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ANNEX III

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme on Global Challenges (Planet) for 2023-2026

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

MULTI-ANNUAL PLAN
This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title **CRIS/OPSYS business reference** **Basic Act**	Improving global environmental governance through targeted support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes 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	NDICI-Global Europe 'Global Challenges' thematic programme Multi-annual indicative programme 2021-2027[1]
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority 4.2. Planet: Relevant to the Specific objective 2: Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and in the ocean, the action is relevant to these expected results. 1. Strengthened international environmental governance and implementation of key multilateral environment agreements, notably the conventions on biodiversity, desertification, oceans, chemicals, waste and water; 2. Improved global environmental metrics, monitoring, research, knowledge, networks, capacities and international standards for evidence-based policies, programmes and investment decisions; 7. Enhanced international action to tackle pollution, ensure a healthy environment and the sound management of chemicals, plastic and waste.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	

[1] COM (2021)9157

6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Environmental sustainability / Climate change (DAC sector: General Environment Protection – 410)
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 15 Life on land (targets 6, 9) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 2 Sustainable agriculture (target 4), SDG 3 Good health (targets 3.9, 3.d, 3.9), SDG 5 Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls (targets 5.5 and *b*), SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation (targets 6.3 and 6.5), SDG 8 decent work for all (targets 5, 8), SDG 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure (targets 9.4), SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities (targets 11.5, 11.b), SDG 12 sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.1, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, SDG 12.8), SDG 13 Climate action (target 13.1), SDG 14 Life below water (target 14.1), SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions (targets 16.3, 16.7., 16.8.), SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals (targets 17.7, 17.9)
8 a) DAC code(s)	410 – General Environment Protection 41010 – Environmental policy and administrative management 41020 – Biosphere protection 41030 – biodiversity 41081 – Education and environmental training 41082 – Environmental research 43060 – Disaster risk reduction 14010 – Water sector policy and administrative management 14040 – River basins development 15130 – Legal and judicial development 74020 – Multi-hazard response preparedness 998 Strategic cooperation with global and multilateral organisations and processes
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	41116 – United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 41314 – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ((UNECE) extrabudgetary contributions only via United Nations) 41300 - United Nations
9. Targets	☐ Migration ☒ Climate ☐ Social inclusion and Human Development ☒ Gender ☒ Biodiversity ☐ Education ☒ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance

10. Markers (from DAC form)

General policy objective @	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
Participation development/good governance	☐	☐	☒
Aid to environment @	☐	☐	☒
Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☐	☒	☐
Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	☒	☐	☐
Disaster Risk Reduction @	☐	☒	☐

	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	☒	☐	☐
	Nutrition @	☒	☐	☐
	RIO Convention markers	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Biological diversity @	☐	☐	☒
	Combat desertification @	☐	☐	☒
	Climate change mitigation @	☐	☒	☐
	Climate change adaptation @	☐	☒	☐
11. Internal markers and Tags	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Digitalisation @	☒	☐	☐
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	NO ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒	
	Connectivity @	☒	☐	☐
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	NO ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒	
	Migration @	☒	☐	☐
	Reduction of Inequalities @	☒	☐	☐
	Covid-19	☒	☐	☐
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020241 Total estimated cost for 2023: EUR 16,297,643 Total amount of EU budget contribution for 2023: EUR 14,300,000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 14,300,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023. This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by: EUR 1,997,643 (indicative) UNEP for an amount of 1,912,643 (indicative); UNECE for an amount of EUR 85,000			

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	**Indirect management** with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1.

1.2 Summary of the Action

The three 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 environmental external dimension of the European Green Deal. This action will provide voluntary support to international organizations and to Secretariats of environmental conventions (Multilateral Environmental Agreements). The components aim also 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.

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme

This part of the action aims to improve international environmental governance by adding new funding to the new cooperation agreement concluded in 2022 (AAP 2021[2]) between the Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A first replenishment was adopted under the AAP 2022[3]. It directly contributes to improving international environment governance which will support the external dimension of the European Green Deal, and focusing on the engagement of EU Strategies adopted in the context of the European Green Deal and jointly shared with UNEP. Under this action, 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 policymaking. 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).

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

This part of the action aims to strengthen the safety and security of managing hazardous substances in and across countries and to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide.
The activities will strengthen international environmental governance and the implementation of key multilateral environment agreements on chemicals, waste and water. Through exchanges of knowledge and information and trainings, the activities will advance global environmental research, knowledge, networks, capacities and international standards for evidence-based policies, programmes and investment decisions. The activities will also enhance international action to tackle pollution, ensure a healthy environment and strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste. The activities will both benefit countries applying EU instruments, standards and mechanisms (e.g. Seveso III Directive[4]) and overall support knowledge-sharing and approximation of standards globally.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

This part of the action aims to support the development and implementation of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022 (Montreal, Canada) and therefore improve international environmental governance.
The action will include the organisation of expert meetings to agree on the methodology and the testing of indicators in at least three countries (Colombia, Indonesia and South Africa) representing different regions. The

[2] Commission decision C(2021) 9639 final of 16 December 2021
[3] Commission decision C(2022) 8146 final on 14 November 2022
[4] Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances

activities are aligned with the timeframe of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group of the KMGBF and conclude by end of 2024. The year 2025 will focus on capacity building in a large number of countries on GBF reporting through the organisation of regional trainings and the development of a web-based application using global datasets.
The action will contribute towards evidence-based policy making at the national level and will enhance the quality of international monitoring and reporting. This will enhance mainstreaming of biodiversity as well as climate considerations in policy making and contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda (especially SDGs 14 and 15).

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme.

The part of 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[5], biodiversity strategy[6], Farm-to-Fork[7], Chemical Strategy[8], Zero-Pollution Action Plan[9] etc…). It also directly contributes to the European Commission's 2019-2024 priority of 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 on Development, 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. It is an opportunity to link the intervention with the new recognised right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, recognized by the UN Human Rights Council.

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 MEAs 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 Communication[10], 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. . As global warming is increasing, one million of the eight million species on the planet are at risk of being lost. Forests and oceans are being polluted and destroyed. This situation has a direct impact to the planet and to the global population especially those living in vulnerable situations, experiencing socio-economic difficulties. The right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right and is integral to the full enjoyment other human rights, including the right to life, the right to health, the right to food and the right to water and sanitation.

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

[5] COM(2020) 98 final of 11.03.2020
[6] COM(2020) 380 final of 20.05.2020
[7] COM(2020) 381 final of 20.05.2020
[8] COM(2020) 667 final of 14.10.2020
[9] COM(2021) 400 final of 12.05.2021
[10] COM(2019) 640 final of 11.12.2019

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 support its neighbours and partners in the sustainable transition.. 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 their implementation 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"[11] both fully recognise 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"[12], 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 women and girls, men and boys living in vulnerable situations, incl. socio-economic difficulties.

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 Network[13], the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership[14]) and supports MEAs through specific interventions such as the Intra- ACP MEA III programme.

The circular economy package[15], 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 plan included measures to help reduce pressure on the environment and GHG emissions, and also to help boost global competitiveness, foster sustainable economy growth and generate new jobs. 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[16], the new Circular Economy Action Plan[17] (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.

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 decent work opportunities for women and men in all their diversity. 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.

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

[12] *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)

[13] http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/

[14] https://www.bipindicators.net/

[15] COM(2015)593, COM(2015)594, COM(2015)595, and COM(2015)596 of 02.12.2015

[16] COM(2019) 640 – The European Green Deal.

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

The EU Bioeconomy Strategy, adopted in 2012[1] and updated in 2018[2], is complementary to the circular economy in its objectives to support the transition towards a circular economy, which is based on the sustainable use of biological resources. The Bioeconomy Strategy, with its systemic perspective, plays an important role in achieving climate neutrality and environmental, economic, and social sustainability. The importance of developing a holistic bioeconomy framework has been recognised by an increasing number of EU member States and regions, as well as international partners. The bioeconomy contributes to various Sustainable Development Goals and, by replacing fossil-based resources with sustainably sourced biological resources, contributes to the commonly agreed climate targets under the Paris Agreement.

On 29 June 2023, the European Union adopted a Regulation18 on deforestation-free supply chains, a key building block in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. Once applied, the new law will ensure that a set of key goods exported or placed on the EU market must be deforestation free, and thus will no longer contribute to deforestation and forest degradation in the EU and elsewhere in the world. Companies will have to confirm that the product has been produced on land that has not been subject to deforestation or forest degradation, including of primary forests, after 31 December 2020. While no country or commodity will be banned, all relevant companies will have to conduct strict due diligence if they export or place on the EU market palm oil, cattle, soy, coffee, cocoa, timber and rubber as well as derived products such as beef, furniture, or chocolate listed in the Annex to the Regulation upon the entry into application of the new rules in 18 months. The list of commodities that are covered will be regularly reviewed and updated, taking into account new data such as changing deforestation patterns. Companies will also have to verify that these products comply with relevant legislation of the country of production, including on human rights, and that the rights of affected indigenous peoples have been respected.

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

International and regional organisations, national and local authorities (including inspectors), operators, civil society actors, academia and the public each play important roles to prevent industrial accidents. This part of the action aims to strengthen the safety and security of managing hazardous substances in and across countries and to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide. It will raise awareness of risks of storing, handling and transporting hazardous substances and related industrial accidents, including on climate change impacts, natural hazards, cybersecurity, public health emergencies and war heighten them. It will promote and improve knowledge on international instruments, standards and mechanisms that support countries in addressing the risks and provide training for various actors around the world to improve implementation of these. It will also strengthen capacity for environmental policy and governance for the management of hazardous substances at the national, regional and international levels through multilateral activities. Furthermore, the activities will increase knowledge of authorities, operators and the public to prepare for and respond to industrial accidents; the public will include women and men, girls and boys in all their diversity regardless of age, disability or refugee status with the Action mainstreaming human rights and equal and meaningful participation of these demographics (rights holders) in developing and implementing safety and security measures.

The fact that major industrial accidents continue to occur around the world due to the lack of proper management of hazardous substances and insufficient knowledge of the related risks shows the urgent need for this Action. The EU and countries across the globe have expressed related needs through intergovernmental meetings, global seminars and surveys. For example, at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, the European Union – a Party to the Convention – requested the need for an exchange of good practices and lessons learned in follow-up to 2020 Beirut port explosion. UNECE subsequently led the organization of the global *UN/OECD online seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion: Lessons*

[1] COM(2012)60. Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe
[2] COM(2018)673. and SWD(2018)431. A sustainable Bioeconomy for Europe: Strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment
18 Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010

learned, experiences and good practices in managing risks of ammonium nitrate storage, handling and transport in port areas, preventing accidents and mitigating their consequences (online, 14 December 2021) and a related global survey. The seminar, co-organized by UNECE, International Labor Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UN Environment Programme/United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNEP/OCHA) Joint Environment Unit and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) with guidance from an Expert Advisory Group and funding from the French Ministry for Ecological Transition and the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, attracted 500 participants from a range of communities worldwide: chemicals management, disaster risk reduction (DRR), emergency response, environmental protection, industrial safety, occupational safety and health and transport. The seminar and survey, which resulted in 600 pages of data from 43 countries across all UN regions, highlighted needs to: (a) raise awareness of risks of storing, handling and transporting ammonium nitrate and how to address them; (b) engage other countries which did not participate; (c) strengthen capacities of authorities, including inspectors in particular, to ensure the application of safety and security measures; (d) enhance coordination across different areas of governance; (e) conduct more trainings of national and local authorities, including inspectors, and operators to ensure proper risk management and effective use of mechanisms/systems for preparedness and response; and (f) promote knowledge sharing across countries and communities, including by showcasing more good practices and lessons learned. As learned from past accidents presented at the seminar, functioning early warning and industrial accident alert systems are also essential to ensure that information is rapidly and effectively shared with affected communities, countries and international organizations and to ensure mutual assistance can be rendered. Moreover, such systems must be user-friendly for authorities and operators and secured from cyber-attacks. While the seminar focused on ammonium nitrate, one key conclusion was that the seminar outcomes should be considered and may be useful for understanding and managing risks of many hazardous substances. These needs and conclusions have provided a basis for developing this Action's objectives.

UNECE builds on the outcomes of the EU-requested 2021 UN/OECD seminar and related survey, namely to apply the information and knowledge exchanged and good practices to be identified to hazardous substances more broadly. The UNECE secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention will lead the Action, in close cooperation with the secretariats to the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and Water Convention, all hosted by the Environment Division, and to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG), hosted by the Sustainable Transport Division. UNECE has prepared Safety Guidelines and Good Industry Practices for, among other related topics, land-use planning and the siting of hazardous activities, which was published across the Industrial Accidents Convention and Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. Through its Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, shared between the global Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions, and in partnership with other organizations, UNECE has already globally advocated and raised awareness on issues envisaged to be further developed under this Action. For example, in close cooperation with the EU Joint Research Centre, UNECE drafted chapter 3.1.8 on chemical/industrial risk of the Global Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019; and in close cooperation with UNDRR, UNECE has shared knowledge on technological/industrial accident risk through a side event at the Global Platform on DRR on "Governance of climate and technological risks in transboundary water bodies" (Bali and online, 27 May 2022) and the dedicated thematic session at the European Forum for DRR "Preventing another Sandoz, Baia Mare or Beirut accident: Perspectives on risk management in the context of the Sendai Framework" (Matosinhos, Portugal and online, 24 November 2021). In line with the Industrial Accidents Convention's long-term strategy until 2030, UNECE will cooperate with partner organizations to implement this Action, including to guide environmental policy and governance and to promote tools and good practices for the prevention of and preparedness for industrial accidents globally. The Action will support the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention's 2023-2024 work plan, as approved by the Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting (Geneva, 29 November-1 December 2022), and the ensuing 2025-2026 work plan, to be prepared by the Bureau, with members of the European Union as a Party and to be approved by the Conference at its 13th meeting in 2024. UNECE also manages the Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System to provide countries with a means to notify other countries in case of an accident and to request mutual assistance. In sum, UNECE has the required expertise, expert networks, partnerships and work programme to successfully deliver the Action's objectives.

UNECE will cooperate with many partners in implementing the Action. It will reactivate the Organizing

Committee it had established to prepare the 2021 UN/OECD seminar; the following partners have agreed to continue cooperating through their expertise in hosting related instruments, standards and mechanisms: ILO (Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention and Chemicals Convention); IMO (International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and Related activities in Port Areas); OECD (Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response); UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT)); and UNDRR (Words into Action Guidelines on Man-made/technological hazards. The European Commission (with its expertise on industrial safety and in overseeing implementation of the Seveso III-Directive, the network of the EU Chemical,Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk mitigation Center of Excellence Initiative and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism) and the European Investment Bank, which will provide dedicated in-kind contributions, will also be closely associated with the implementation of the activities. UNECE will also build on and utilize its existing partnerships with: UNEP (including Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the new chemicals instrument being developed under its auspices); WHO (International Health Regulations and guidance on environmental health in emergencies and disasters); WMO; and other UN Regional Commissions. With these partners, this Action will reach the partners' different constituents around the world and demonstrate interlinkages across sectors and often siloed international, regional and national legal and policy areas that all contribute to safety and security in managing hazardous substances and preventing and mitigating related industrial accidents; it will bridge capacity, governance legislative gaps and foster synergetic implementation of different instruments nationally and across countries.

This Action will consist of activities led by UNECE, in cooperation with the abovementioned partner organisations, to strengthen the safety and security of managing hazardous substances and the related prevention and mitigation of related industrial accidents. In 2024, an analysis will be conducted on: how international instruments, standards and mechanisms support countries to address risks; their interlinkages and gaps; and national good practices and capacity, governance and legislative gaps. This will include further review of the 2021 UN/OECD survey data and dedicated follow-up with national authorities as needed. The findings will be presented in a report, an online information repository (with links and references) and a video to raise awareness of the risks in managing hazardous substances and key instruments, standards and mechanisms to address them, including building on major industrial accidents that have occurred around the globe. These products will be made publicly available on the UNECE website and used in trainings, and the partner organizations will globally disseminate them to their constituents and through global seminars the following years. In addition, UNECE will begin the updating of the IAN System to be a more user-friendly and secure system.

In 2025, UNECE, involving its Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) will organize an inclusive global online seminar to share experience and good practices and provide training on the use of early warning and industrial accident alert systems worldwide and on ways to address environmental liability regimes and pollution remediation. The seminar will aim to strengthen preparedness and response to industrial accidents involving hazardous substance and to mitigate their effects and promote mutual assistance among countries should they occur. It will showcase the updated UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System (IAN) System, which will be completed beforehand in 2025, and other systems of river basins commissions, such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)'s Principal International Alert Centres (PIACs). The JEG has global membership and strong partnerships with river basin commissions, and UNECE collects national data on early warning and industrial accident alert systems, which will be shared at the seminar. Over the course of 2025, the updated IAN System will also be tested. This global online seminar will be a timely response to the UN Secretary-General's recent launching of the Early Warnings for All Initiative, which calls for the whole world to be covered by an early warning system by the end of 2027. In organising the seminar, UNECE aims to build on its partnership with UNDRR and WMO, which are spearheading the Early Warnings for All initiative.

Finally, in 2026, a global (worldwide) hybrid seminar will be organised to highlight experience and good practices worldwide and to agree on policy recommendations for strengthening governance in the safe and secure management of hazardous substances in industrial installations and accident prevention and mitigation. This seminar will build on the gaps identified in the abovementioned analysis and the outcomes of the 2021 UN/OECD seminar. It will be held back-to-back with the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention to ensure high-level and wide participation and discussion on policy formulation and environmental governance.

Further to the abovementioned MIP objective and the implementation of international instruments, standards and mechanisms, the implementation of this Action will complement and support implementation of several EU instruments and strategies that aim to protect the environment and enhance industrial safety. In particular, Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Seveso-III Directive), although with more stringent requirements, is closely aligned with the Industrial Accidents Convention and provides obligations to prevent, prepare for and respond to industrial accidents involving hazardous substances. Beyond EU Member States, many EU candidate and partner countries have committed to implementing this and other relevant EU instruments through their EU Association Agreements. The Action is also fully aligned with the European Green Deal, which sets a "zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment", stating, among others, the explicit objective to "improve industrial accident prevention". As such, the EU Action Plan: Towards a Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil supports Members States in assessing the risks of Seveso establishments and consequences of industrial accidents. The Action will contribute to actions EU Member States and the European Commission committed to carrying out to reduce pollution and prevent environmental degradation. More globally, the EU recognizes that climate change and environmental challenges are a significant threat multiplier and a source of instability. The EU has committed to working with all partners to increase climate and environmental resilience to prevent these global challenges from becoming sources of conflict. It is worth noting examples of how the aftermath of the 2020 Beirut port explosion contributed to political instability in Lebanon and how the Russian Federation's shelling has hit industrial sites in Ukraine, causing environmental disasters and exacerbating human suffering. The European Green deal also entails a chemicals strategy for sustainability and to protect citizens and the environment against hazardous substances, and a climate change strategy with adaptation components on the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for civil protection systems. The activities of the Action will contribute to the achievement of many goals contained in European Commission priorities for 2019-2024[19] and EU instruments and strategies both within the EU context and globally.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

The European Green Deal (EGD), aims at transforming the European economy and society to put it on a more sustainable path. I

The EGD 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." The EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy complements the EGD and defines targets and actions to put EU biodiversity on track to recovery, while providing many benefits to society. The ambition of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and its consistent implementation effort have enabled the EU to show leadership by example in the negotiations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
The drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss are global and are not limited by national borders, we need to act together. The EU intends to use its expertise and financial resources to support its neighbours and partners in the sustainable transition. The EU will continue build alliances with partner countries and organisation and continue to lead international efforts.

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in December 2022 at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) was a monumental step which took nearly four years of negotiations with more than 194 parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). It sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in our societies' relationship with biodiversity by 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled. It is built around a theory of change which recognises that urgent policy action is required globally, regionally and nationally to achieve sustainable development so that the drivers of undesirable change that have exacerbated biodiversity loss will be reduced and/or reversed to allow for the recovery of all ecosystems.

Compared to the previous biodiversity targets (Aichi 2011-2020), the GBF is fully transformative and enshrines the principle of intergenerational equity, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and calls for a human rights-based implementation of the framework. With the GBF´s Target 23 on gender equality, the CBD is the very first environmental treaty to have a specific target on women´s rights. It embeds a gender-responsive approach in which all women and girls have equal opportunities and capacity to contribute to the GBF´s objectives. This

[19] https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024_en

includes recognition of their equal rights and access to land and natural resources, and their full, equal, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, involvement, decision-making and policy-making related to biodiversity. In addition, CBD COP 15 adopted a new 2030 Gender Action Plan that serves as a guide for realising the goal of gender equality in biodiversity policy. The GBF also states the full recognition and respect for the rights to land, resources and territories of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), their culture and traditional knowledge, and guarantees for the protection of environmental and human rights defenders (EHRDs). The GBF Target 22 calls exclusively to ensure the full protection of EHRDs[20].

The GBF includes a monitoring framework designed to ensure that implementation of the GBF is results-oriented and can be monitored in a transparent manner. This is one of the major outcomes of the CBD COP15, as it will make Parties accountable for the implementation of the GBF. The Monitoring Framework currently contains 27 Headline Indicators to be used by Parties in their reporting. Some of them need further development and some are missing. A follow-up process, which foresees the submission of comments on the indicators (COP item 9B) and the organization of ad hoc technical expert meetings (AHTEG) on indicators to complete the framework has been adopted at the same time. The EU intends to actively participate in the work of the AHTEG. The Monitoring Framework makes explicit reference to official statistics by noting "*the value of aligning national monitoring with the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) statistical standard in order to mainstream biodiversity in national statistical systems and to strengthen national monitoring systems and reporting as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances*". It also "*invite[s] the [UN] Statistical Commission… to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework*". The adoption of the GBF therefore presents a clear recognition of the role of official statistics and national statistical offices in developing and implementing the framework, as well as the role of statistical standards such as the SEEA in providing high-quality, relevant and coherent data. It provides a unique opportunity to ensure that global monitoring efforts are underpinned by official statistics.

SEEA is the accepted international statistical standard for natural capital accounting, providing a framework for organizing and presenting statistics on nature and its relationship with the economy. The SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, adopted in 2021, is part of the standard and supports integrating biodiversity considerations into measures of national performance and policy appraisal and is integral to inclusive wealth accounts. According to the 2021 global assessment on the implementation of the SEEA, more than 90 countries compile SEEA accounts with 35 countries compiling ecosystem accounts. Scaling up implementation in countries is an important goal of the statistical community, which adopted an implementation strategy for SEEA Ecosystem Accounting in 2022.

SEEA can support mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant strategies and plans, including systematically integrating biodiversity into programmes, policies and projects, promoting inter-ministerial coordination and setting time-bound targets. Using the SEEA as the underlying statistical framework for some of the indicators for the Goals and Targets in the GBF will result in indicators that are consistent across domains and comparable across countries and over time, strengthening monitoring progress towards achieving the Goals and Targets. Specifically, SEEA is recognized as the methodological basis for headline indicators of Goals A and B and Targets 9, 11, 14 and 19, noting that further development is required in order to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework.

This part of the action aims to contribute to the diffusion of the use of the SEEA for the development of methodologies for and testing of indicators for the GBF monitoring framework. The action will support the further development of the metadata, pilot testing of the proposed indicators in selected countries, and assessing the potential of emerging global datasets as back-stopping. The timing of this activity would be aligned with the timeframe of the AHTEG of the GBF monitoring framework, which is established at COP15 to advise on further operationalization of the GBF monitoring framework and presents a unique opportunity to ensure that nationally owned official statistics on the environment and economy can contribute to national and global monitoring efforts. The action will also be aligned with the work of the Global Biodiversity Knowledge Support Service[21], which was also established at COP15.

[20] IUCN (2023). *Human rights and gender in the new Global Biodiversity Framework*. IUCN – The National Committee of the Netherlands. Accessed through https://www.iucn.nl/en/blog/human-rights-and-gender-in-the-new-global-biodiversity-framework/

[21] https://gkssb.chm-cbd.net/global-knowledge-support-service-biodiversity

According the following selection criteria:

i) regional representation (e.g. one country from Latin America and the Caribbean, one from Africa, one from of Asia-Pacific region)
ii) status of compilation of SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (as evidenced by the annual Global Assessment conducted by the UNSD)
iii) status of interinstitutional collaboration within the country (e.g. collaboration between National Statistics Office, Biodiversity Institute and/or mapping agency
iv) status of the national statistical system to support the project work

The three countries selected are: Colombia; Indonesia and South Africa.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme.

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). Numerous population groups (rights holders) living in vulnerable situation and socio-economic difficulties are disproportionately impacted by the decline of ecosystem services, this accounts specifically for women and girls in all their diversity. 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 population groups (rights holders) living in vulnerable situations and socio-economic difficulties is crucial, given that exposure to chemicals also depends on geographical location, behavioral patterns, age, nutritional, disability and refugee status, and other factors.[22]

Global environment policies have intensified in the last few years to respond to the world's evolving challenges and recognize healthy environment as a basic human right. 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)[23], co-financed by the EU, was launched right before the Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (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

[22] 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
[23] https://www.unep.org/resources/making-peace-nature

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, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and several partner countries 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.
Plastics are one of the most commonplace materials on the planet. In 2015, global plastics production reached 407 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa).[24] If growth persists at similar rates, plastics production is expected to reach 1 600 Mtpa in 2050.[25] 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.[26]

The OECD's *Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060*[27] 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 loops[28] 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[29].

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

[24] USGS (2016), *Aluminum Legislation and Government Programs*, https://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/aluminum/myb1-2015-alumi.pdf (accessed on 28 March 2018).
[25] Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), *Rethinking the future of plastics and catalysing action*, https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/NPEC-Hybrid_English_22-11-17_Digital.pdf.
[26] 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.
[27] OECD (2019), Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060: Economic Drivers and Environmental Consequences, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264307452-en
[28] Previous OECD work has conceptualised the circular economy along these three elements, see (McCarthy, Dellink and Bibas, 2018[4])
[29] Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), *Rethinking the future of plastics and catalysing action*, https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/NPEC-Hybrid_English_22-11-17_Digital.pdf.

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[30] 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, as well as decisions from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions CoP, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), as well as the adoption of the Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will also frame the cooperation between the EU and those MEAs in 2023 and beyond. However, delegates from developing countries face serious challenges in multilateral environmental negotiations. In addition, partner countries, in particular developing countries need encouragement to introduce measures to protect the environment, enhance co-benefits, and to implement sustainable development patterns. Furthermore, representation of women in all their diversity in key decision-making processes and implementation of gender action plans are still insufficient. Therefore, gender equality in decision-making and support for gender-transformative environmental negotiations and implementation of the process is a cross-cutting issue in the project.

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

The 2020 Beirut port explosion demonstrated how severe the impacts of industrial accidents involving hazardous substances can be. On 4 August 2020, 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate stored in a warehouse caught fire and exploded, leading to: about 200 deaths, 6,500 injuries and 300,000 people being displaced; severe damage to critical infrastructure (e.g. the port and healthcare facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic); and political instability and threatened democracy in Lebanon. Such accidents have occurred around the globe: AZF Fertilizer Factory explosion (France, 2001); São Francisco do Sul smoking incidents (Brazil, 2013); West Fertilizer Company explosion (United States, 2013); Angellala Creek truck explosion, Australia (2014); Tianjin port explosion (China, 2015); and Bata explosions (Equatorial Guinea, 2021). Too many industrial accidents involving hazardous substances have occurred and resulted in environmental pollution, biodiversity loss, human death and illness, displacement and economic loss.

The international community cannot afford any more deaths, injuries, displaced communities, biodiversity loss, harmed ecosystems, economic loss or destroyed infrastructure, cities or homes, especially since instruments, standards and mechanisms exist to support countries in safely and securely managing risks of hazardous substances and preventing and mitigating related industrial accidents.

The Action seeks to address the following main problems:

[30] UNEP (2019) https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/policy-and-governance/global-chemicals-outlook

- Much knowledge and information exist on the risks of managing hazardous substances and related industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response. These have been produced within different areas of governance, including on *inter alia* chemicals management, industrial safety, environmental protection, disaster risk reduction, emergency response, occupational safety and health, security, customs, border control, trade and transport. However, throughout their lifecycles, hazardous substances move across these areas and are covered under various legal and policy regimes at the international, regional and national levels. This creates a silo and capacity problem whereby knowledge and information are not always exchanged across all relevant legal and policy areas and coordination may be lacking across authorities within and beyond countries. This Action will bring together actors from relevant areas and countries worldwide to better understand: knowledge and information on risks; how laws, policies and governance structures address prevalent risks and are interlinked; and how to establish governance to fortify safety and security in managing hazardous substances.
- Many international, regional and national legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms have been developed to address these risks and industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response. While these are not lacking, many countries have reported issues in the implementation of legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms, including due to a lack of capacity and coordination, insufficient inspections and inadequate training of inspectors, operators and workers. This Action will ensure greater awareness of existing instruments and tools and how to implement them, including through information provided by the secretariats of international organizations, and of lessons learned and good practices by national authorities. It will also entail trainings at the global seminars with the aim to fill gaps that are identified in the global analysis; the analysis will cover how international instruments, standards and mechanisms apply to the safe and secure management of hazardous substances, and good practices and gaps in their implementation at the national level, as identified in the data from the 2021 UN/OECD global survey and dedicated follow-up with countries. Enhancing the knowledge, skills and capacities of authorities to implement these will strengthen environmental policy as well as governance structures and their coordination with, among others, disaster risk reduction policy and governance.
- Rules and procedures on land-use planning, siting and risk assessment commonly apply to the development of new hazardous installations, modification of existing ones and/or when a hazardous installation is near a populated area or particular ecosystems. Some recurring elements of these include: zoning to keep sufficient distance for the protection of communities, ecosystems, national borders and transboundary watercourses; ensuring safety measures are taken and the nearby public (including in neighbouring countries in case of accidents with transboundary effects) is notified and informed of the risks and what to do in case of an industrial accident; distancing from hazardous substances from explosives or other types of hazardous substances; and assessing security risks. However, authorities need to ensure such rules and procedures are complied with to protect the public, the environment, economies and democracy, which can be severely damaged as a result of major industrial accidents. Authorities also need to ensure these rules and procedures integrate added risks from climate change, natural disasters, cybersecurity, public health emergencies and war, given the prevalence of these and the fact that they heighten risks of industrial accidents. This Action will share knowledge on land-use planning, public participation, siting and risk assessment components for safely and securely managing hazardous substances, as well as on accident notification.
- Several international, regional and national legal and policy instruments have requirements regarding the public that could be affected by an industrial accident, whether located within or across national borders or along a transboundary watercourse that could be polluted. Common rules include to ensure the public has information regarding the hazardous facilities and what to do in case of an accident, and to ensure the public has opportunities to participate in environmental decision-making regarding hazardous facilities, such as their location and contingency plans. As seen in many major industrial accidents, the public often lacks information on exposure to risks and what to do to protect their health and the environment in case of an industrial accident. The consequences of industrial accidents impact different demographics in different ways -regardless gender, age, disability or refugee status. Tailored response measures need to be in place to ensure the protection of all. This Action will engage civil society actors (incl. women´s human rights organisations and organisations representing persons with disabilities – DPOs, or ethnic minorities), academia and the public to raise awareness of risks and to review public information and public participation requirements related to the management of hazardous substances and industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response. This will include advocacy for such procedures to be applied and to take into consideration the above-mentioned rights holders in all their diversity living both in the country of

origin and any other potentially affected country/-ies.

The UN Secretary-General recently launched the Early Warnings for All initiative due to the world's increasingly frequent number of disasters. This initiative, calling for all people to be covered by an early warning system by 2027, extends to technological disasters caused by industrial accidents and natural hazard-triggered technological disasters (or "Natech" events). Early warning systems need to be developed and existing ones need to be maintained and enhanced to ensure preparedness and response to industrial accidents and to natural hazards that can trigger technological disasters. Furthermore, industrial accident alert systems provide a means for countries to inform international, regional and national authorities and the public when an industrial accident occurs; depending on the system, these can be used to trigger contingency plans, mutual assistance and humanitarian aid. However, existing alert systems, including the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System, need to be upgraded to be more user-friendly and protected against present day cybersecurity threats. Also, more countries need to make use such systems to notify accidents and request mutual assistance. This Action will showcase experience of using early warning and industrial accident alert systems at the global online seminar and include an upgrade of the UNECE IAN System. This will ensure countries are aware of the importance of these systems and well prepared to use them, including through regular tests.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Biodiversity policy both at the national and international level needs strengthened national statistical systems to enable evidence-based policy making. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPS) would be well-served by clear quantitative reporting of progress. The implementation of Nature Based Solutions requires spatial data for planning purposes, to assess where interventions provide most benefits. Internationally, the use of standardised indicators facilitates making cross-country comparisons and monitoring progress towards the agreed goals and targets.
The Monitoring Framework of the GBF calls "to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework" and "to facilitate the development of guidance .. capacity-building ..in compiling and using the headline indicators .. in .. national reports, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other national planning processes"
The SEEA is recognized as the methodological basis for headline indicators of Goals A and B and Targets 9, 11, 14 and 19, but further development is required (for instance indicators B1.,9, 11, 19 – in part all have an asterisk (*) indicating that "agreed up to date, methodology does not exist for this indicator").
Regarding A1. Various initiatives are undertaken towards developing global data sets for measuring ecosystem extent; there is a need to facilitate collaboration and alignment in order to agree on methods so that a fit for purpose global data set that can be used for countries as fall-back option. This action directly addresses those identified needs by developing internationally agreed methodologies.
The action also addresses another major challenge which consists in a lack of capacity as well as national data in various countries for monitoring and reporting. The action will develop a web-based application, using global data sets as fall-back option, that will make it easier for countries to report on headline indicators. In addition, regional training events will be organized to provide further technical support.

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

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme.

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

- Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its Science-Policy Interface (SPI), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
- 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), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Women´s Empowerment (UN Women), 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 (incl. women-led enterprises), including smallholder, medium and large farmers (incl. women farmers), business associations and the financial sector;

Major Groups and Stakeholders, civil society organisations including women's human rights organisations and organisations representing rights of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities (DPOs), trade unions, NGOs, academics

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

This part of the action will seek to benefit all Member States of the United Nations, in particular through the engaged organizations or specialized agencies and their programmes, and of the EU and OECD. More specifically, the activities will engage the national competent authorities and focal points registered with the partner organizations' and the network of chemical experts from the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence risk mitigation initiative; these span a range of legal, policy and governance areas as mentioned above. These counterparts will be invited to contribute with good practices and lessons learned to the online information repository. The online information repository and video, once produced, will then be promoted to them. They will also be invited to participate in the two global seminars and their trainings.
Further to regional, national and local authorities generally, the Action will also specifically benefit inspectors, operators of hazardous installations, civil society actors, academia and the public. UNECE and the partner organizations will promote the online information repository and video to its networks of these stakeholders. They will also engage with these stakeholders in lead up to the global seminars, inviting key representatives from these groups to give presentations and share their knowledge and experiences. For example, this could include civil society actors presenting on their contributions to procedures that enable the public, which could be affected by an industrial accident, to have access to information on the risks and what to do in case of an accident, and/or national authorities to present on their procedures that enable the public to participate in decision-making on the siting of facilities housing hazardous substances or contingency planning in case of an industrial accident. The importance of public information and participation procedures, including as required under international legal and policy instruments, will be emphasized in the online information repository and video and at to the seminars.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Main stakeholders of the actions at the national level are the producers of statistics and indicators such as the national statistical office, the biodiversity institute, the mapping agency etc., as well as main users of indicators such as line ministries, research agencies, but also the public at large. At the international level key stakeholders include the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Statistical Commission and the UNCEEA (UN Committee of Experts in Environmental-Economic Accounting), as well as global data providers such as the European Space Agency.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme.

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.

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 1.1. 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 1.2: 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-transformative 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 outputs are:

- Output 1.1.1: 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;
- Output 1.1.2: 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;
- Output 1.1.3: Development and implementation of gender-transformative 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)
- Output 1.1.4: 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.
- Output 1.2.1: 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.
- Output 1.2.2: Enhanced capacity of policymakers in the public and private sectors to consider the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making (human rights, gender and disability inclusive approach to health and environment).
- Output 1.2.3: 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.
- Output 1.2.4: 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.
- Output 1.2.5: Awareness raised among public and private sectors and increased support for the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns.
- Output 1.2.6: 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.
- Output 1.2.7: Governments adopt gender-transformative environmental approaches. They design gender responsive environmental policies and or specific gender action plan in the environment field, based on notably availability of sex-disaggregated data. More women in all their diversity participate in international environment processes (both in official Delegations and from the civil society).

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

The Overall Objective of this Action is to strengthen the safety and security of managing hazardous substances in and across countries and to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide.

The Specific Objectives of this Action are to:
SO 2.1. Promote and improve the knowledge to implement international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms that support countries in addressing the risks of hazardous substances and related accident prevention, preparedness and response;
SO 2.2 Strengthen capacity for environmental policy and governance for the management of hazardous substances at the national, regional, and international levels through multilateral activities; and
SO 2.3. Increase knowledge of authorities, operators and the public, including people of all genders and ages and persons with disabilities, on ways to enhance preparedness for and response to industrial accidents.

The Outputs to be delivered by this Action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

- Output 2.1.1 Awareness raised of the risks in the storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances and how environmental factors, such as climate change, natural disasters, public health emergencies and war, could trigger or aggravate them;
- Output 2.1.2 Knowledge and skills of authorities to use the respective international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms to address these risks and mitigate industrial accidents within their countries increased;
- Output 2.2.1 Capacity, governance and legislative gaps in the safe and secure management of hazardous substances and the prevention of, preparedness for and response to related accidents identified;
- Output 2.2.2 Countries worldwide committed to enhancing environmental governance through information and knowledge exchanges;
- Output 2.3.1 Readiness of authorities and operators to use the IAN System through registered Points of Contact to mitigate the effects of industrial accidents should they occur increased, and UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System enhanced into a more user-friendly and secure system; and
- Output 2.3.2 Awareness of early warning systems and industrial accident alert systems and how to use them improved.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

The Overall Objective of this action is to support the development and implementation of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

The Specific(s) Objective(s) of this action are to:
SO 3.1. Develop agreed meta-data for the indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework based on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting statistical standard (specifically A1, B1. Target 9,11,14, 19) endorsed by the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group
SO 3.3. Support implementation of indicator reporting by countries.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

- Output 3.1.1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1) Agreed methodology (aggregation, measures. different tiers), endorsed by SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Technical Committee
- Output 1.1.2 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1) Testing of proposed indicators in selected countries
- Output 3.2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2) Development of tools for indicator compilation and global databases that can be used as fall-back (Tier 1) option
- Output 3.2.2 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2) Enhanced capacity of countries in indicator reporting.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme.

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.

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

Activities relating to Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.2.1:

- Survey analysis and development of an online information repository (2024): UNECE will conduct this activity in cooperation with the European Commission, EIB, ILO, IMO, OECD, UNDRR, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, UNEP (in cooperation with the SAICM secretariat), WHO and possibly other partners to be confirmed. It will first conduct an analysis of:
  (1) international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms that apply to the safe and secure management of hazardous substances and related industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response (i.e. UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, GHS, TDG, ILO Chemicals Convention, ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, IMO International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response and WHO International Health Regulations, among others);
  (2) interlinkages and gaps between these instruments, standards and mechanisms; and
  (3) national good practices and lessons learned in their implementation across the globe and capacity, governance and legislative gaps at the national level (i.e. using data from the 2021 UN/OECD survey and following up with national authorities as needed). The findings of this analysis will be presented in the form of a report, including with recommendations of minimum safety and security requirements, and an online information repository on UNECE's website. The online information repository will provide summarized information on the instruments, standards and mechanisms, including links where possible, their interlinkages and gaps and national good practices and lessons learned. It will also list the key findings in the report, which will be made fully accessible once published. As such, the online information repository will serve as a public and global hub for national authorities (including inspectors), operators and more to access gain knowledge and upgrade their skills.
- Production of a video (2024): UNECE, in cooperation with EIB and the Zoi Environment Network, will develop a video to raise awareness of the urgent need to strengthen the safety and security of managing hazardous substances and to train viewers on how to address related risks. Partner organizations engaged in this part of the Action will be associated to review the draft version of the video and provide comments. The video will respond to needs arising from the abovementioned analysis and the 2021 UN/OECD seminar and provide training for competent authorities (including inspectors), workers and firefighters. It will use the 2020 Beirut port explosion and other major accidents to draw attention to risks of hazardous substances at different points in their lifecycles and to the urgency of ensuring industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response measures are taken. It will also share information on international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms that provide such measures. UNECE will work on developing the content, including in consultation with technical and communications experts, and Zoi will prepare the graphical design and animation. As per its pledge at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, EIB has committed to funding Zoi's production costs of this video through a consultancy.

Activities relating to Outputs 2.2.2, 2.3.1 and 2.3.2:

- Global online seminar on early warning and industrial accident alert systems (2025): UNECE, building on its cooperation with WMO, UNDRR and river basin commissions globally, will organize a seminar to exchange knowledge on and experience in developing and using a variety of early warning and alert systems from around the world and on the mitigation of industrial accidents. International and regional organizations, river basin commissions, national authorities, civil society organizations and scholars will be invited to share their perspectives on existing systems and the importance of using them for protecting the environment, human lives and health and economies. As such, the seminar will also highlight instances where the lack of such systems has led to severe consequences (e.g. pollution of the Odra river in Poland/Germany in summer 2022) and the importance of environmental liability, including the polluter pays principle, and pollution remediation. The upgraded UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System (see below activity) will also be presented. In closely cooperating with the global UNECE Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, the seminar will investigate these systems from expert perspectives in relation to accidental water pollution and river basin commissions, with respect to national data collected under the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions and SDG indicator 6.5.2 on the "proportion of transboundary basin areas [within a country] with an operational arrangement for water cooperation". It will also follow up on the UN Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All Initiative, which calls for every person on Earth to be protected by early warning systems by the end of 2027.
- Global (worldwide) hybrid seminar on strengthening the safety and security of managing hazardous substances and preventing and mitigating industrial accidents (2026): UNECE, in cooperation with European Commission, ILO, IMO, OECD, UNDRR, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, UNEP (including the SAICM secretariat), WHO and possibly other partners to be confirmed, will hold this seminar back-to-back with the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention to ensure high-level participation and multilateral discussions on environmental policy and governance. It will bring together participants from all the activities of this Action and more, including from the partner organizations, authorities worldwide, hazardous installation operators, academia, civil society actors and the public. The event will build awareness of the risks of hazardous substances and on how to address them through the implementation of existing legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms, as well as existing guidance and recommendations, such as the UNECE Guidance on Land-Use Planning, the Siting of Hazardous Activities and related Safety Aspects co-developed under the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. The content and agenda of the seminar will be developed around needs to be identified in the: key findings of the analysis (see above activity), particularly regarding capacity, governance and legislative gaps; outcomes of the 2025 seminar on early warning and industrial accident alert systems; conclusions and recommendations from of the 2021 UN/OECD seminar; follow-up with countries around the world that have reported on historic and recent industrial accidents involving hazardous substances through the 2021 survey; and additional good practices collected worldwide. Some needs already identified are to strengthen capacities of authorities, enhance coordination across different areas of governance, ensure risks are considered in land-use planning and siting of hazardous installation, conduct more trainings, including to ensure sufficient inspections, showcase more good practices and lessons learned and engage other countries which did not participate in the 2021 UN/OECD seminar. The seminar will also promote the video and information repository (see above activities) as resources for enhancing industrial safety and environmental protection and conclude with recommendations.

Activities relating to Outputs 2.3.1 and 2.3.2:
Upgrade of the IAN System (2024-2025): UNECE will work with its IT department and IT consultants to upgrade the IAN System by fixing existing glitches, enhancing it to comply with current cybersecurity requirements and making it more user-friendly. UNECE will also promote the upgraded IAN System at the 2025 global online seminar on early warning and industrial accident alert systems, including by sharing knowledge on the upgrade, its use under the Industrial Accidents Convention and experience from the UNECE region on accident notification and mutual assistance with countries worldwide, and through outreach to expand the number of countries that use the IAN System. UNECE will organize a test of the upgraded IAN System in 2025 to ensure countries are prepared to use it.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Activities relating to Output 3.1.1:
-Organization of 2 expert meetings: 1 expert meeting focused on Goal A, Indicator Natural Extent of Ecosystems; 1 expert meeting focused on Goal B, Services provided by ecosystems (and Targets 9,11). The representatives of The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group of the GBF monitoring framework will be invited to participate as well.
-Provide secretariat support to SEEA EA Technical Committee.

Activities relating to Output 3.1.2:
-Provide technical assistance through virtual meetings to support country testing. The testing will be conducted in at least 3 countries. These countries will be selected based on the following criteria: i) regional representation (e.g. one country from Latin America and the Caribbean, one from Africa, one from of Asia-Pacific region) ii) status of compilation of SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (as evidenced by the annual Global Assessment conducted by the UNSD[31]) iii) status of interinstitutional collaboration within the country (e.g. collaboration between National Statistics Office, Biodiversity Institute and/or mapping agency.

Activities relating to Output 3.2.1:
- The development of global datasets for the main GBF headline indicators (A.1 and B.1) that countries can use as fall-back option in the absence of national data. Hereto, the ARIES (Artificial Intelligence for Environment and Sustainability) for SEEA application will be further developed for this purpose, by implementing the agreed upon methodology for the selected indicators. ARIES is a knowledge platform develop and maintained by the Basque Center for Climate Change in Bilbao (BC3), which will be subcontracted for this activity. The platform is an integrated open-source modelling platform for environmental sustainability, where researchers from across the globe can add their own data and models to web-based repositories[32]. The ARIES for SEEA Explorer application allows users anywhere in the world to produce rapid, standardized, scalable and customizable ecosystem accounts for their area of interest that are consistent with the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting framework. Functionality also includes the derivation of indicators based on the underlying accounts.

Activities relating to Output 3.2.2:
-Awareness raising / regional training workshops. It is proposed to organize 3 virtual workshop series to support implementation of the agreed indicators, with in different languages. Each series may consist of several virtual session that will explain the indicator, methodology, data sources and ARIES for SEEA fall-back option.
-Organisation of a SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Forum (in New York) to facilitate sharing of country experiences in ecosystem accounting in general and indicator compilation in particular.
-Drafting of guidance notes for each of the headline indicators explaining key data sources, methodology, applications.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme
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 middle income and developing countries in improving environmental protection and combating climate change while contributing to poverty alleviation.
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 middle income and 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).

[31] https://seea.un.org/content/global-assessment-environmental-economic-accounting
[32] https://seea.un.org/content/aries-for-seea

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

This part of the action will mainstream environmental protection and climate change within the context of industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response worldwide. In line with the Action's main objective, strengthened safety and security of managing hazardous substances in and across countries will contribute to the prevention of industrial accidents and mitigation of their effects should they occur. The aim of this objective is to increase protection of people and the environment, including both the natural and built environments, and biodiverse areas that could be affected by an industrial accident. The effects that industrial accidents have on the environment and biodiversity will be regularly highlighted within the activities when discussing the risks of managing hazardous substances and the general purposes of international instruments, standards, and mechanisms.

Furthermore, to fully address the risks of managing hazardous substances, the adverse climate change impacts and natural hazards need to be taken into account. Droughts, earthquakes, floods, forest fires, heavy precipitation, extreme storms, raising temperatures and sea level rise, among other hazards, have directly triggered technological disasters (or "Natech" events). They have also complicated the management of hazardous substances, whereas in some cases they require additional measures to be taken to ensure the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents. For example, early warning systems and accident alert systems may not be operational due to power outages from winds or flooding when an industrial accident occurs. The Action will thus raise awareness of how climate change poses heightened risks and how climate change adaptation plans need to extend to industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

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.

The biodiversity and climate change agendas are closely intertwined; climate change directly impacts biodiversity, at the same time environmental protection and restoring ecosystems are amongst the key solutions to mitigation and adaptation. While this action directly supports biodiversity, there are therefore important co-benefits in mainstreaming the fight against climate change.

For mainstreaming it is important that statistics / indicators in support of evidenced based policy making are produced regularly. This action directly targets strengthening national statistical systems (through providing capacity development) to enable the sustained production of indicators over time. Specifically, the indicators that are being supported include the measurement of a climate regulation services provided by ecosystems, which will be directly relevant in mainstreaming climate change considerations into policy making.

Outcomes of the SEA screening

N.A.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

N.A.

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening

N.A.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies:

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme

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.

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 and support specific gender action plan. Additionally, it addresses the fight against child labour and decent work,

especially regarding groups living in vulnerable situations, due to their regional location, their age or their disability according with the guiding principles on Business and Human rights and ILO Conventions.

This part of the action contributes to the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III, 2021-2025)[33], more specifically with the thematic area '*Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and digital transformation.'*, objective 1 "*Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues*".

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

Mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of women and girls will be targeted as a significant objective. In sending correspondence on the project and invitations to specific activities, the UNECE and the partner organizations will encourage that the national authorities have representatives of all genders and that people of all genders, especially women and girls, participate and contribute to the Action's activities. UNECE will also provide information at the seminars on gender differentiated elements to consider in preparedness and response measures, since gender demographics can be affected by the consequences of industrial accidents in different ways.

The secretariat to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention mainstreams gender equality in its projects and activities, including through the implementation of its mandates from: the Convention's Long-term Strategy, which stipulates Parties will ensure inclusive public information and participation by implementing Article 9 of the Convention with the involvement of the population, regardless of age and gender, including to enhance awareness of the existing risks and of the emergency and response procedures needed in order to contain damage to human health in the event of an accident; the UNECE Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

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.

Human Rights

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme.

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, etc.) 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. Participation and supports from civil society organisations will contribute to promote rights to live in a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and influence decision making process on environmental chemical and waste management policies and actions from the perspective of the rights holders (population groups) living in vulnerable situations, incl. socio-economic difficulties. Where applicable, the Action will apply the five working principles of the human rights-based approach, throughout its implementation.

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

This part of the action will mainstream human rights. First, in strengthening safety and security of managing hazardous substances and preventing and mitigating industrial accidents, the Action will support countries in upholding the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. As recognized by the UN General Assembly in Resolution 76/300 in July 2022, the pollution of water, unsound management of chemicals and waste and resulting biodiversity loss interfere with the public's enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and have

[33] JOIN(2020) 17 final of 25.11.2020

negative implications for the enjoyment of all human rights. The activities of this Action will better equip national authorities to prevent, prepare for and respond to industrial accidents that could cause widespread pollution to the natural and built environments and threaten this right.

Furthermore, this part of the action will support countries in upholding public rights to access information and to participate in environmental decision-making, including as per obligations under Article 9 of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) and several other instruments, standards and mechanisms that will be covered. The online information repository, video and seminars will draw awareness to the importance of informing and engaging the public, as per the obligations and recommendations provided in the covered tools. UNECE and the partner organizations will also promote the online information repository and video to civil society groups, academia and members of the public, and aim to engage them to participate in the seminars.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
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 part of the 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.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. Nonetheless, the Action will ensure that the rights of women and men with disabilities are going to be respected, and the envisaged interventions are disability responsive and inclusive. The Action is going to invite the organisations representing persons with disabilities when possible and it will make sure that (at least physical) accessibility of planned events is guaranteed.

One out of the 3 components of this Action has, however, a mainstreaming element:

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide
As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this specific component is labelled as D1. This implies that mainstreaming the inclusion of persons with disabilities will be targeted as a significant objective. In sending correspondence on the project and invitations for specific activities, UNECE and its partner organizations will encourage that organizations representing persons with disabilities and, where feasible, such persons themselves, participate in the Action's activities. UNECE will also provide information to the authorities on the important role that persons with disabilities have in developing preparedness and response measures (e.g. contingency plans), since they are in some cases affected by the consequences of industrial accidents in particular ways and may require specific response measures to ensure their safety. It will aim to identify good practices from the sides of national authorities and civil society organization, including women´s rights organisations and those representing persons with disabilities DPOs on related public information and participation and showcase these in the online information repository and at the global seminars. In doing so, the secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention will liaise with the secretariat to the Aarhus Convention. UNECE mainstreams the inclusion of persons with disabilities in its work, including through its commitment to implement the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.

Reduction of inequalities

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme.
This component addresses also participation of Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Islands and Developing States (SIDS) to Conference of Parties of some MEAs. Activities also enable capacity building of SIDS and LDCs authorities for the MEAs' implementation and preparations to negotications.

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide
There is significant evidence to suggest that the poorest people who often live near industrial areas are more likely to be affected by industrial accidents. This is an important issue that requires attention and action from policymakers and industry leaders to ensure that all communities are protected from environmental hazards. This Action will also contribute in this respect to reducing inequalities regarding the workers and people living the vicinity of industrial installations.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
The 2030 Agenda is a holistic and integrated policy agenda that aspires to leave no one behind. This agenda is well supported by the SEEA as information system that brings together economic, environmental and social information into a comprehensive integrated statistical framework, allowing to assess trade-offs and synergies across the various dimensions of development, captured in key summary indicators for policy.

The operationalization of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework is a contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the same time, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the achievement of sustainable development in all its three dimensions (environmental, social and economic) is necessary to create the conditions necessary to fulfil the goals and targets of the KMGBF. It will place biodiversity, its conservation, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, at the heart of the sustainable development agenda, recognizing the important linkages between biological and cultural diversity. Thus this action addresses interlinkages between SDGs and promotes integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way.

Democracy

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide
This component will mainstream environmental democracy by covering public information and public participation in decision-making regarding hazardous facilities. Many international instruments, such as the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Aarhus Conventions and its Protocol on PRTRs, and regional instruments have obligations for Parties to ensure that adequate information is given to the public in the areas capable of being affected by an industrial accident and that the public has an opportunity to participate in relevant procedures with the aim of making known its views and concerns on prevention and preparedness measures. Such provisions will be highlighted in the activities of the Action and civil society actors will be invited to speak about this topic.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme.
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.

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide
This component will mainstream conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience when covering the management of hazardous substances and related accident prevention, preparedness and response. As seen in past accidents, industrial accidents and the resulting technological disasters can escalate conflicts within and across countries. For

example, the 2020 Beirut port explosion contributed to political and economic instability in Lebanon. Also, several facilities with hazardous substances have been targeted by terrorists or militia groups in different regions around the world and by countries in acts of war. The resulting technological disasters can have severe consequences for human populations, the environment and economies. Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience will thus be mainstreamed in the Action's activities.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

This part of the action will mainstream disaster risk reduction. The UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention has become, in line with its long-term strategy, a legal instrument for risk reduction under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; implementing activities in line with this Convention will inherently contribute to disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework. More specifically, this Action will provide national authorities with a basis to reduce the risks of technological disasters and to address the risks of natural hazards triggering technological disasters (Natech). UNECE has expertise in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and, through its Assistance and Cooperation Programme projects, assisting countries in integrating technological disaster risks into their national disaster risk reduction strategies, policies and plans under the Sendai Framework, supported by a strong ongoing partnership with UNDRR. UNECE and UNDRR cooperate through a joint annual workplan. Overall, UNECE actively contributes to implementing the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

Other considerations if relevant

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

Cybersecurity

The UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System update will include enhancing the security of the digital system with safeguards against cyber threats. As technology has advanced since the IAN System was initially developed, this part of the update is crucial to ensure its integrity and proper functioning. The component's activities will enhance the IAN System's security vis-à-vis potential cyber threats as well as overall improve its functionality, by fixing recurrent bugs and glitches, and its user-friendliness.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme				
Planning, processes and systems	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	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

	fail to mobilize own resources and resources from EU geographic programmes to properly address the environmental dimension of their economic development.			environment dimension.
People and the organisation	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 re-structuring 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.
Planning, processes and systems	The very wide range of possibilities for cooperation with UNEP could lead to dispersed efforts and ineffective impact of EU investment.	L	L	This is expected to be mitigated by better-defined policy priorities to be elaborated by the Commission-UNEP High Level Meeting and regular thematic dialogues.
Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide				
Processes	Lack of engagement of UN member States globally	L	H	Building on previous global activities and global networks of contacts, including participants of the 2021 global UN/OECD online seminar, global contacts of the UNECE Water Convention, Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs and of the TDG and GHS Subcommittees of UNECE Sustainable Transport Division and other partner organizations cooperating

				under this Action (ILO, IMO, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, UNDRR, WHO and WMO). Regular engagement and communication with all partner organisations in order to ensure the engagement of their membership, their distribution of information, including through correspondence, direct contacts at different levels, and global outreach (by UNECE and/or partner organisations), as relevant.
Processes	Lack of engagement of partner organizations	L	M	Engage in regular dialogue and meetings with the partner organisations during the three years to build consensus on the content of the Action and how their instruments, standards and mechanisms are presented and featured in activities. Re-activate the former "Organising Committee", aiming for larger membership with additional organisations engaged. Encourage the partners to make substantive contributions to selected activities. Review how the partner organizations' instruments, standards and mechanism contribute to risk management of hazardous substances (in different circumstances) and industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response.
Health	Disruptions to travel and in-person participation due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other public health emergencies	L	L	Adjust activities to have online / remote components as needed.
Digital connectivity	Reduced use of the IAN System by UNECE Member States	M	L	The regular use of the IAN system is ensured through biennial tests of the System (lead by UNECE secretariat) and ad hoc subregional tests (led by Member States). Biennial IAN System consultations with Points of Contact serve to discuss the results of the tests and ensure the System's use and relevance to Member States and the possibility of its use for industrial accident notification or mutual assistance requests. Conducting the envisaged upgrade of the system early on during the Action will be important

				to ensure its continued use, despite existing glitches. In addition, the global online seminar (2025) will provide a moment to showcase the upgraded system and engage Parties to present on the tests conducted.
Risks related to gender blind interventions of the Action	A gender-blind, neutral or negative context and problem analysis could reinforce existing gender inequalities and non-realization of human rights in the sector, and hinder the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the Action	**Medium**	**Medium**	Use gender-sensitive monitoring, use of sex-disaggregated data, and gender-sensitive indicators. Gender mainstreaming is applied in all phases of the support services.
Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)				
1.3 Risks related to external partners (Member States, EU institutions, National Agencies, Outsourcing, Consultants, media, etc.)	Lack of consensus on meta-data by experts	L	H	Organize an additional expert meeting
2.3 Risks related to financial processes and budget allocation	Long duration required for contracting BC3	M	L	Prepare contractual arrangements in advance with UN administration

Lessons Learnt

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme

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.

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 the Commission, 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:

- 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);
- 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;
- 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.

The above benefits have also been echoed by the EU Evaluation of the Cooperation with the United Nations in External Action (2014-2020). The Evaluation refers to the strategic framework agreement as one of the leading examples with capacity to link the EC-UNEP Memorandum of Understanding to programmatic approaches.

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 project on Multilateral Environmental Agreements implemented by UNEP and FAO.

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

This component builds on the outcomes and lessons learned from past UNECE events and activities:

First, it builds on the organization of the global *UN/OECD online seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion: Lessons learned, experiences and good practices in managing risks of ammonium nitrate storage, handling and transport in port areas, preventing accidents and mitigating their consequences* (online, 14 December 2021) and the related global survey. The seminar was a success with over 500 participants, including from 48 countries of all UN regions, 15 international organizations, 5 NGOs, 32 universities or national research institutes and numerous industry associations or companies. It entailed four sessions: (1) expert presentations on the properties and risks of ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate-based fertilizers; (2) international organization presentations on international legal and policy instruments available to address those risks; (3) national and industry association presentations on good practices and lessons learned from past industrial accidents; and (4) a panel discussion on regulations for managing the risks of ammonium nitrate.

Some of the key lessons learned from the seminar are as follows:

- More awareness is needed on the risks of storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances and how to address them. As the seminar focused on ammonium nitrate specifically, it was concluded that many of the risks, instruments and good practices/lessons learned that were covered are generally applicable to other hazardous substances. Members of the seminar's Organizing Committee, namely UNECE, ILO, IMO, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, UNDRR and OECD, as well as its Expert Advisory Group, agreed that the seminar could act as a case study of ammonium nitrate and follow-up work could cover hazardous

substances more broadly.

- More engagement with other countries that did not participate in the seminar and survey is needed. As the needs identified are prevalent around the world, it's important for this Action to have the widest reach globally.
- The capacities of authorities need to be strengthened to address risks of storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances and related accident prevention, preparedness and response.
- Coordination across different areas of governance (e.g. environment, disaster risk reduction, occupational safety and health, transport, etc.) needs to be enhanced. The seminar highlighted that different areas of governance oversee the implementation of different instruments, standards and mechanisms, and have different understandings, procedures, approaches and even terminology. It's important for different authorities to understand interlinkages and gaps and to better cooperate with one another for effective implementation and when hazardous substances are moved across the areas of governance within their lifecycles (e.g. transport authorities versus inspectors for storage sites).
- The seminar concluded a general need for more training of national and local authorities (including inspectors), operators and first responders and fire fighters in order to ensure proper risk management and effective use of mechanisms/systems for preparedness and response.
- International organizations need to further promote and facilitate knowledge sharing across countries and communities, including by showcasing more good practices and lessons learned. While the seminar covered many of these for ammonium nitrate specifically, hazardous substances more broadly need to be addressed.

The component was therefore designed on the basis of these learnings and more. As such, the scope of the Action is broadened to cover hazardous substances more generally and to engage more UN member States globally. It is also broadened to have an even larger global reach, aiming to involve also countries and regions which did not participate in the 2021 UN/OECD seminar. UNECE will expand on existing broad partnerships to engage other organizations that have expressed interest in the Action's activities, including the European Commission, European Investment Bank, UNEP (in cooperation with the SAICM secretariat), WHO and other UN Regional Commissions. The part on early warning will seek to expand the existing partnership with WMO and UNDRR and build on the moment of the UN Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All Initiative. The Action will provide opportunities for exchange and training across more areas of policy and governance, from the management of hazardous substance to early warning and industrial accident alert systems.

Moreover, the survey conducted in advance of the 2021 UN/OECD seminar was highly valuable for the Organizing Committee to make decisions on the seminar's programme and conclusions. Several of the partners distributed the survey to their networks. 101 submissions were received in English, Arabic, Russian, French and Spanish from all UN regions, including from various types of national and local authorities (i.e. customs, civil protection, defence, development, economic affairs, emergency situations, environment, fire, food, health, labour, maritime, port, trade and transport) and academia and industry. This resulted in 628 pages of usable data. The main lesson learned was that more awareness needs to be drawn to the existing instruments, standards and guidelines, including at the policy level and for inspectors, hazardous installation operators, first responders and the public, and implementation and compliance need to be strengthened. Past accidents motivate countries to take immediate and long-term actions, so highlighting these within activities is key for country engagement. For this Action, the survey data will be revisited for more in depth analysis and have a dedicated follow-up with countries will be conducted to further understand the gaps and present them and approaches to resolving them at the global hybrid seminar.

Additional lessons learned are from an online consultation and connectivity test of the IAN System. These are conducted regularly every two years under the auspices of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention. The System serves to provide countries with a means to notify other countries in case of an industrial accident and to request mutual assistance. It is however in need of an update for three reasons. Firstly, its security features need to be updated in order to continue to meet current cybersecurity standards and requirements. Countries need to be sure that the IAN System use can be fully trusted and that their inputs and engagement into it for international cooperation are not compromised. Secondly, the IAN System needs to be upgraded for user-friendliness. And finally, the existing technical glitches hindering the proper use of the System need to be fixed. The Points of Contact under the System, i.e. those who are appointed by the registered UNECE Member States to coordinate its use, have recommended that the IAN System be upgraded to increase its efficiency and operability. The Action will seek to address these needs to ensure the IAN System can continue to serve as an important tool for emergency preparedness and response, in particular in a transboundary context.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Some topics in ecosystem accounting have been proven to be contentious, especially monetary valuation of ecosystem services. There are however possibilities for aggregation (which pertains to Goal B) that use the physical data only.

There are well-established coordination structures within the SEEA community, in particular the Technical Committee of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, that are used to collaborating on statistical standardisation processes.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

Component 1: Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme

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 middle income/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.

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

The underlying intervention logic for this Action responds to the need to strengthen the safety and security of managing hazardous substances in and across countries and to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide. To address this need, the Action has three main components:

First, this component will promote and improve the knowledge to implement international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms that support countries in addressing the risks of hazardous substances and related accident prevention, preparedness and response. The development and promotion of the online information repository and video will provide countries with information on past industrial accidents, actions to prevention them and mitigate their effects and a set of international instruments and tools. These activities will raise awareness of the risks in the storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances and how environmental factors, such as climate change impacts, natural hazards, public health emergencies and war, could trigger or aggravate related industrial accidents. They will also increase the knowledge and skills for authorities to address these risks within their countries using respective international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms.

Second, the component 2 will strengthen capacity for environmental policy and governance for the management of hazardous substances at the national, regional, and international levels through multilateral activities. The preparation of the capacity, governance and legislative gap analysis on the management of hazardous substances and prevention of, preparedness for and response to related accidents will provide a basis for designing the content of and selecting the speakers at the global seminars. The analysis will use the data collected from the global survey conducted in advance of the 2021 UN/OECD seminar and, as needed, follow-up with countries and experts. It will entail reviewing laws and policies, standards and mechanisms to identify capacity gaps in addressing risks, governance issues and implementation of instruments. On this basis, the global hybrid seminar will cover different aspects of safety and security in managing hazardous substance and related accident prevention, preparedness and response. It will be designed in a manner to actively engage national authorities worldwide to address the gaps, including through information and knowledge exchanges (e.g. panels and presentations), and to strengthen environmental governance through training components.

Third, this component will increase knowledge of authorities (including inspectors), operators and the public, including women and men, girls and boys in all their diversity regardless age, disability or refugee status on ways to enhance preparedness for and response to industrial accidents. The global online seminar will train these stakeholders with information and knowledge on and examples of early warning systems and industrial accident

alert systems from around the world, including how to register with and use these, and mitigation components. Among others, the updated IAN System will be presented and the experiences of countries using the IAN System and the alert systems of river basin commissions (e.g. ICPDR's PIACs) will be shared as examples. Presentations will also cover environmental liability, including on the application of the polluter pays principle, and pollution remediation. These activities will increase the readiness of authorities, operators and the public to prevent industrial accidents and mitigate their effects if they occur. Furthermore, the IAN System upgrade will motivate more countries to (re-)register with and use the System in case of an industrial accident.

Component 3: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that support is needed for the further development and implementation of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This objective consists of two sub-objectives: the development of agreed meta-data for the SEEA based indicators (A1., B1., 9, 11,14, 19) and the increased implementation of indicator reporting by parties to the CBD.

In order to have the meta-data for the indicators adopted by the Ad-Hoc Technical Experts Committee (in 2024), methodology for the indicators needs to be further developed and tested. Hereto 2 expert meetings will be undertaken: the first expert meeting will focus on Goal A (indicator A1.) on extent / condition of natural ecosystems, the second on Goal B (indicator B.1 on ecosystem services (with directly related targets 9, and 11). In parallel, country testing of the proposed indicators in at least 3 countries (Colombia, Indonesia and South Africa) will be undertaken to confirm they can also be readily compiled. Country pilot testing is a commonly applied approach in developing statistical standards and indicator methodology.

In the second year of this part of the action, the focus will shift towards the implementation of indicator reporting across CBD parties. Hereto, concise guidance notes for each of the indicators will be developed as well as supporting computational tools in the form of the ARIES (Artificial Intelligence for Environment & Sustainability) for SEEA platform. The platform will also be used to develop global datasets of these indicators based on global data sources. The platform already allows to compile 4 ecosystem services anywhere on earth, which will be expanded with additional ecosystem services based on the indicator methodology. Such global datasets will provide important back-stopping for countries that may not have sufficient capacity or national data sources. The main activity will consist in organizing a series of virtual training workshops (conducted in different languages) with a regional approach (respectively Asia, Africa, Latin-America) to build capacity in a large number of countries on reporting. A global (hybrid) event will also organized in the second year enabling peer to peer learning and sharing of best practices of countries.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.
On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.
The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	**Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)**	**Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)**	**Baselines (values and years)**	**Targets (values and years)**	**Sources of data**	**Assumptions**
Impact component 1	1.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.	1.Status of the implementation of relevant SDGs jointly selected by the Commission and UNEP. 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 broad and inclusive partnerships	1.To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	1.To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	UN Reports on sustainable development, including in the framework of the High Level Political Forum UNEP annual report Year Book/ MEAs COP/MOPs decisions and reports.	*Not applicable*

Impact component 2	2.To strengthen the safety and security of managing hazardous substances in and across countries and to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide	2.1 - Conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by the participants of the 2025 global online seminar and published 2.2 - Conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by the participants of the 2026 global hybrid seminar, and presented at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-14) to the Industrial Accidents Convention and published	2.1 - 0 published reports 2.2 - 0 published reports	2.1 - One published report by 2025 2.2 - One published report by 2026	2.1 - UNECE reports of the activities; seminar presentations 2.2 - UNECE reports of the activities; findings of analysis; seminar presentations	
Impact component 3	3.To support the development and implementation of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	3.1 Number of countries using the monitoring framework in their NBSAPs	3. One	3. One	3. One - CBD secretariat	

Outcomes component 1	1.1 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 sustainable management of natural resources. 1.2 Enhanced capacities of countries to develop evidence-based policies and decisions, ownership and implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the MEAs are strengthened through the provision of advisory services, information and knowledge products, tools, methodologies and guidelines	1.1 and 1.2 Outcome indicators to be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application (depending the adoption of individual projects)	1.1 and 1.2 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	1.1 and 1.2 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	1.1 and 1.2 MEAs COP/MOPsdecisions and reports 1.1 and 1.2 UNEP annual report Year Book	1.1 and 1.2 Middle income and developing countries translate policies and laws into practice 1.1 and 1.2 No major crisis affects global efforts towards sustainable development

Outcomes component 2	2.1 Promoted and improved the knowledge to implement international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms that support countries in addressing the risks of hazardous substances and related accident prevention, preparedness and response 2.2 Strengthened capacity for environmental policy and governance for the management of hazardous substances at the national, regional, and international levels through multilateral activities 2.3 - Increased knowledge of authorities, operators and the public, including women and men, girls and boys in all their diversity regardless age, disability or refugee status , on ways to enhance preparedness for and response to industrial accidents	2.1 Percentage of survey participants showing improved knowledge and understanding disaggregated by sex, age, disability and refugee status 2.2.1 Capacity, governance and legislative gap analysis conducted 2.2.2 Number of countries that participate in the 2026 global hybrid seminar 2.2.3 Number of participants trained on international instruments, standards and mechanisms, and related national good practices and lessons learned, at the 2026 global hybrid seminar disaggregated by sex, age, disability and refugee status 2.3.1 Number of participants trained on early warning and industrial accident alert systems and mitigation at the 2025 global online seminar disaggregated by sex, age, disability and refugee status	2.1 - 0 % 2.2.1 - 0 analysis 2.2.2 - 0 countries 2.2.3 - 0 individuals 2.3.1 - 0 individuals	2.1 - 70% of participants of the global hybrid seminar show improved knowledge and understanding by 2026 2.2.1 - 1 analysis conducted by 2025 2.2.2 - 70 countries by 2026 2.2.3 - 400 individuals representing authorities, operators, civil society, academia, the public by 2026 2.3.1 - 250 individuals representing authorities, operators, civil society, academia, the public by 2025	2.1 - Participation in events and measurement of knowledge following through a survey 2.2.1 - International instruments, standards and mechanisms, reports and analysis on them and their implementation, existing data from the survey conducted for the 2021 UN/OECD seminar and follow-up exchanges with countries 2.2.2 - List of participants from the seminar 2.2.3 - Seminar report, list of participants and evaluations of the seminar 2.3.1 - Seminar report, list of participants and evaluations of the seminar	2.1 Countries will be made aware of environmental data and knowledge. The target will be increased based on the partners' commitments to promote the video and online information and the seminar to their constituents and networks. 2.2 National authorities will enhance their capacity for strengthening environmental policy and governance through exchanges of knowledge and information and skills training. The analysis will provide a basis for designing the 2026 global hybrid seminar and final recommendations. Data provided by partner organizations and countries 2.3 National authorities, operators, civil society actors, scholars and the public will become equipped with knowledge and skills to better prepare for and respond to industrial accidents and to mitigate their effects

Outcomes component 3	3.1 Adopted meta-data of headline indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that are based on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting statistical standard 3.2 Increased implementation of indicator reporting by countries.	3.1. Number of indicator meta-data sheets endorsed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (for indicators: A1., B1., 9, 11, 14, 19) 3.2. Number of countries reporting SEEA based GBF indicators	3.1 and 3.2 One	3.1 and 3.3 One	3.1 and 3.2 CBD Secretariat	

Outputs relating to component 1	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. 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. 1.3 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). 1.4 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.	1.1 to 1.10 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application (depending on the individual projects selected); To reflect the gender dimension, one of the future indicators to be considered, in line with the GAPIII. Extent to which declarations and policy documents on climate change and environment at multilateral level contain specific actions to include women and girls in all their diversity in the decision-making processes	1.1 to 1.10 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	1.1 to 1.10 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	1.1 to 1.10 Annual reports from individual projects and from UNEP	1.1 to 1.10 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application

Outputs relating to component 1 (continued)	1.5 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. 1.6 Enhanced capacity of policymakers in the public and private sectors to consider the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making. 1.7 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. 1.8 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. 1.9 Raised awareness among public and private sectors and increased support for the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns. 1.10 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.	1.1 to 1.10 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application (depending on the individual projects selected); To reflect the gender dimension, one of the future indicators to be considered, in line with the GAPIII. Extent to which declarations and policy documents on climate change and environment at multilateral level contain specific actions to include women and girls in all their diversity in the decision-making processes	1.1 to 1.10 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	1.1 to 1.10 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	1.1 to 1.10 Annual reports from individual projects and from UNEP	1.1 to 1.10 To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application

Outputs relating to component 2	2.1.1 - Awareness raised of the risks in the storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances and how environmental factors, such as climate change, natural disasters, public health emergencies and war, could trigger or aggravate them 2.1.2 - Knowledge and skills of authorities to use the respective international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms to address these risks and mitigate industrial accidents within their countries increased 2.2.1 - Capacity, governance and legislative gaps in the safe and secure management of hazardous substances and the prevention of, preparedness for and response to related accidents identified 2.2.2 - Countries worldwide committed to enhancing environmental governance through information and knowledge exchanges 2.3.1 - Readiness of authorities and operators to use the IAN System through registered Points of Contact to mitigate the effects of industrial accidents should they occur increased, and UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System enhanced into a more user-friendly and secure system	2.1.1.1 - Published and promoted online information repository with inputs from partner organizations and national authorities 2.1.1.2 - Published and promoted video prepared with communications specialists on these risks and the international instruments, standards and mechanisms available to address them 2.1.2 - Number of international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms showcased in the online information repository, video and 2025 and 2026 global seminars 2.2.1 - Published report of the analysis with recommendations for countries to address them, such as highlighting the minimum safety and security requirements 2.2.2 - Number of national authorities that provide information for case studies on gaps, lessons learned and good practices for the online information repository 2.3.1.1 - UNECE IAN System updated 2.3.1.2 - UNECE IAN System tested by countries 2.3.1.3 - Number of countries acknowledging receipt of the accident report following the UNECE IAN System test notification	2.1.1.1 - 0 online information repository 2.1.1.2 - 0 video 2.1.2 - 0 instruments, standards and mechanisms 2.2.1 - 0 report 2.2.2 - 0 national authorities 2.3.1.1 - 0 updates 2.3.1.2 - 0 tests 2.3.1.3 - 60% of registered countries in 2022	2.1.1.1 - 1 online information repository by 2024 2.1.1.2 - 1 video by 2024 2.1.2 - 10 instruments, standards and mechanisms by 2026 2.2.1 - 1 report published by 2025 2.2.2 - national authorities from 20 countries by 2024 2.3.1.1 - 1 update by 2025 2.3.1.2 - 2 tests held by 2026 2.3.1.3 - 70% of registered countries by 2026	2.1.1.1 Publications on the instruments, standards and mechanisms; data from the survey conducted for the 2021 UN/OECD seminar and follow-up exchanges with countries; outcomes and recommendations from the 2021 UN/OECD seminar; reports and journal articles on the risks of hazardous substance and past accidents 2.1.2 Exchanges with partners on their instruments, standards and mechanisms; reports and journal articles 2.2.1 - Findings from the above analysis, documentation of environmental data from countries; data from the survey conducted for the 2021 UN/OECD seminar and follow-up exchanges with countries; outcomes and recommendations from the 2021 UN/OECD seminar 2.2.2 - Existing survey data and follow-up with countries; online information repository 2.3.1.1 - Updated IAN System 2.3.1.2 - UNECE reports of the test results 2.3.1.3 - Reports of the biennial UNECE IAN System connectivity tests	2.1.1.1 Online information repository will serve as a global information / knowledge hub for addressing risks of hazardous substances and preventing / mitigating industrial accidents. Video will raise global awareness of risks and provide training to address them. 2.1.2 National authorities will be equipped with a set of instruments to address risks within their countries 2.2.1 The report will provide new knowledge of how instruments, standards and mechanisms address risks during the lifecycle of hazardous substances, related capacity, governance and legislative gaps and recommendations to overcome those 2.2.2 National authorities will actively participate in the activity, including by sharing lessons learned, good practices and experiences from past industrial and showing leadership in addressing risks 2.3.1 Countries, operators and the public will be better equipped to take preventive, preparedness and response measures against industrial accidents; more countries will register and actively use the IAN System following its upgrade

	2.3.2 - Awareness of early warning systems and industrial accident alert systems and how to use them improved	2.3.2.1 - Number of early warning systems and industrial accident alert systems presented to countries at the 2025 global online seminar	2.3.2.1 - 0 systems	2.3.2.1 - 8 systems discussed by 2025	2.3.2.1 - Agenda and report of the seminars	2.3.2 Global seminar participants will be exposed to information and knowledge on and examples of early warning and industrial accident alert systems and how to use them
Outputs relating to component 3	3.1.1 Endorsed methodology by SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Technical Committee (e.g. aggregation, measures. different tiers) 3.1.2 Tested proposed indicators in selected countries (Colombia, Indonesia and South Africa) 3.2.1 Global databases developed for the indicators 3.2.2 Enhanced capacity of countries in indicator compilation	3.1.1 Number of methodologies endorsed (for indicators A1., B1., 9, 11,14, 19) as a result of expert meetings 3.1.2 Number of countries participated in indicator testing 3.2.1 Number of global data sets developed 3.2.2.1 Number of virtual training events organized 3.2.2.2 Number of knowledge based products developed 3.2.2.3 Person days of technical assistance provided	3.1.1 One 3.1.1 Two 3.1.2.1 Zero 3.1.2.2 Zero 3.2.2.1 0 3.2.2.2 0 3.2.2.3 0	3.1.1 One 3.1.1 Two 3.1.2.1 Three Countries 3.2.2.1.1 Two 3.2.2.1 3 series of training events targeting Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean 3.2.2.2 4 guidance notes 3.2.2.3 100 days	3.1.1. One 3.1.1 Two 3.1.2.1 Progress report 3.2.1.1 ARIES for SEEA application 3.2.2.1 UNSD website 3.2.2.2 UNSD website 3.2.2.3 Progress report	

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 in duly justified cases.

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 measures[34].

4.3.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

Component 1 - Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme

This part of the action may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations 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 European Green Deal.

The envisaged entity (UNEP) 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.

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With this component, UN Environment Programme 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 justified.

Component 2: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

This part of the action may be implemented in indirect management with UNECE and it will contribute in achieving the specific objectives:

[34] www.sanctionsmap.eu.

1. Promote and improve the knowledge to implement international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms that support countries in addressing the risks of hazardous substances and related accident prevention, preparedness and response;
2. Strengthen capacity for environmental policy and governance for the management of hazardous substances at the national, regional, and international levels through multilateral activities; and
3. Increase knowledge of authorities, operators and the public, including people of all genders and ages and persons with disabilities, on ways to enhance preparedness for and response to industrial accidents.

The envisaged entity (UNECE) has been selected using the following criteria:

UNECE, hosting the secretariat of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, has a high degree with specialization with technical competence on industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response. Under the Convention, the Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) system is established and tested, once every two years, among all nominated Points of Contacts under the Convention. It is important that this system is functioning and up-to-do to enable effective accident notifications and mutual assistance requests. The Action addresses this need, among other items, by including an upgrade of the system, requested by the Points of Contacts, at numerous previous consultations. In addition, UNECE hosts the Water Convention and services, under the lead of the Industrial Accidents Convention, both Conventions' Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, thus having here also a high degree of specialization and technical competence in the area of preventing accidental water pollution. The Group has previously exchanged views on accidental water pollution early warning and alert systems and will be engaged in the organization of a global online seminar on that matter under the Action. Here, UNECE will also draw on its global network under the Water Convention with global membership, and the information collection under its auspices, as well as its established partnerships with river basin commissions (the International Commission of the Protection of the Danube River ICPDR being an observer of the JEG), and with other UN organizations engaged in this subject matter, incl. UNDRR and WMO. With UNDRR, UNECE enjoys a particular close relationship through a joint workplan.

Furthermore, UNECE has led the conduct in 2021 of a global online UN/OECD seminar in follow-up to the Beirut port explosion, in partnership with other international organizations, including UNDRR, ILO, IMO, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit and the OECD. Within UNECE itself, the secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention hosted by the Environment Division closely cooperated with the secretariat to the Sub-committees of experts on the Globally Harmonized System on the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG), with specialized expertise on the properties of hazardous substances and their storage, handling and transport. Beyond the above-mentioned partnerships, UNECE is also actively engaged in the Inter-agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents – an active network with other organization, incl. WHO and a member of the Inter-agency coordination group on Sound Chemicals Management, with membership of UNEP SAICM, among others. All of the above-mentioned organizations will be engaged in the co-organization of the global hybrid seminar envisaged under the Action

Component 3 - Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

This part of the action may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), specifically its Statistics Division (UNSD). UNDESA is part of the UN Secretariat with as core functions providing intergovernmental support, analysis and capacity-building. UNSD works to advance the global statistical system by compiling and global statistical information, develop standards for statistical activities, and support countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems. A key role of UNSD is the support of the United Nations Statistical Commission, a functional commission of the ECOSOC, as the apex entity of the global statistical system.

The envisaged entity (UNDESA/SD) has been selected using the following criteria:

UNDESA/SD provides the secretariat of the UNCEEA (the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting) which functions as an umbrella body to provide overall vision, coordination, prioritization and direction in the field of environmental-economic accounting. The UN Statistical Commission in its 54th session report[35] (in 2023) *"Welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montréal Global*

[35] https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_54/documents/Report-on-the-54th-session-draft-E.pdf

Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework, welcomed the acknowledgement by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the value of aligning national monitoring with the SEEA [System of Environmental Economic Accounting] in order to mainstream biodiversity, called on national statistical offices to engage with their biodiversity focal points, and called on the Committee to actively engage in the CBD process and facilitate further collaboration between the statistical and the biodiversity communities to strengthen national monitoring systems and for monitoring and reporting on the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework." The UNDESA/SD therefore has a clear mandate to work on the objectives of the action i.e. to support the development and implementation of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Secondly, the UNSD has strong technical competence in the SEEA with an ongoing capacity building program with countries all over the world. As the host of the Sustainable Development Goals database and website, it also has extensive expertise in supporting indicators development.

Finally, the UNSD, has the convening power to bring together experts and member countries to collaborate on statistical standardisation through the organisation of expert groups, technical meetings, workshops or global for a.

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4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If the envisaged 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 call for proposals, unless the conditions set out in article 195 of the Financial Regulation apply.

4.4 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).

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	**EU contribution (amount in EUR)** **2023**	**Third-party contribution, in currency identified (indicative)**
Component 1 - Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme	12,800,000	1,912,643
Indirect management with UNEP - cf. section 4.3.1		
Component 2 - Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide	500,000	85,000

Indirect management with UN - cf. section 4.3.1		
Component 3 - Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	1,000,000	0
Indirect management with UN - cf. section 4.3.1		
Evaluation and **Audit** For all components the budget for the evaluation will be part of the total costs and contracted by the Beneficiaries.		
Totals	14,300,000	1,997,643

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Component 1-Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme

A Programme Steering Committee (PSC) co-chaired between the European Commission and UNEP Corporate Services Division will meet on a yearly basis. All UNEP Divisions and sub-programme coordinators and Secretariats of MEAs also attend the meetings of the PSC. The Commission is taking the final decision on the projects to be funded from the EU contribution, among projects proposals submitted by UNEP and Secretariats of MEAs.

UNEP Corporate Services Division (hosting the Programme Management Unit headed by the Coordinator of the programme) will work closely with Commission services and liaise regularly with UNEP Divisions and with the secretariats of MEAs.

When activities are organised locally, the implementing entity will liaise with the respective EU Delegations.

Component 2-Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat of the Industrial Accidents Convention will be responsible for the implementation of the proposed Action. For different activities, it will work in close cooperation with the UNECE secretariats to the Water Convention, Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs, GHS and TDG, as well as the European Commission, EIB, ILO, IMO, OECD, UNDRR, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, and build on existing partnerships with UNEP (including the SAICM secretariat), WHO and WMO. It will also invite the other UN Regional Commissions to cooperate on certain activities. UNECE will facilitate implementation arrangements, including administration and facilitation of the activities and consultants and oversee the budget.

A Programme Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the European Commission will meet at least on a yearly basis. EU Delegations will be informed in advance of any national activities taking place locally.

Component 3-Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

A Programme Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the European Commission will meet at least on a yearly basis. EU Delegations will be informed in advance of any national activities taking place locally. A policy steering and monitoring of the action will be ensured by various Commission services.

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 and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

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.

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).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Component 1-Improving International Environmental Governance with the Programme Cooperation agreement - UN Environment Programme

The role of the UNEP Programme Management Unit is pivotal to oversee the implementation of individual projects and to report. Each individual project has its annual reporting discussed at the level of each projects. In addition, the UNEP PMU submit a consolidated reporting annually.

Component 2-Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat of the Industrial Accidents Convention will be responsible for the monitoring and reporting of the indicators within the proposed action. This will involve the following tasks:

- Annual and final reports: UNECE will prepare annual reports for the first and second years to monitor and report on the activities completed those years and a final report at the end of the third, final year to report on the entire action across all three years. The reports will provide summaries of the activities, the actors that participated in them and the resulting documents (e.g. conclusions and recommendations of seminars).
- Surveys: UNECE will also prepare, administer and analyse two surveys with the global seminar participants following each seminar. The surveys will aim to evaluate the seminars (i.e. content, exchanges of information and knowledge and trainings), as well as the use of the online information repository, video and early warning and industrial accident alert systems, including the upgraded IAN System. They will also test the knowledge gained by participation in the activities. UNECE will present the survey analyses in annexes to the respective annual and final reports.

UNECE will submit the three reports and survey analyses to the EU. These will enable monitoring of all indicators.

Component 3-Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

A combination of data sources will be used for the monitoring and reporting.

For activity and output indicators (listed below), data will be collected directly based on minutes of expert meetings, registration of meetings / webinars, time-keeping of project staff, as well information made available on the UNSD website (e.g. on knowledge products developed). The registration of meeting participants before meetings will be used to obtain information about the types of stakeholders registering (and participating) in training events.

1.1.1 Number of methodologies endorsed (for indicators A1., B1., 9, 11,14, 19) as a result of expert meetings
1.2.1 Number of countries participated in indicator testing
2.1.1 Number of global data sets developed
2.2.1 Number of virtual training events organized
2.2.2 Number of knowledge based products developed
2.2.3 Person days of technical assistance provided

Data on outcome indicators (listed below), will be collected through the CBD Secretariat (based on NBSAPs reports that are submitted). In addition, the ARIES for SEEA platform is able to generate regular activity

reports that can monitor the use of the platform (by countries) to generate indicators derived from global data sets.

1. Adopted meta-data of headline indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that are based on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting statistical standard
2. Increased implementation of indicator reporting by countries.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants by the implementing partner. All evaluations will be carried out under a gender equality, disability and Human Rights sensitive approach in line with the Gap III guidelines.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that measures need to be included to ensure continuity of action developed through the project.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

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.

In line with the 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions", 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 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;
Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);
Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

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 chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.
The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
☐	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
☐	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Contract level		
☒	Single Contract 1	Individual commitment for an amendment to the contribution agreement with UNEP
☒	Single Contract 2	Individual commitment for a contribution agreement with UNECE
☒	Single Contract 3	Individual commitment for a contribution agreement with UN Secretariat (Department of Economic and Social Affairs – UN DESA)
	(…)	
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
☐	Group of contracts 1	