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**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
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2/7. Sound management of chemicals and waste

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste, and previous decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on that matter,

Recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is one of the essential requirements for sustainable development and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents an opportunity to ensure increased political attention and effective implementation of actions in this area,

Welcoming the work undertaken in follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, notably its annex entitled “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”,

Welcoming also the cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and waste cluster, and recognizing the need to continue such cooperation and coordination in order to make full use of relevant experience and expertise in areas of mutual interest, with a view to fostering policy coherence and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels, as appropriate,

Recognizing that waste management is a serious challenge and a priority, as well as the need to undertake further focused and coordinated actions to assist developing countries in their efforts to ensure the environmentally sound management of waste,

Recalling the mandate and the focal role of the International Environmental Technology Centre, including on environmentally sound technologies, for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on waste management, as reflected in Governing Council decisions 16/34 and 27/12,

Welcoming the Global Waste Management Outlook as a tool for providing an overview analysis and recommendations for policies and actions for environmentally sound management of waste and mindful that, according to the *Outlook*, at least three billion people worldwide still lack access to controlled waste disposal facilities and two billion people worldwide still lack access to solid waste collection,

Highlighting the importance of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal in the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other waste, including the ongoing work on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes,

Highlighting also the role of the regional centres of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in assisting the regions in the implementation of these conventions, and in other relevant work relating to the multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster in the countries they serve,

Deeply concerned about the health and environmental impact of waste lead-acid battery recycling, in particular through activities in the informal sector in developing countries, and the lack of adequate infrastructure needed to recycle the rapidly growing number of waste lead-acid batteries in an environmentally sound manner in certain developing countries, and noting the need to further reduce releases, emissions and exposures and to increase workers' safety and protection, including through the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,

Recognizing the significant risks to human health and the environment arising from releases of lead and cadmium into the environment,

Recalling the request to the Executive Director, in Governing Council decision 27/12, section I, paragraph 4, to continue work on the Global Chemicals Outlook, particularly in areas where data were found to be lacking or inadequate, to assess progress towards the 2020 goal,

Welcoming the outcomes of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session, including the adoption of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue and of highly hazardous pesticides as a new issue of concern for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste,¹

I

Meeting the 2020 goal and beyond

1. *Welcomes* the decisions taken at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which include overall orientation and guidance as key elements to facilitate urgently needed coordinated actions by all stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels to meet the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management objective and the 2020 goal as defined in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and as incorporated in target 12.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Calls on* Member States that have not yet done so to reflect the sound management of chemicals and waste as a priority in their national sustainable development planning processes, poverty eradication strategies and relevant sector policies, taking into account their development and capabilities and the national ownership of sustainable development strategies;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to, within available resources:

(a) Coordinate with relevant international stakeholders and support Member States, as appropriate, on policies and actions for the sound management of chemicals and waste for the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(b) Work with other United Nations agencies on the development of relevant data, including supplementary indicators, in support of the indicators developed under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission;

(c) Issue, by the end of 2017, an overview for policymakers on policies and actions that could be adopted, as appropriate given national needs and priorities, in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

4. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention, and in due course that of the Minamata Convention, to consider opportunities to report in a coordinated manner on how the respective conventions contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030, taking into account applicable procedures;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director, given the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme as a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, to proactively participate in and support the intersessional process agreed

¹ UNEP/EA.2/6/Add.3.

on at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to prepare recommendations on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, inter alia, to foster the active involvement of relevant industry stakeholders;

6. *Invites* the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and those Environment Management Group members that have not yet done so to take measures to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, including actions planned within their own mandates to meet the 2020 goal and the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to support countries, particularly developing countries, in the implementation of the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste, keeping in view national circumstances and noting the importance of the approach for the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular capacity-building activities to mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste;

8. *Calls on* the private sector, in accordance with this integrated approach, to play a significant role in financing, as well as to build the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises for the sound management of chemicals and waste within relevant industrial sectors;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to consider how successive updates of the Global Waste Management Outlook and the Global Chemicals Outlook could be accorded in timing and approach;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with Governments, with the private sector, including industry, and with other non-governmental organizations to continue work on lead and cadmium;

II Waste

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure full integration of environmentally sound management of waste, including the prevention of waste generation, in the programme-wide strategies and policies of the United Nations Environment Programme;

12. *Invites* all stakeholders engaged in environmentally sound management of waste to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in order to implement the necessary policies, incentives and procedures to promote waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery, and to enhance co-benefits for climate, health and oceans;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen and enhance the work of the International Environmental Technology Centre as a global centre of excellence for waste management, particularly work on a knowledge platform which can be accessed by all stakeholders, capacity-building for national- and municipal-level waste policies, strategies and action plans, as well as in delivering that assistance through partnerships, notably the Global Partnership on Waste Management, in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations agencies and regional centres and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Director to issue an update of the Global Waste Management Outlook by the end of 2019, including a summary for policymakers, and ensure complementarity with the update of the Global Chemicals Outlook as appropriate and with the ongoing process for regional waste management outlooks, with a view to addressing, inter alia:

(a) The interlinkages between chemicals and waste, as requested in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, paragraph 28;

(b) Options for implementation of actions to achieve relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Strategies for increasing waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery leading to overall reduction of final disposal, including landfilling, and ensuring that such strategies address the need to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner, particularly so that harmful substances are properly separated from waste streams and adequately treated, and producers are encouraged to put more sustainable products on the market and support recovery and recycling schemes;

15. *Invites* Governments, relevant intergovernmental organizations, Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders to support the Global Partnership on Waste Management and, where

appropriate, to take the lead in partnerships in core areas of environmentally sound management of waste;

16. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt control measures such as the following:

(a) To develop national strategies inter alia by encouraging extended producer responsibility to collect waste lead-acid batteries, so as to ensure that those batteries are recycled in an environmentally sound manner;

(b) To adequately address releases, emissions and exposures from waste lead-acid batteries, including recycling, through, for example, appropriate standards and criteria;

17. *Invites* Member States, in particular Member States in which a small amount of waste from waste lead-acid batteries is generated, to cooperate in collecting such batteries for processing at regional or national recycling facilities in accordance with relevant provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and relevant regional conventions, such as the Bamako Convention;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to strengthen and enhance national, subregional and regional implementation of environmentally sound management of waste, notably by:

(a) Preparing regional waste management outlooks to enhance the availability of information, including on environmentally sound technologies related to integrated waste management, through the Knowledge Hub, as appropriate, and taking into account the Global Waste Management Outlook;

(b) Facilitating capacity-building and technology demonstration projects, in particular in urban areas, to promote the “3R” (reduce, reuse and recycle) approach by waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery;

(c) Providing access to available information on best available techniques and technologies for the environmentally sound management of waste;

(d) Developing work in the field of technology assessment through tools such as a methodology for sustainability assessment of technologies to enable decision makers to select the most appropriate technologies for achieving the environmentally sound management of waste;

(e) Providing capacity-building, with a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement regulatory frameworks and programmes for the recycling of waste lead-acid batteries, including the role of the private sector therein;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of the elaboration under and application of existing instruments to further environmentally sound management of waste, including waste prevention, minimization and recovery, to address the underlying causes of marine litter;

III Chemicals

20. *Invites* countries, international organizations and other interested stakeholders, including the private sector, having relevant experience with the issue of sustainable chemistry to submit to the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat, by 30 June 2017, best practices, indicating how these may enhance the sound management of chemicals, inter alia through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and chemicals- and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements;

21. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report in the first quarter of 2018 analysing the information received to assist the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in considering the opportunities presented by sustainable chemistry, including linkages to sustainable consumption and production policies, and the possibilities that sustainable chemistry may offer of contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda;

22. *Welcomes* ratifications to date of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and invites other States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the necessary domestic measures to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify,

accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to:

(a) Submit by the end of 2018 an update of the Global Chemicals Outlook, including a summary for policymakers, addressing inter alia the work carried out particularly in relation to lacking or inadequate data to assess progress towards the 2020 goal, the development of non-chemical alternatives, and the linkages between chemicals and waste, in coordination with the Global Waste Management Outlook, and providing scientific input and options for implementation of actions to reach relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets up to and beyond 2020;

(b) Solicit feedback from countries and other stakeholders on the proposed plan for updating the Global Chemicals Outlook as outlined in UNEP/EA.2/INF/20, and ask the Global Chemicals Outlook steering committee to consider this feedback and to consider possible adjustments to the proposed plan, as appropriate, at its first meeting;

(c) Ensure that the updated Global Chemicals Outlook addresses the issues which have been identified as emerging policy issues by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as well as other issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment;

(d) Given the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme as a member of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, work with the Director-General of the World Health Organization to enhance that organization's engagement with the emerging issue of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, particularly through strengthening the science base;

24. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders to provide appropriate forms of assistance, within their capabilities, for the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session.

*6th plenary meeting
27 May 2016*