

Cluster 3: Chemicals and minerals

**Item 7: Draft resolution from Sri Lanka on Sustainable Nitrogen Management**

**Purpose of the paper:**

Provide guidance and recommendations on the Draft resolution submitted by Sri Lanka on Sustainable Nitrogen Management.

**Analysis of key messages:**

Acknowledging both the challenges and the benefits that reactive nitrogen presents for all forms of life, the draft resolution recalls all past and current efforts on sustainable nitrogen management, beginning with the overall overarching commitments set in the Sustainable Development Goals, ongoing regional and international actions and ends with a call for strengthening of all these efforts through the establishment of an Inter-convention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM) which is to work towards an ambitious halving of nitrogen emissions by 2030. *Noting* the outcomes of the Fourth Session of the International Nitrogen Management System, held at UNEP in Nairobi on 29-30 April 2019 as a follow-up to the UNEA-4 resolution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.14. Calls on the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program to:

<b>Paragraph – key messages</b>	<b>Recommendation and comments</b>
1. <i>Support</i> the ambition to halve Nitrogen waste from all sources by 2030 as agreed in the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management of 24, October 2019, offering the potential to save US\$ 100 billion annually	While it is worth noting that this aligns with the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategic <i>Goal 1 Prevent Generation of Waste and Pollution</i> and <i>Goal 4 Improve Monitoring of the Receiving Environment</i> , only Fiji was part of the Colombo Declaration so there is a need to establish the region’s familiarity with the Colombo Declaration. Request for further information
2. <i>Consider</i> the proposed Roadmap for Action on Sustainable Nitrogen Management 2022 -2024 of the Colombo Declaration, including its activities to establish an Interconvention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM) to address nitrogen pollution, continuing its work from 2022 with including reporting of its work to the Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and the Secretariat to better facilitate communication and coherence across Nitrogen policies, consistent with mandates of existing conventions and MEAs	Agree with UNEP considering the proposed roadmap for action on sustainable nitrogen management. Agree for UNEP to ensure better communication and coherence across nitrogen policies, consistent with all existing MEAs.
3. <i>Secretariat to support</i> in close collaboration with relevant UN agencies	Agree with the Secretariat supporting the implementation of the Colombo Declaration



<p>and other international organizations, development partners, philanthropic agencies, academic and civil society organizations for implementation of the Colombo Declaration, through cooperative mechanisms to mobilize human, financial and technical resources, including capacity building and transfer of know-how and technology for promoting innovation on anthropogenic nitrogen use and recycling, emphasizing the opportunities for the circular economy</p>	<p>with priority support to SIDS including the Pacific. Highlight current challenges faced by the Pacific in overall chemicals management and similar lack of or struggle to fully participate with the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM)</p>
<p>4. <i>Coordinate</i> existing platforms to catalyze a comprehensive Global Assessment on quantitative and qualitative Nitrogen cycling covering scientific aspects, policy, regulation, implementation, Nitrogen budgeting, impacts, solutions, and valuation of natural Nitrogen fixation, while identifying the best available knowledge including descended traditional agricultural wisdom and assess the opportunities offered for Nitrogen management, where appropriate mainstreaming it through policy, implementation and regulatory channels,</p>	<p>Agree with a comprehensive global assessment on nitrogen cycling and current policy and legislative frameworks. Support the inclusion of traditional agriculture knowledge and practices in the Pacific in such assessments.</p>
<p>5. <i>Facilitate</i>, with relevant United Nations bodies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and, as appropriate, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to sensitize citizens to understand the natural Nitrogen cycle and how anthropogenic activities alter its balance</p>	<p>Agree with relevant UN bodies sensitizing citizens on knowledge about the nitrogen cycle and how human activities alter its balance. Support the inclusion of SPREP in this in its role as Secretariat to both the Noumea and Waigani conventions.</p>
<p>6. <i>Report</i> to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its Sixth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.</p>	<p>Agree</p>

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**Item 8: Proposed resolution on the sound management of chemicals and waste by Switzerland**

**Purpose of the paper:**

Provide guidance and recommendations on the proposed resolution submitted by Switzerland the sound management of chemicals and waste.

**Analysis of key messages:**

Acknowledging that the sound management of chemicals and waste remains central to UNEP's strategy to tackle climate change, loss of nature, pollution and contributing to achieving the 2030 Agenda, the proposed resolution seeks to ensure momentum created by previous UNEA meetings on this thematic area is maintained and enhanced to achieve set goals.

The main operational elements proposed for a resolution are as follows:

Paragraph – key messages	Recommendation and comments
<p>7. To implement a five-year extension of the Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the chemicals cluster – the possibility of an extension was envisaged when the programme was established by UNEA in 2015, and has been recommended by the Executive Board of the Special Programme. This decision must be taken at this UNEA session, before the Programme expires</p> <p>This decision should be set in the context of the Integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and waste, together with a signal of the need for continued support for the chemicals and waste focal area in the current GEF replenishment, including within integrated programming</p>	<p>Absolutely support this as the Special Programme has proved beneficial for SPREP member countries. The Special Programme is currently supporting Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea Vanuatu to strengthen national institutional capacities for chemicals and waste management. Many countries from the region have also previously benefitted like Samoa and Tonga.</p> <p>This programme aligns with all 4 Strategic Goals of the <i>Cleaner Pacific 2025</i> which are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent generation of wastes and pollution</li> <li>• Recover resources from waste and pollutants</li> <li>• Improve management of residuals</li> <li>• Improve monitoring of the receiving environment</li> </ul>
<p>8. To provide a clear signal from the Assembly, as the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, to the forthcoming of meeting of the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM 5). ICCM 5 will take place before the next meeting of the Assembly. ICCM will agree a new multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral instrument for the sound management of chemicals and</p>	<p>Agree with and support the new multi-stakeholder, multisectoral instrument for sound management of waste and chemicals beyond 2020.</p> <p>Can raise the issue of limited representation of the Pacific at past ICCMs and seek for support. Can also request for UNEP to provide clarity on their work on chemicals and waste and how the region is expected to align with them removing duplication, streamlining national efforts and</p>

<p>waste beyond 2020. This must be an ambitious and effective instrument if there is to be accelerated progress to achieving the goal of reducing harm to health and the environment through the sound management of chemicals and waste. The target set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve by 2020 the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes has not been met. UNEA should commit to maintaining the integrity of the 2030 Agenda by raising the ambition and ensuring continuous action by redoubling efforts to achieve the targets in an accelerated time frame, reflecting the urgency conveyed in the Agenda. Specifically, the resolution should give a mandate to UNEP to play a full part in the negotiation and in the implementation of the new framework, along with other UN agencies and global organisations, and should mandate UNEP to host the Secretariat - as it has done for the current Strategic Approach to international Chemicals Management.</p>	<p>improving efficiencies. In particular the work of the waste and chemical cluster of MEAS, i.e.: BRS, Minamata, Montreal and programs from the Chemicals and Health Branch, SAICM, and IETC. Agree with UNEP hosting the ICCM Secretariat just as it hosts SAICM and others.</p>
<p>9. To acknowledge and respond to the reports which UNEP has presented, in response to requests made at the third and fourth meetings of the Assembly, and which provide assessments of progress, identify areas requiring increased efforts, and guidance to members states and other stakeholders regarding the sound management of chemicals, and waste. The resolution should call for intensified action by all relevant international bodies, including ICCM 5, and other relevant stakeholders. In particular, the resolution should note that the report on “Issues of Concern” – which concluded that although progress has been made, global action so far it is insufficient to address the risk to human health and the environment posed by the issues of concern or emerging policy issues which have been identified by ICCM or in the UNEA 4 resolution on chemicals and waste. The resolution might request UNEP to gather and assess options for further international</p>	<p>Agree and support this call. Several SPREP members will appreciate the meeting highlighting findings of studies into the adverse impacts of pesticides and fertilizers as they are currently dealing with several issues related to pesticides and fertilizer management. Can also request for updates on UNEPs work on biological/ nature-based alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides</p>



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<p>action to address these issues of concern, based on views from Member States and other stakeholders. It should also highlight the findings of the report on impacts of pesticides and fertilizers that business as usual is not an option, and adverse impacts of pesticides and fertilizers will increase unless fundamental change takes place</p>	
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**Item 9: Proposal for a draft resolution to establish a Science-Policy Panel to support action on chemicals, waste and pollution**

**Purpose of the paper:**

Provide guidance and recommendations on the proposed resolution submitted by Costa Rica, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Uruguay on the proposal to draft a resolution to establish a science-policy panel to support action on chemicals, waste and pollution.

**Analysis of key messages:**

The proposed draft resolution is premised on a submission made by the African Group and Switzerland at UNEA 4 that recognized the importance of science to setting global priorities, policy making and monitoring progress. The resolution also called for science-based decision making to be promoted at all levels and the science-policy interface (SPI) to be strengthened.

Accordingly these countries make a case for an intergovernmental SPI Panel to provide an “authoritative, independent, credible, inclusive, policy-relevant scientific advice on chemicals, waste and pollution issues”. The SPI panel’s work will ensure governments and private entities can take timely action to minimize the harmful effects of from exposure to harmful substances

There are intergovernmental panels on climate change and biodiversity (IPCC & IPBES) which have proved successful in improving the scientific support to policymaking, and in raising awareness. There is no such science-policy panel, however, to support the chemicals and waste, the third pillar of UNEP’s mid-term strategy. The lack of a panel on chemicals, waste and pollution impedes our ability to address the three planetary crises and meet our Sustainable Development Goal

The main elements proposed resolution are as follows:

Paragraph – key messages	Recommendation and comments
<p>The draft resolution will invite UNEA to agree that a new panel is needed. There are three key functions which should be central to its work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to undertake horizon scanning, that is a systematic examination of information to identify potential threats, risks, emerging issues and opportunities; and identify potential issues of concern and provide evidence-based options for solutions to address them;</li> <li>to undertake assessments on the nature and scale of particular issues, how they may evolve in future, and to generate outputs that inform all actors, to support them in developing specific instruments or policies;</li> </ul>	<p>Agree and support</p>

<p>to provide up-to-date and relevant information, catalyse scientific research, ensure communication between scientists and policymakers, to translate and disseminate findings for different audiences and raise public awareness.</p>	
<p>UNEA should agree that the panel should be autonomous, and intergovernmental in nature, providing policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive advice to policy making bodies. This model is best designed to provide authoritative, consensus-based advice that will carry full weight within international forums, drawing on the full range of expertise available in a fully transparent manner. An inter-governmental panel will achieve the greatest impact in raising awareness of the issues and providing for greater engagement between the science and policy-making communities.</p>	<p>Agree and support</p> <p>Can also call for representation from the Pacific</p>
<p>The resolution will establish an open-ended working group (OEWG), the terms of which would be to prepare proposals on: the institutional design, how the work programme should be established, working methods, arrangements for the secretariat, and financial arrangements amongst other issues.</p>	<p>Agree</p>
<p>The resolution will also make clear the importance of a panel that can be policy-relevant without being policy-prescriptive; is interdisciplinary in nature, with geographical, regional and gender balance; must have authority, credibility, legitimacy, and be transparent; must complement and not duplicate the work of other agencies or scientific bodies, and work closely with them; and must be able to address conflicts of interest.</p>	<p>Agree</p>
<p>The IPCC and IPBES provide two models of how this can be done, but a panel to support chemicals, waste and pollution action will need to be tailored to meet the specific needs of this community. It should have a streamlined and cost-effective structure, which can be flexible in responding to the</p>	<p>Agree</p>





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<p>needs of policy-making customers and could be on a more modest scale.</p>	
<p>It is right that UNEA, as the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, should initiate action to establish an SPI to support chemicals, waste and pollution action. There are many international organisations and agencies which play important roles in addressing chemicals, waste and pollution - including those dealing with health, agriculture and labour for example, as well as the chemicals and waste cluster. It is important the new panel should be responsive to the needs of those agencies and instruments, and the draft resolution will invite them to take part in the work of the OEWG. It may be appropriate of the governing bodies of those agencies to adopt their own resolutions in relation to the new panel. The unsound management of chemicals and waste can pose significant risks for human health, and the resolution will therefore invite the World Health Organization to share with UNEP in preparing and supporting the work of the OEWG.</p>	<p>Agree</p>