIEEP to deliver policy relevant findings, with the aim of evaluating and designing better circular economy policies in OECD member countries and non-member countries. This outcome will be achieved through: (i) accepted papers by OECD Delegates and subsequently issued publications and working papers; (ii) finalised papers and presentations delivered through different fora; and (iii) analytical findings presented through organised OECD workshops. This outcome will contribute to the overall objective to support OECD member countries and non-member countries in their efforts to promote the transition towards resource efficient economies, with the goal of contributing to inclusive green growth and sustainable development. The indicators of the overall goal will be to assess the signs of increased uptake and implementation of circular economy policies as well as increased roadmaps for the circular economy transition of specific sectors. The indicators of the overall goal will be to also assess the signs of increased adoption of best practices on ex ante and ex post evaluation, including appropriate VSL, of circular economy policies and environmental policies in general.

The key assumptions of the Action to deliver the relevant outputs, outcome and overall objective are continued international efforts to promote a transition towards a circular economy and to improve ex ante and ex post evaluation of environmental policies. A potential key risk is declined interest and support from countries in sharing best practices for policy evaluation i.e. providing insufficient case studies to analyse. This low risk associated with the Action, will be mitigated by drawing upon the strategic guidance on the Programme of Work of 2021-22 given by the OECD Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC) in order to correctly reflect the policy priorities of OECD members and partners.

Component 3: Strengthening international standards for the sound management of chemicals

The main assumption underpinning the activities is that OECD countries continue to support work on the implementation of SAICM, even with the delay of the adoption of the post-2020 framework, and in particular on the Emerging Policy Issues covered by the action. Indeed through the Resolution of the OECD Council on Implementation of SAICM, member countries committed to make the implementation of the SAICM objectives an integral part of the OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme³⁹. It is expected that member countries will make the same commitment once the new UN post-2020 framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste is adopted. The activities outlined in this action are already agreed upon by the OECD or are coherent with the overall 2021-2024 Environment, Health and Safety Programme.

The products of the OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme are highly regarded and widely used by countries to implement their chemicals safety policies. The OECD system on Mutual Acceptance of Data ensures that Test Guidelines are implemented and used by OECD countries as well as adhering partner countries. As recognised international standards, OECD Test Guidelines are used in countries that have not adhered to the OECD system of Mutual Acceptance of Data, in the context of chemical safety legislations. The use of the Test Guidelines and other expected outputs under this action will allow governments and chemical industry in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gather the knowledge on hazardous chemicals necessary for their sound management, and give them tools to implement adequate risk management measures.

OECD Test Guidelines, by providing for a standardised data set, also support the implementation of the UN Globally Harmonized System of classification and labelling of chemicals (UN GHS), which is of very high relevance for developing countries.

Furthermore, some of the planned work will specifically be dedicated to get more countries into the system and hence increase the number of countries using OECD standards (p.m. Thailand joined the MAD system in 2020).

³⁹ <https://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/49239915.pdf>

For chemical accidents, the guidance on Natech risk management and the consolidated legal instruments will lower the threshold for countries to establish or improve their systems for chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response in an harmonised way, and will strengthen international co-operation in accidents management.

The work on guidance and development of test guidelines for biopesticides is aligned with the current SAICM “Issue of Concern” regarding Highly Hazardous Pesticides⁴⁰, and it is likely that this will remain an “Issue of Concern” under the post-2020 UN framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Further, the OECD will partner with other international organisations to target and engage developing countries in a multi-stakeholder approach for the registration of safer pesticides.

While the use of long-chain per- and polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances is significantly decreasing in OECD countries, their releases are increasing by the same measure in emerging countries. In addition, the use of shorter-chain PFAS as alternatives to the long chain PFAS is coming under further scrutiny, amongst all countries. The dissemination of information on risk management measures and on the availability of alternatives decreases the threshold for regulating these chemicals in emerging economies.

Component 4: IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Phase IV: Towards Achieving the SDGs

The IOMC Toolbox is the key reference for guidelines and tools prepared by IOMC Participating Organization for specific chemical management themes. An updated, upgraded and user friendly IOMC Toolbox with additional chemical management themes and language versions of tools attracts a broader target audience to use the IOMC Toolbox. Online and face-to-face training on technical aspects of the sound management of chemicals as well as on the use of the IOMC Toolbox itself prepares the target audience, especially in developing countries, (i) to identify and address their chemical safety problems and challenges; (ii) to use the IOMC Toolbox to identify relevant guidelines and tools; and (iii) to implement guidance and tools prepared by IOMC Participating Organization. Training courses and events act as platforms that provide opportunities for information exchange, collaboration and networking among participants, thereby working more efficiently towards the implementation of the guidelines and tools developed by IOMC Participating Organizations. Implementation of guidelines and tools prepared by IOMC Participating Organization is a direct contribution to achieving the sound management of chemicals and all Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 12, i.e. to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

Through the provision of EU voluntary contributions to the secretariats of international environmental processes and agreements in a selected number of priorities (e.g. on biodiversity and ecosystems including forests and soils, on circular pollution-free economies including linkages to other policies such as trade) the Commission action is expected to trigger:

- the strengthened involvement of developing/middle-income countries in international environmental agreements and processes;
- the greater availability of environmental tools, guidelines and training opportunities for developing countries; and
- the more effective generation, management and sharing of environmental knowledge, including SMART targets and indicators.

This will all ultimately contribute to enhancing the delivery of the environmental pillar of the UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

⁴⁰ <http://www.saicm.org/EmergingPolicyIssues/HighlyHazardousPesticides/tabid/5479/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact component 1	To improve equity in participation among countries in international environmental, climate and sustainable development governance and contribute to enhancing global environmental sustainability and achieving the environment-related SDGs	1. Annual percentage increases in the ENB Update email subscription lists, disaggregated by sex.	1. As of 26 August 2021, ENB Update has 21,278 subscribers	1. 10% increase in subscribers by end of grant period	1.Subscriber mailing lists	<i>Not applicable</i>
Impact component 2	2. To accelerate the transition towards a circular economy across OECD member countries and emerging economies through analysis and guidance on policy design.	2.1 The number of circular economy policies implemented, and taking into account human rights and gender equality. 2.2 The number of reports for the circular economy transition of specific sectors of the economy published, 2.3 The number of countries adopting new best practices on ex ante and ex post evaluation of circular economy policies and environmental policies in general, while taking into account social impacts (including gender equality and human rights).	1. Basic in 2020 2. Basic in 2020	1. Improved in several countries in 2030 2. Improved in several countries in 2030	1. OECD iLibrary and OECD website 2. OECD iLibrary and OECD website	<i>Not applicable</i>
Impact component 3	3. To improve the implementation of chemicals management systems in countries	3. Number of countries implementing instruments for chemicals management in line with OECD standards			3. National legislations, SAICM Progress reports; IOMC indicators for SAICM implementation	
Impact component 4	4. To improve the sound management of chemicals in countries worldwide that use the IOMC Toolbox and its content, thereby contributing to the achievement and implementation of nearly all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), multi-lateral environmental and other international agreements.	4. Number of new countries using the Toolbox and its content to draft and adopt policies for the sound management of chemicals	30 (2022)	60 (2025)	4. End-of-project country survey and follow-up, including country case studies	

<p>Impact component 5</p>	<p>5. To contribute to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by improving international environment governance, and also the promotion of EU Strategies adopted in the context of the Green Deal.</p>	<p>5. Status of the implementation of relevant SDGs jointly selected by the Commission and UNEP.</p> <p>It is still to be determined with UNEP which goals and targets will be monitored in the area of human health and chemicals; sustainable consumption and production; the marine environment; biodiversity; knowledge development and transfer, and the creation of partnerships</p>			<p>5. UN Reports on sustainable development, including in the framework of the High Level Political Forum ;</p> <p>UNEP annual report Year Book</p> <p>MEAs COP/MOPs decisions and reports.</p>	
<p>Outcomes component 1</p>	<p>1. Delegates from developing countries were better equipped to participate in multilateral environmental negotiations</p> <p>2. Developing countries were stimulated to introduce measures to protect the environment, enhance co-benefits, and to implement sustainable development patterns</p>	<p>1.1 Proportion of delegates from developing countries responding to annual readership survey (where possible disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>1.2 Number of report downloads and page views from developing countries</p> <p>1.3 Number of direct sign-ups from <i>ENB</i> consultants at meetings, informing new delegates of the <i>ENB</i></p> <p>1.4 Proportion of readers who report that <i>ENB</i> keeps them “very” or “quite” informed about negotiations and improves their engagement in decision making</p> <p>2.1 Number of <i>ENB</i> summary views and downloads by developing country delegates after major conferences, including the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD and BRS COPs</p> <p>2.2 Number of website views at COPs from outside the host country (ex: UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, and BRS COPs)</p>	<p>1.1 2020 Readership Survey developing country respondents total at 51.8%: -11.08 % Latin America & Caribbean -26.26% Asia Pacific -14.46 % Africa</p> <p>1.2 <i>Year where all meetings took place in person (there was no global pandemic):</i> 2019 had a total of 116,433 downloads and page views from developing countries; <i>Year where meetings took place in</i></p>	<p>1.1 Proportion of responses from developing countries increased to over 55% by end of three year grant</p> <p>1.2 15% increase in number of total page views and report downloads of <i>ENB</i> from <i>in-person</i> and <i>virtual meetings</i> by developing country delegates by end of grant period.</p> <p>1.3 At least 100 new subscriptions that take place during an <i>in-person</i> COP</p>	<p>1.1 Annual Readership Survey</p> <p>1.2 Page view and report download statistics, disaggregated</p> <p>1.3 Subscriber list and page view statistics</p> <p>1.4 Annual Readership Survey</p> <p>2.1 Summary views and download statistics</p> <p>2.2 Website statistics</p>	<p>1 Delegates will continue to turn to the <i>ENB</i> for information, particularly as <i>ENB</i> style and language is revised to become more contextual and accessible.</p> <p>2 <i>ENB</i> contains enough specific information to guide countries on what to do next – i.e. apply for funding for specific activities, contribute</p>

			<p><i>person and virtually (due to global pandemic):</i> 2020 had a total of 64,395 downloads and page views from developing countries.</p> <p>1.3 # of new subscribers from the major COPS meetings in 2019 and 2020 (ex: UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, and BRS Conventions)</p> <p>BRS COPs 2019 : 247</p> <p>UNCCD COP 14 (2019):424</p> <p>CLIMATE COP 24 (2019): 388</p> <p>CMS COP 13 (2020): 252</p> <p>1.4 2020 readership survey results from readers on three questions: 84 % “very” or “quite” informed when ENB available; 69% of delegates say</p>	<p>1.4 Readership survey results remains stable at 85% of readers feeling “very” informed when ENB is available</p> <p>2.1 10% increase in total post-meeting summary views and downloads from developing countries by end of grant period</p> <p>2.2 15% increase in total number of website views of COPs by those not at the meeting by end of grant period</p>		<p>data, as requested by certain decisions.</p>
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			<p>ENB improves their engagement in decision making</p> <p>2.1 Total # of ENB summary views and downloads from major meetings from developing country partners was 4,552 in 2019</p> <p>2.2 Total # of website views at major COPs from outside the host country in 2019 and 2020:</p> <p>BRS COPs 2019 : 10,692 (during the meeting from outside Swiss)</p> <p>UNCCD COP 14 (2019): 9,405 (from outside India)</p> <p>CLIMATE COP 25 (2019): 70.152 from outside Spain</p> <p>CMS COP 13 (2020) 5,538 from outside India</p> <p>HLPF 2020</p>			
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			7,932 from outside US			
Outcomes component 2	<p>2.1 Managed better plastics and plastic waste and the role of economic instruments in this context, as well as on one specific sector of the economy and the policies required to achieve more circularity.</p> <p>2.2 Fostered better environmental analysis of policies to support the transition to a circular economy.</p>	<p>2.1.1. Global leakage of plastics into the environment</p> <p>2.1.2. Status of the circular economy transition in a specific sector of the economy</p> <p>2.2.1. Extent of sharing of best practices on ex ante and ex post evaluation of environmental policies across countries</p> <p>2.2.2. Level of guidance on the mortality risk valuation in environment, health and transport policies</p> <p>2.3 Extent to which proposed papers/workshops are based on a gender analysis of risk, need, demand, barriers, and supply</p>	<p>2.1.1. 10 Mt in 2019, 12 Mt in 2030 (baseline)</p> <p>2.1.2. Basic in 2020</p> <p>2.2.1. Limited in 2020</p> <p>2.2.2. Good in 2012</p>	<p>2.1.1. Below 10 Mt in 2030</p> <p>2.1.2. Advanced in several countries in 2030</p> <p>2.2.1. Good in 2024</p> <p>2.2.2. Excellent in 2024</p>	<p>2.1.1. Global Plastic outlook of the OECD.</p> <p>2.1.2. OECD iLibrary and OECD website</p> <p>2.2.1. OECD iLibrary and OECD website</p> <p>2.2.2. OECD iLibrary and OECD website</p>	<p>Continuous interest and engagement of countries participating to the WPRPW and to the WPIEEP</p>
Outcomes component 3	<p>3.1 Expanded and maintained OECD System of Mutual Acceptance of Data</p> <p>3.2. Developed better tools for chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response</p> <p>3.3. Managed risks of perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives</p>	<p>3.1 Number of uses of OECD standards for the safety testing of chemicals. Increased availability of standard data on the properties of chemicals, hence better implementation of Classification and Labelling schemes in countries.</p> <p>3.2 Number of uses of OECD standards for setting up systems for chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response.</p> <p>3.3 Number of countries implementing risk management measures for per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances</p> <p>3.4. Extent to which proposed OECD standards are based on a gender analysis of risk, need, demand, barriers, and supply</p>			<p>3. OECD Secretariat, OECD i-library, eChemPortal, governments</p>	<p>Willingness of partner countries and their experts to engage with the OECD and participate in the respective working groups.</p>
Outcomes component 4	<p>4.1. Toolbox and its content increasingly used by countries, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to develop and establish chemicals</p>	<p>4.1.1 Number of Toolbox visits, downloads of documents and other statistics</p>	<p>4.1.1 TBD (2022) (depending on outcome of Phase III)</p>	<p>4.1.1. TBD (2025)</p>	<p>4.1.1. Web statistics (OECD at the time of reporting, i.e. at</p>	<p>4.1. Changing of resources available in developing</p>

	<p>management capacities and infrastructure, including control and enforcement.</p> <p>4.2 Increased collaboration at national and international levels and networking within and between countries and IOMC Partner Organizations to enhance the sound management of chemicals in countries.</p>	<p>4.1.2 Number of countries who during the project period identified guidelines and tools in the Toolbox AND are in the process of or plan to implement them in the near future</p> <p>4.1.3 Number of countries who during the project period identified tools in the Toolbox and fully implemented them.</p> <p>4.2 Number of countries engaged in international collaborations to advance the implementation of the sound management of chemicals</p>	<p>4.1.2. 0 (2022)</p> <p>4.1.3. 0 (2022)</p> <p>4.2. 0 (2022)</p>	<p>4.1.2. 25 (2025)</p> <p>4.1.3. 5 (2025)</p> <p>4.2. 100 (2025)</p>	<p>the end of each year)</p> <p>4.1.2. End-of-project country survey</p> <p>4.1.3. End-of-project country survey</p> <p>4.2. End-of-project country survey</p>	<p>countries and countries with economies in transition to take the necessary action to implement IOMC guidelines and tools</p> <p>4.2. Sharing information and experiences through networking, coordination, and collaboration increases motivation, commitment, quality, efficiency and effectiveness of implementing IOMC tools</p>
<p>Outcomes component 5</p>	<p>5.1 Strengthened International agreements, partnerships and alliances on environmental governance and issues promoted through targeted supports in areas linked to, inter alia, halting biodiversity loss, transitioning to greener and more circular economies, protecting human health from pollution, sound management of chemicals and waste, and ensuring the transparent and</p>	<p>5.1 Outcome indicators to be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application (depending the adoption of individual projects)</p>			<p>MEAs COP/MOPs decisions and reports</p> <p>UNEP annual report Year Book</p>	<p>Developing countries translate policies and laws into practice</p> <p>No major crisis affects global efforts towards</p>

	<p>sustainable management of natural resources.</p> <p>5.2 Enhanced capacities of countries to develop evidence-based policies and decisions, ownership and implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the MEAs is strengthened through the provision of advisory services, information and knowledge products, tools, methodologies and guidelines.</p>					sustainable development
<p>Outputs related to component 1</p>	<p>1.1 ENB produced, published and disseminated the <i>Earth Negotiations Bulletin</i></p> <p>2.1 Developed information tools to address barriers to developing countries' and civil society's participation</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of ENB reports published</p> <p>2.1.1 Number of downloads of the tools, or requests for in-person briefings.</p>	<p>1.1.1 In 2020, 44 ENB reports from 21 meetings published</p> <p>2.1.1 UNFCCC COP 25 (2019) halfway point webinar: total audience: 1,128</p> <p>State of Global Environmental Governance Annual Report 2019: total views: 5,457</p> <p>State of Global Environmental Governance Annual Report 2020: total views: 1,524</p> <p>What to Expect at COP 26 video (Aug 2021):</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of reports remains stable</p> <p>2.1.1 Number of downloads of tools other than ENB increases by 10% and number of requests for in person briefings remains stable.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Meeting reports publicly available on the entity's website</p> <p>2.1.1 Webpage views / download statistics, or report from team leader of requests</p>	<p>1.1 The entity must attend (either in person or virtually) the meeting with a team of writers and digital editors to produce the reports, assuming continued support of Secretariats ensuring their access to negotiations.</p> <p>2.1 Delegates require tools other than written reports.</p>

			total views: 2,572			
			In persons briefings at UNFCCC COP 25 (2019): 3 briefings			
Outputs related to Component 2	<p>1.1 Reduced leakage of plastics into the environment</p> <p>1.2 Facilitated circular economy transition in a specific sector of the economy</p> <p>2.1 Improved sharing of best practices on ex ante and ex post evaluation of environmental policies</p> <p>2.2 Improved guidance on the mortality risk valuation in environment, health and transport policies</p>	<p>1.1.1. Knowledge on the economic and environmental impacts of different economic instruments aimed at reducing the leakage of plastics into the environment</p> <p>1.1.2. Usage of policy recommendations related to introduce or improve economic instruments aimed at reducing the leakage of plastics into the environment</p> <p>1.2.1. Knowledge on circular economy transition in a specific sector of the economy</p> <p>1.2.2. Usage of policy recommendations related to the circular economy transition in a specific sector of the economy</p> <p>2.1.1. Knowledge on the best practices for the ex ante and ex post evaluation of environmental policies</p> <p>2.1.2. Application of best practices in the environmental policy evaluation conducted by countries</p> <p>2.2.1 Recommended base value and range of the Value of Statistical Life based on a meta-analysis of Stated Preferences studies in the context of environment, health and transport policies</p> <p>2.2.2 Usage of the OECD updated guidance in publications such as Cost</p>	<p>1.1.1. Not applicable</p> <p>1.1.2. Not applicable</p> <p>1.2.1. Not applicable</p> <p>1.2.2. Not applicable</p> <p>2.1.1. Not applicable</p> <p>2.1.2. Not applicable</p> <p>2.2.1. Not applicable</p> <p>2.2.2. Not applicable</p>	<p>1.1.1. A new OECD report on economic and environmental impacts of different economic instruments aimed at reducing the leakage of plastics into the environment in 2024</p> <p>1.1.2. References to the OECD report in draft laws and reports of member and non-member countries in 2026</p> <p>1.2.1. A new OECD report on circular economy transition in a specific sector of the economy in 2024</p> <p>1.2.2. References to the OECD report in</p>	<p>1.1.1. OECD iLibrary and OECD website</p> <p>1.1.2. Feedback from country delegations during meetings of the WPRPW and WPIEEP.</p> <p>1.2.1. OECD iLibrary and OECD website</p> <p>1.2.2. Feedback from country delegations during meetings of the WPRPW and WPIEEP.</p> <p>2.1.1. OECD iLibrary and OECD website</p> <p>2.1.2. Feedback from country delegations during meetings of the WPRPW and WPIEEP.</p> <p>2.2.1. OECD iLibrary and OECD website</p>	<p>Continuous interest and engagement of countries participating to the WPRPW and to the WPIEEP</p>

		Benefit Analyses of Environment, Transport and Health policies		<p>circular economy roadmaps and other policy-oriented documents citing our report on circular economy transition in a specific sector of the economy in 2026</p> <p>2.1.1. A new OECD report on the best best practices for the ex ante and ex post evaluation of environmental policies in 2024</p> <p>2.1.2. References to the OECD report in policy evaluations, draft laws and reports of member and non-member countries in 2026</p> <p>2.2.1. A new OECD report on the mortality risk valuation in environment, health and transport policies in 2024</p> <p>2.2.2. References to the OECD report in</p>	2.2.2. Feedback from country delegations during meetings of the WPRPW and WPIEEP.	
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				draft laws and reports of member and non-member countries in 2026		
Outputs related to Component 3	<p>3.1 Organised two to three GLP/MAD seminars or training courses, each held in a different region of the world in areas with growing industrial chemical sectors and new or expanding chemical management programmes. Guidance on good computational methods practice.</p> <p>3.2 Produced five to eight new and updated Test Guidelines, mostly using non-animal methods to address health hazard and characterisation of new materials such as nanomaterials; two to four supporting documents; four to six webinars on on-going chemical testing and assessment projects and on new and emerging science. Four to eight AOPs published</p> <p>3.3 Produced guidance document on the risk management of Natech accidents</p> <p>3.4 Produced revised and consolidated OECD legal instruments relating to chemical accidents</p> <p>3.5 Developed tools to facilitate the use of biopesticides</p> <p>3.6 Held between 4 to 6 webinars on risk reduction approaches for PFAS chemicals, including regulatory and voluntary approaches taken, with subsequent dissemination on OECD PFAS portal.</p> <p>3.7 Updated OECD PFAS portal with risk reduction information updated from countries, including beyond OECD member countries.</p>	<p>3.1: Number of participants trained by the EU funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills in chemicals management, disaggregated by sex (where possible).</p> <p>3.2: Number of countries and systems (e.g. GHS) evolving towards increased reference to new and updated OECD TGs reflecting better science and ethical considerations (e.g. animal welfare); . AOPs published in scientific journals.</p> <p>3.3 Number of countries and other Organisations to engage in the development of the guidance; Number of countries using the Guidance document for strengthening/ adapting their chemical accidents programme to Natech events.</p> <p>3.4 Number of countries to engage in the revision and consolidation of the OECD Council Acts; Number of countries adhering to and using the revised Acts for building/ strengthening their chemical accidents programme;</p> <p>3.5 Number of countries to engage in OECD workshop or seminar ; Number of countries participating in discussion of challenges and opportunities to increase registration of biopesticides. Number of countries using OECD guidance and recommendations to expedite the biopesticide registration process.</p> <p>3.6 Number of webinars held,</p>	<p>3.1: n.a.</p> <p>3.2: GHS has updated Chapters 3.2 and</p> <p>3.3 with reference to non-animal TGs (2019)</p> <p>3.4: n.a.</p>	<p>3.1: 20-30 participants per seminar /training course; 10-15 experts involved in the development of the GD</p> <p>3.2: GHS will have an updated Chapter 3.4 on skin sensitisation making reference to non-animal TGs (incl. DAs) (2024)</p> <p>3.3: 10 countries/ organisations engaged in drafting the guidance by Dec. 2022; 15 countries contemplating the use of the finalised Guidance by March 2024</p> <p>3.4: 6 countries engaged in the revision + consolidation of</p>	<p>3.1: OECD Secretariat</p> <p>3.2 OECD Secretariat, GHS and national legislation, test method developers, scientists in countries, scientific journals,</p> <p>3.3 Governments, partner Organisations, OECD Secretariat,</p> <p>3.4: Governments, OECD Secretariat</p> <p>3.5: OECD Secretariat, FAO</p>	<p>Willingness of partner countries to host the seminars or training courses. Lifting of travel restrictions from global pandemic.</p> <p>Availability of experts in countries, robustness, reliability and acceptance of new test methods by regulators. Willingness of publishers to engage in partnerships for the peer-review of AOPs</p> <p>Willingness of partner countries and other Organisations to engage and to participate</p>

		3.7 number of countries with updated risk reduction information available on the Portal.	Output 3.5: n.a.	<p>3 Acts into one new legal instrument by March 2023, and in revising the Polluter-Pays Principle Act (draft) by March 2024</p> <p>3.5.1: participation of 10-20 countries in workshop on bio-pesticide registration,</p> <p>3.5.2 use of 2-3 documents for issues related to bio-pesticides, by 10-20 countries to expedite biopesticides regulation.</p> <p>3.6: 4-6 webinars by March 2024</p> <p>3.7: 4-5 countries/regions with updated information by March 2024</p>	3.6 - 3.7 OECD secretariat and OECD PFAS Portal	<p>in workshops and seminars.</p> <p>Willingness of countries to provide country-specific information for dissemination by OECD</p>
Outputs related to Component 4	4.1 Updated Toolbox, i.e. new tools and language versions of tools added to	4.1 Number of new tools added to Toolbox , including gender and human	4.1. Hundreds (2022)		4.1. Toolbox website	Internet is available and

	<p>existing management schemes and entry points including improved integration of gender equality and human rights issues.</p> <p>4.2 Broadened Toolbox, i.e. new chemical management schemes and related tools added, thereby increasing scope and applicability.</p> <p>4.3 Improved guidance and tools for the management of chemicals, i.e. new guidance and tools developed by IOMC Partner Organizations upon request by countries, especially developing countries, thereby closing the gap where guidance is missing or outdated.</p> <p>4.4 Produced language versions of guidance and tools, i.e. guidance and tools are available in UN languages other than English.</p> <p>4.5 Produced authoritative, comprehensive and stand-alone web-based training courses aimed at target audiences in developing countries for building capacities towards the implementation of IOMC guidance and the use of IOMC tools.</p> <p>4.6 Produced Global, regional and country targeted virtual and face-to-face training and promotional events for building capacities towards the implementation of IOMC guidance and the use of IOMC tools and the IOMC Toolbox.</p>	<p>rights tools, with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>4.2 Number of new schemes developed and added to Toolbox with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>4.3 Number of new tools developed as part of the project and added to Toolbox</p> <p>4.4 Number of language versions developed as part of the project and added to the Toolbox</p> <p>4.5 Number of web-based training courses developed</p> <p>4.6 Number of training events organized</p> <p>4.7 Number of participants trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills in IOMC guidance disaggregated by sex</p>	<p>4.2. 8 (2022)</p> <p>4.3. 20 (2022)</p> <p>4.4. 8 (2022)</p> <p>4.5. 0 (2022)</p> <p>4.6. 100 (2022)</p> <p>4.7. Thousands (2022)</p>	<p>4.1. +100 (2025)</p> <p>4.2. 10 (2025)</p> <p>4.3. 30 (2025)</p> <p>4.4. 28 (2025)</p> <p>4.5. 5 (2025)</p> <p>4.6. 140 (2025)</p> <p>4.7. +2400 (2025) (1200 female; 1200 male)</p>	<p>4.2. Toolbox website</p> <p>4.3. Toolbox website</p> <p>4.4. Toolbox website</p> <p>4.5. Organizations' website, i.e. links from IOMC Toolbox to them</p> <p>4.6. Meeting reports</p> <p>4.7. Meeting reports; Pre- and post- training reports</p>	<p>Toolbox not corrupted by internet virus</p> <p>Travel restrictions are lifted regarding face-to-face trainings</p>
<p>Outputs related to Component 5</p>	<p>5.1 Strengthened capacities of countries to effectively engage in regional and global international processes addressing issues of international relevance, to strengthen the</p>	<p>To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application (depending on the individual projects selected)</p>			<p>Annual reports from individual projects and from UNEP</p>	

	<p>environmental dimension of the SDGs and to promote the progressive development on international environmental law, including MEAs.</p> <p>5.2: Strengthened institutional capacities, policies and legal frameworks to implement action to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and those of relevant MEAs</p> <p>5.3: Developed and implemented policies, strategies and mechanisms for maintaining the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, supporting the transition to greener and more circular economies and promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, including plastics, within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)</p> <p>5.4 Identified National emissions sources, policies and legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air, soil and water quality and quality assessments.</p> <p>5.5 Strengthened institutional capacities for development and implementation of education and monitoring programmes and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels targeting health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.</p>	<p>To reflect the gender dimension, one of the future indicators to be considered, in line with the GAPIII, will be:</p> <p>Extent to which declarations and policy documents on climate change and environment at multilateral level contain specific actions to include women in the decision-making processes</p>				
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	<p>5.6 Enhanced capacity of policymakers in the public and private sectors to consider the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making</p> <p>5.7 Strengthened capacities of countries to adopt science-based approaches that enable them to transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including an inclusive green economy and sustainable trade, and adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns at all levels</p> <p>5.8 Developed guidelines, methodologies and provision of technical support for public, private and financial sectors to foster the adoption and implementation of sustainable management frameworks and practices, including on the sound management of chemicals and waste.</p> <p>5.9 Raised awareness among public and private sectors and increased support for the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns.</p> <p>5.10 Governments and other stakeholders used quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action.</p>					
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4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **72 months** from the date of adoption by the Commission of this financing decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁴¹.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

Component 1: Strengthening international environment and climate governance through the publishing of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin

(a) Purpose of the grant

The grant will contribute to achieving the overall objective and the two specific objectives described in section 4.1 above.

(b) Type of applicant targeted

An entity accredited by the UN and relevant MEAs' secretariats to provide independent conference reporting from all major international meetings in the areas of environment, climate change and sustainable development.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to an entity selected using the following criteria: The entity shall be accredited by the UN and relevant MEAs' secretariats to provide independent conference reporting from all major international meetings in the areas of environment, climate change and sustainable development. Thus, the entity shall have access to conference venues and especially to limited access negotiating groups. In terms of technical expertise, the entity shall cover all environmental and climate-related themes discussed in major international conferences. Preferably, the entity shall have created a distribution network to disseminate the reporting from all major international meetings to relevant addressees in developing countries.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals could be justified because: the bodies will have a de jure or de facto monopoly; and because of the activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, in line with Article 195(f) FR.

⁴¹ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.3.2 Indirect Management with an international organisation

Indirect management with an international organisation

Component 2: The Transition towards the circular economy – Economic and policy analysis

Component 3: Strengthening international standards for the sound management of chemicals

Component 4: IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Phase IV: Towards Achieving the SDGs

With the exception of component 1 and 5, this action may be implemented in indirect management with entities which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: relevant organisational mandate; technical competence in the respective policy field; organisational competence; projects track record. The implementation by these entities entails all the actions under components 2 to 4 foreseen under this Action Document.

Indirect management with an international organisation: United Environment Programme (UNEP)

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the United Environment Programme (UNEP). This implementation entails to contribute to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by improving international environment governance, and also the promotion of EU Strategies adopted in the context of the Green Deal. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: UN Environment Programme has a monopoly and technical capacity by hosting the secretariats for many critical multilateral environmental agreements and research bodies, bringing together nations and the environmental community to tackle the environmental and global challenges. In addition to its technical competence on environment, UNEP has the administrative power to prepare the meetings of the UN Environment Assembly, regularly reviews the implementation of its decisions and therefore to have direct official channels of communication for projects 'implementation with national Authorities. The implementation by this entity entails matters related to the development of international and national environmental tools. This entity benefits from an internationally recognized mandate as leading global environmental authority.

With this component, UN Environment will contribute to strengthen International agreements, partnerships and alliances on environmental governance and to enhance capacities of countries to develop evidence-based policies and decisions, ownership and implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the MEAs.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified⁴²

4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances

If the foreseen implementation modality under indirect management above cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, part of the action may be implemented through a direct grant awarded without a call for proposal, according to the conditions set out in article 195 of the Financial Regulation. The selection criteria are spelled out under section 4.3.2.

⁴² It is reminded that, during the implementation of the action, in case it is decided to select another entity, the same criteria may be used for justifying such selection, without going through a substantial modification of the Financing Decision. Consequently, beyond the justifications provided for selecting a given entity, it is important to define clear selection criteria.

4.4. NA

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components⁴³	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
Component 1 - Strengthening international environment and climate governance through the publishing of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin	750,000	0
Grants (direct management) - cf. section 4.3.1		
Component 2 - The Transition towards the circular economy – Economic and policy analysis	800,000	200,000
Indirect management - cf. section 4.3.2		
Component 3 - Strengthening international standards for the sound management of chemicals	500,000	1,500,000
Indirect management - cf. section 4.3.2		
Component 4 - IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Phase IV: Towards Achieving the SDGs	2,000,000	500,000
Indirect management - cf. section 4.3.2		
Component 5 - Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance	11,100,000	1,423,500
Indirect management with UNEP – section 4.3.2		
Evaluation and Audit For all components the budget for the evaluation will be part of the total costs and contracted by the Beneficiaries.	Will be covered by another decision	

⁴³ N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

Contingencies ⁴⁴	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	15,150,000	3,623,500

4.7. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action. For all components, the projects will use, wherever possible, existing management structures of the participating institutions. In all cases, a Steering Committee is co-chaired between the European Commission and the relevant entities implementing the components and will meet on a yearly basis.

4.8. Pre-conditions

N.A.

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and a final evaluation will be carried out by UNEP Evaluation Office for **component 5** and a final evaluation for **component 2**. A mid-term and final evaluation will be carried out for **component 4**.

The evaluations will be overseen by the respective steering committees; the evaluation reports shall be shared with the beneficiaries and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The budget for the evaluation will be part of the total costs and contracted by the Beneficiaries.

Having regard to the nature of the action for **component 1 and component 3**, an evaluation will not be carried out for this component. The Commission, however, may during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

⁴⁴ Consider that contracts where no financing agreement is concluded, contingencies have to be covered by individual and legal commitments by 31 December of N+1.

5.3. Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

APPENDIX REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention is defined in the related Action Document and it is revisable; it can be a(n) (group of) action(s) or a (group of) contract(s).

Tick in the left side column one of the three possible options for the level of definition of the Primary Intervention(s) identified in this action.

In the case of ‘Group of actions’ level, add references to the present action and other action concerning the same Primary Intervention.

In the case of ‘Contract level’, add the reference to the corresponding budgetary items in point 4.6, Indicative Budget.

Option 1: Action level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Option 2: Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Option 3: Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Component 1 - Strengthening international environment and climate governance through the publishing of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin Grant contract
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Component 2: The Transition towards the circular economy – Economic and policy analysis Contribution Agreement with an International Organisation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Component 3: Strengthening international standards for the sound management of chemicals Contribution Agreement with an International Organisation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Contracts 4	Component 4: IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Phase IV: Towards Achieving the SDGs Contribution Agreements with an International Organisation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 5	Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

		Indirect Management with UNEP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	