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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Policy issues: state of the environment

Chemicals and wastes management

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report provides information on the implementation of decision 25/5 on chemicals management, including mercury, and decision 26/3 on chemicals and wastes management. It includes five main sections (sects. III-VII) corresponding to the five parts of decision 26/3, covering issues relating to lead and cadmium; mercury; the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; waste management, including the management of electrical and electronic wastes; and final provisions.

* UNEP/GC.26/1.

I. Suggested action by the Governing Council

1. The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision as suggested by the Executive Director. The suggested action will be submitted separately to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its use in the preparation of draft decisions for consideration by the Council.

II. Background

2. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Governing Council decisions 25/5 on chemicals management, including mercury, and 26/3 on chemicals and wastes management. In its decision 25/5, the Council requested the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of that decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh regular sessions. Accordingly, a report was submitted to the Council at its twenty-sixth session (UNEP/GC.26/5/Rev.1) covering progress in the implementation of decision 25/5 up to the time of the twenty-sixth session. The present report covers progress made in the implementation of decision 25/5 since the twenty-sixth session and reporting pursuant to decision 26/3. It provides background information to support the Council's deliberations. Sections III to VII correspond to the five parts of decision 26/3 that require the preparation of reports to the Council, covering lead and cadmium; mercury; the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; waste management, including the management of electrical and electronic wastes; and final provisions.

3. Attention is drawn to *The Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment 2012: Sources, Emissions and Transport* (see UNEP/GC.27/INF/14), which provides additional information relevant to the present report.

III. Activities carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section I, on lead and cadmium, of decision 26/3

4. The Governing Council, in section I of its decision 26/3, requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to undertake, subject to availability of resources, several actions on lead and cadmium as set out in paragraphs 7, 8, 11 and 12 of that decision. The information set out in paragraphs 5 to 19 below is provided in accordance with that request.

A. UNEP activities relating to lead and cadmium

5. Several Governing Council decisions have reaffirmed international interest in reducing the risks to human health and the environment posed by lead and cadmium.¹ In response, UNEP established a dedicated project addressing risks posed by exposure to lead and cadmium under the harmful substances and hazardous wastes subprogramme during the period 2010–2013 with the objective of reducing the use of lead and cadmium in key products and industry sectors that give rise to particular exposure concerns.

6. The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles has continued to focus its activities on six countries still using leaded petrol, namely, Afghanistan, Algeria, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iraq, Myanmar and Yemen, with the objective of encouraging those countries to set clear timelines for eliminating leaded petrol. Notably, all six countries have introduced unleaded petrol, the use of which has been increasing. In 2011–2012, three national events and one subregional event were held for Algeria, Iraq and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As a result, Algeria set March 2014 as the phase-out date for leaded petrol and Iraq set 2015.

7. The Clearing House of the Partnership is hosted by UNEP, and since its launch at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, over 100 countries have been supported in phasing out leaded petrol.

8. A study on the global benefits of phasing out leaded fuel² was published in December 2011 with the support of UNEP. The report, inter alia, estimates 1.2 million fewer deaths per year as a result

¹ Decision 21/6, decision 22/4 (sect. III), decision 23/9 (sect. III), decision 24/3 (sect. III), decision 25/5 (sect. II) and decision 26/3 (sect. I).

² T. H. Hatfield and P. L. Tsai, "Global benefits from the phase-out of leaded fuel", *Journal of Environmental Health*, December 2011.

of the global effort to end the use of leaded petrol and the contribution to the global economy from the phase-out of leaded petrol as \$2.4 trillion (4 per cent of global gross domestic product).

9. With technical assistance and funding from UNEP, through the Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, the Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone supervised the clean-up of almost 12,000 litres of the dangerous and highly toxic substance tetraethyl lead.
10. At its second session, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, the International Conference on Chemicals Management endorsed the establishment of a global partnership to promote the phase-out of the use of lead in paint as an important contribution to the implementation of paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) were invited, within their respective mandates and available resources, to serve as the secretariat of the global partnership – the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint – the overall goal of which is to prevent children’s exposure and minimize occupational exposure to lead in paint with the broad objective of phasing out the manufacture and sale of paint containing lead and, eventually, of eliminating the risks posed by such paint.
11. UNEP supported the development of studies on the following themes: “Current status and future of lead-based paints and pigments in Asia and the Pacific” (in collaboration with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Japan) and “Support for the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint: paint testing in nine countries” (in collaboration with the International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Network).
12. At its third session, held in Nairobi from 17 to 21 September 2012, the International Conference on Chemicals Management noted that lead paints had been identified as a significant source of childhood exposure to lead and took note of the information provided in the scientific reviews on lead and cadmium, but did not address the reduction of those risks at the national, regional and global levels. The Conference also adopted an omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues in which Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector were encouraged to contribute to the work of the Global Alliance and to provide technical and financial assistance wherever possible.
13. Current work and progress include the completion of the operational framework for the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, organizational arrangements and an inter-organization agreement setting out the scope of cooperation between and responsibilities of UNEP and WHO. Furthermore, an interim advisory group to discuss cross-cutting issues, review and promote actions and monitor progress was established.
14. The first meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Geneva, May 2010) developed overall goals and objectives and formulated workplans for priority focal areas. The second meeting (Bangkok, July 2012) provided an opportunity to welcome new and potential contributors to discuss opportunities to cooperate on activities to eliminate lead paint.
15. The business plan for the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint was completed, setting out strategies, clear milestones and indicators for progress and possible means of achieving its overall goal and objectives.
- 16.
17. Activities not completed owing to insufficient financial support included some activities of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, the initiation of a partnership on lead and cadmium and the convening a meeting of the lead and cadmium working group.

B. Funding for the implementation of the decision

18. As at 1 October 2012, contributions made in 2011–2012 by the Governments of Norway and Sweden in support of the implementation of the decision, amounting to approximately \$290,024, had been allocated to the project on addressing risks posed by exposure to lead and cadmium under the UNEP subprogramme on harmful substances and hazardous wastes.
19. The Government of Thailand contributed to the implementation of the decision by co-hosting the second meeting of the Global Alliance in July 2012.
20. In 2011–2012, the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles received contributions from the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), the Government of Norway and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency amounting to \$236,568 to support specific national and subregional events to phase out leaded petrol. In addition, the Partnership received \$1,522,940 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the European Commission, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and

Society to be used to support activities promoting clean fuels and vehicles in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including the phase-out of leaded petrol. This brings the total amount received by the Partnership since its inception in 2002 to \$12,778,927.

IV. Activities carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section II, on mercury, of decision 26/3

A. Negotiations on a legally binding instrument on mercury

21. In paragraph 26 of its decision 25/5, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, commencing its work in 2010 with the goal of completing it prior to the twenty-seventh regular session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2013.

22. The report of the Executive Director on chemicals management, including mercury (UNEP/GC.26/5/Rev.1 and Add.1) provided an update on progress to the end of January 2011, including progress made at the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. The present report will cover the activities conducted during 2011 and 2012.

23. The mercury negotiations process has involved four sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. The fifth and final session will be held from 13 to 18 January 2013, prior to the twenty-seventh regular session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

24. The third session of the committee was held in Nairobi from 31 October to 4 November 2011, at UNEP headquarters. The committee considered a full draft text for the mercury instrument, which incorporated comments made during the second session, as well as submissions made after the second session. The committee requested intersessional work to be undertaken, including the convening of an expert meeting on financial resources and technical assistance, which was held in Inárcs, Hungary, from 11 to 13 April 2012 (see UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/8).

25. The negotiation process was recognized by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which concluded its work just before the convening of the fourth session of the committee. The Conference welcomed the negotiations and called for a successful outcome.

26. The fourth session of the committee was hosted by the Government of Uruguay, and was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 27 June to 2 July 2012 (see UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/8).

27. At its fourth session, the committee requested that, as part of the intersessional work, the Chair prepare a version of the draft mercury instrument in which he proposed compromise text in an effort to bridge the differences between the various positions espoused by the parties at the fourth session. In addition, the committee agreed that the secretariat would prepare draft elements of the final act to be adopted at the anticipated diplomatic conference at which the mercury instrument would be signed. The committee also agreed that the secretariat, in cooperation with WHO, would analyse the extent to which the provisions of the draft mercury instrument covered the content of article 20 bis of the draft text and prepare a report setting out the results of its analysis.

28. The committee will consider the Chair's text at the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. The next session of the committee following its fifth session will be the preparatory conference immediately prior to the diplomatic conference, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in Japan in October 2013.

29. Current estimates of the costs for each session are between \$1.05 million and \$1.3 million, depending on location and venue of the sessions. The total costs of the five sessions of the committee and the diplomatic conference are estimated at approximately \$6.5 million. Those costs are met by financial or in-kind contributions from Governments, including those that have offered to host sessions; they do not include local costs associated with holding the meetings outside a United Nations headquarters location, such as those associated with venue, which are to be covered by the hosting Government or organization. In addition, costs have been incurred in relation to secretariat staff and staff travel, expert assistance in the preparation of documents, communications, outreach activities and Bureau and regional preparatory meetings. Those additional costs are estimated at approximately \$8 million for the period 2010–2013.

30. In paragraph 33 of decision 25/5, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in participating effectively in the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group and the intergovernmental negotiating committee.

31. Various regional consultations have been organized, at the request of different regional groups, to provide such support to Governments in preparing for the negotiations. The consultations were made possible thanks to financial contributions from a number of donors. During the reporting period, regional meetings to prepare for the negotiations were held for the African region (Ouagadougou in September 2011 and Pretoria in May 2012), for the Asia-Pacific region (Kobe, Japan, in September 2011 and Kuala Lumpur in May 2012), for the Central and Eastern European region (Brno, Czech Republic, in October 2011 and Lodz, Poland, in May 2012) and for the Latin American and Caribbean region (Panama City in September 2011 and Brasilia in May 2012). Regional consultations will also be held in preparation for the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. Provisions have been made for the regional groups to meet immediately before each intergovernmental negotiating committee session.

B. Interim activities to reduce risks to human health and the environment from mercury

32. In paragraph 36 of decision 25/5, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to update the 2008 report entitled *The Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport*. In response to that request, UNEP cooperated with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme working group under the Arctic Council to develop a technical report and, on that basis, the report requested by the Governing Council, which is a summary report for policymakers and addresses atmospheric emissions (focusing on anthropogenic emissions), emission trends and the results of recent research on atmospheric transport, modelling and deposition of mercury (see UNEP/GC.27/INF/14). The detailed technical background report (the fully referenced scientific report), “Technical Background Report to the Global Mercury Assessment 2012”, constitutes the basis for the summary report to the Governing Council. The development of the report has been funded by the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Japan, Norway and Sweden, as well as by the European Union and the Nordic Council of Ministers. In producing the global mercury emissions assessment, considerable efforts were made to engage the wide participation of national experts from various regions. It should be noted that different methodologies were used to develop some emissions elements not directly comparable between the 2008 and 2012 reports.

33. The progress made by the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership was acknowledged in paragraph 19 of decision 26/3, and Governments and other stakeholders were urged to continue support and contributions to the Partnership. Since 1 January 2009, membership has grown from 23 official partners to a 111 as at 30 June 2012.

34. A report to the Executive Director by the Partnership Advisory Group of the Global Mercury Partnership on overall progress during the period from July 2010 to June 2012 is available on the Partnership website. The report provides detailed information on Partnership activities in all its areas of operation.

35. In addition to its direct support for the Global Mercury Partnership, during 2010–2012 UNEP translated the mercury awareness-raising package, “Mercury – a priority for action”, into French and Spanish; developed the synopsis document “Mercury knowledge and gaps in the Africa region”; supported the expansion of the Mercury Watch database maintained by the Artisanal Gold Council; and supported the development of the following documents: “Squeezing gold from a stone”, “Reducing mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining: a practical guide” and “Analysis of formalization approaches in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector”. The Partnership also disseminated a range of outreach materials.

36. Building on reports produced by the 2010 UNEP mercury regional storage projects in Asia-Pacific and Latin America, UNEP implemented a national storage and disposal project in Argentina and Uruguay in 2011. Supported by the Government of Norway, the project provided an assessment of relevant national legislation/regulatory frameworks and an inventory of hazardous waste treatment facilities that could serve as temporary mercury storage facilities. The project resulted in national action plans aimed at the environmentally sound storage and disposal of mercury in both countries. A similar project is currently being implemented in Panama and Mexico. In 2011, UNEP also implemented pilot storage and disposal projects in three settings: industry, with the chloralkali sector in Uruguay; household and community in China; and the health sector. The projects resulted in guidance and awareness-raising materials on the environmentally sound storage and disposal mercury that could be replicated in other countries.

37. UNEP has continued to support Kyrgyzstan in transitioning away from mercury mining in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The aim of the project is to reduce risks posed to human health and the environment by mercury mining and to support economic and social transition to

less hazardous economic activities. In November 2011, the Government of Norway provided 4.8 million Norwegian krone in funding to support the environmental pillar of the project. A medium-sized proposal was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in July 2012, with a total budget of \$944,000.

38. On mercury-added products, UNEP commissioned a report on the economics of conversion of mercury-added products and is providing technical assistance to the GEF enlighten project aimed at converting the market to efficient lighting, advocating low mercury content in compact fluorescent lamps. UNEP, in collaboration with WHO and other partners, is currently implementing a project that will demonstrate the 'phase-down approach' to dental amalgam in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

39. A training workshop in the use of the UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases was held in Nairobi in September 2011 for representatives of 10 African countries. The training was followed up with technical support to those countries, resulting in mercury release inventories being developed in nine of them. Funding for this work was provided by the Government of Norway and was co-funded by the Government of Switzerland through UNITAR. With assistance from the Nordic Council of Ministers, the toolkit was revised in 2011. UNEP is developing a portfolio of projects (national and regional) for GEF funding on mercury release inventories and the development of national action plans to reduce mercury releases.

40. UNEP has initiated subregional projects in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cambodia, Peru and the Philippines with support from the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to build the capacity of participating countries to tackle the human health and environmental challenges arising from the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. The key outcome of the projects was the development of national multi-stakeholder strategic plans to reduce mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. A global forum, supported by UNEP, to discuss approaches to artisanal and small-scale gold mining was held in Manila in December 2010.

41. UNEP initiated a project on training and technology transfer on mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Indonesia, funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. A national workshop which engaged various Government ministries, miners, miners' associations, academia and other stakeholders was held in December 2011 as part of the project.

42. UNEP, with funding from the European Union and with technical assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, is working with four countries on their unintentional emissions of mercury from coal combustion for electrical power generation. UNEP worked with the Clean Coal Centre of the International Energy Agency to develop a guide on how coal-fired power stations can reduce mercury emissions by optimizing existing systems. With further funding from the European Union and the Government of the United States of America, UNEP will initiate similar activities focused on the coal-fired power sector in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

C. Funding for the implementation of the decision

43. As a follow-up to the adoption of decision 26/3, UNEP circulated an invitation to Governments to support, both financially and technically, the implementation of the decision.

44. In 2011, pledges and contributions to the mercury and other metals trust fund were received from the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, amounting to \$3,358,883. A total of €1 million was also made available by the European Commission and \$57,302 by the Nordic Council of Ministers to support the mercury negotiations.

45. As at 1 November 2012, pledges had been received for 2012 from the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and Uruguay amounting to \$3,625,464. Additional funding has been provided by the European Commission, which contributed €50,000 for the intersessional work on financial and technical assistance requested by the intergovernmental negotiating committee at its third session, as well as for mercury activities relating to the assessment report and to inventories. In addition, pledges were made by Canada amounting to 300,000 Canadian dollars. Additional funding of \$50,000 was provided for the regional consultations to prepare for the fourth session of the committee by the secretariat of GEF.

46. The Government of France has contributed the full costs of a Junior Professional Officer for a period of two years from July 2010, and has continued to provide part support for the officer since July 2012. The Government of Spain has provided part support for a junior professional officer who began work with the mercury negotiations team in February 2012.

47. The Government of Uruguay met all local costs for the fourth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, as well as making a contribution to cover the incremental costs of holding the meeting away from United Nations Headquarters.

V. Support by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section III, on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, of decision 26/3

A. Introduction

48. In section III of decision 26/3, the Governing Council urged UNEP to continue to implement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, particularly in relation to emerging policy issues and those elements of its programme of work related to the environmental aspects of the Strategic Approach, including mainstreaming activities and the assessment of the economic and social costs of unsound chemicals management, together with the assessment of economic instruments that internalize the external costs related to chemicals. The decision also welcomed the enhanced engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach and urged Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others in a position to do so to contribute financially and in kind to the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including through the Quick Start Programme, the secretariat and the UNEP programme of work.

49. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Heads of State and Government called for the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, including to respond to emerging challenges, and encouraged continued enhanced coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and with the Strategic Approach.

B. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

50. UNEP plays a leading role in the implementation of the Strategic Approach by promoting and implementing activities to address environmental aspects of the Strategic Approach as a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. In addition, UNEP, with WHO, acts as the secretariat for the Strategic Approach, and UNEP also provides trustee services for the Quick Start Programme.

C. Activities of the Strategic Approach secretariat

51. Core functions of the secretariat include servicing meetings of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, regional meetings and the subsidiary bodies of the Strategic Approach, such as those associated with the operation of the Quick Start Programme. In addition, the secretariat administers the Quick Start Programme itself through technical assistance to countries and other implementers as well as project review and processing. As at June 2012, over \$31 million had been made available to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, supporting 146 projects under the Programme, which is managed by the secretariat. As a result of the Programme, 105 countries have been provided with technical assistance in the development of national chemicals profiles and capacity assessments, the development of risk assessment methodologies, the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals, the use of non-chemical alternatives and the strengthening of their national institutional capacity towards sound chemicals management. Project recipients included 54 least developed countries and small island developing States.

D. Third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

52. The third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was an important milestone in the implementation of the Strategic Approach at which several resolutions were adopted covering some of the issues outlined below.

53. The Conference reviewed and assessed, for the first time, progress on the implementation of the Strategic Approach achieved since 2006 on the basis of the 20 indicators selected during its second session in May 2009. Work on emerging policy issues and the Quick Start Programme has been of particular significance in achieving progress in implementation, as have efforts made by private industry, the non-governmental community and the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.

54. The Conference agreed to include nanotechnologies and nanomaterials, as well as hazardous substances within the life cycle of electric and electronic products, as new work areas in the Global Plan of Action, and adopted an omnibus resolution supporting further collaborative actions on lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electric and electronic products, and nanotechnologies and nanomaterials. The Conference also agreed on further collaborative actions on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, and decided to implement cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders.

55. In accordance with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, calling for the strengthening of the Strategic Approach, the third session of the Conference decided to extend the term for contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund until the fourth session of the Conference, scheduled for 2015. The Conference reviewed and discussed the Executive Director's draft proposal on an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes and requested that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management be part of any such approach to long-term financing of the chemicals and wastes cluster. The Conference invited the Executive Director and the Governing Council to consider the need for strengthening implementation of the financial considerations as laid out in paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy in the context of the existing chemicals and wastes cluster, taking into account the debate reflected in the report of the third session of the Conference. The Conference further invited the Global Environment Facility, in the process of the sixth replenishment, to consider the priorities and activities identified in the Strategic Approach in support of the achievement of its objectives.

56. The Conference also agreed to adopt the strategy on strengthening the engagement of the health-care sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach and requested WHO to report, in collaboration with the secretariat, on the implementation of the strategy at sessions of the Conference, commencing at its fourth session.

57. The Conference welcomed the contributions made by UNEP and WHO in providing the secretariat with, respectively, a P-5 position and a P-4 position, but noted with concern the withdrawal of support by WHO owing to financial constraints and called upon WHO to continue to support, in its areas of expertise, the work of the secretariat by reassigning a staff member at the earliest date possible. The Conference also drew the attention of all Governments to the financial needs identified in the indicative budget and invited the Executive Director of UNEP to make that information available to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

58. Further to the calls of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to increase synergies among multilateral agreements on chemicals and wastes, the Conference invited the Coordinator of the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Joint Executive Secretary of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions to further increase synergies in the implementation of their respective information clearing houses.

59. Following the reaffirmation by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of the 2020 goal for sound chemicals management, a high-level dialogue was held during the Conference to provide a platform for interaction between stakeholders on strengthening the Strategic Approach for more effective implementation of the 2020 goal and to identify further guidance for its achievement.

E. Activities relating to implementation of the Strategic Approach

60. Most aspects of the harmful substances and hazardous wastes subprogramme of the programme of work of UNEP address the priority objectives of the Strategic Approach.

61. UNEP is leading work to address the chemicals in products and lead in paint emerging policy issues agreed at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. As part of the Chemicals in Products project, UNEP presented a report on project activities to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Recommendations for future actions were adopted by the Conference, shaping the work for the intersessional period 2013–2015, which will focus on the development by UNEP of a voluntary Chemicals in Products programme to facilitate information exchange related to chemicals contained in products throughout the product life cycle and will specifically: (a) identify the roles and suggestions for responsibilities of the major stakeholder groups for the information exchange; (b) develop guidance on what information could be transferred and how information access and exchange could take place; and (c) implement pilot projects to demonstrate the applicability of the guidance. With regard to lead in paint, UNEP continues to support the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint in collaboration with WHO. Work in the intersessional period 2013–2015 will focus on the implementation of short-term objectives set out in

the Global Alliance business plan. UNEP is also participating in work to address harmful substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products; those activities are set out in section VI below.

62. At its third session, the Conference also agreed to take up work, proposed by UNEP in collaboration with WHO, on endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The work, to be undertaken in the intersessional period before the fourth session of the Conference, will focus on increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders.

63. As a follow up to the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, UNEP and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have established a Global Group on Perfluorinated Chemicals as an important mechanism to gather and exchange information on these chemicals to support the transition to safer alternatives.

64. The Global Chemicals Outlook was launched in September 2012 and contains an analysis of quantitative and qualitative changes in the production, use and disposal of chemicals in developing countries and the potential costs of inaction on the sound management of chemicals. It also identifies a useful methodology and decision-making tools for the prevention of toxic chemical pollution and the promotion of safer alternatives, together with general and specific recommendations for future activities.

65. UNEP supports the implementation of the Strategic Approach through a number of strategic alliances and partnerships. These include the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative on the integration (mainstreaming) of sound management of chemicals into national plans and development policies, and the integration of health and the environment in Africa through the UNEP-WHO Health and Environment Strategic Alliance. Activities to combat illegal trafficking in chemicals are being implemented in several regions through regional enforcement networks that bring together national and international agencies with responsibilities for cross-border trade and movement of goods.

66. A flexible framework developed by UNEP for chemical accident prevention and preparedness is being implemented in several countries in the African and Asian regions, including with support from the Strategic Alliance Quick Start Programme.

F. Support for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

67. In furtherance of its support for the Strategic Approach and the multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and wastes, UNEP continues to provide capacity-building and assistance to countries in meeting their obligations under those agreements. This includes the development of national information related to unintentional releases of persistent organic pollutants, assisting with the development of a wide range of GEF-funded national and regional projects on chemicals management, and contributing to the Global Monitoring Plan for persistent organic pollutants under the Stockholm Convention.

68. UNEP actively participated in expert meetings and meetings of global or regional country representatives organized by the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, including the sixth and seventh meetings of the Toolkit expert group, held in November 2011 and November 2012, and the meetings of the Coordination Group under the Global Monitoring Plan, held in March 2011 and October 2012. The participation of UNEP has resulted in the development of revised guidelines for toxic release inventory and the preparation of reports for the Global Monitoring Plan on persistent organic pollutants. Relevant capacity-building projects financed by GEF and the Quick Start Programme, have assisted 32 countries in Africa, the Pacific islands and Latin America.

69. In implementation of decision SC-5/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, UNEP accepted, in 2012, the leadership of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control from the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention. The first meeting of the steering committee of the Alliance was held in Nairobi in August 2012; it agreed on a workplan and budget for its implementation and assignment of the work programme to thematic groups of experts, for which UNEP and the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention are now seeking funds for implementation.

70. In implementation of decision SC-5/7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, UNEP also accepted in 2012 the leadership of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network from the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention. The fourth meeting of the advisory committee of the Network was held in Beijing in September 2012. The committee agreed on a workplan and budget for its implementation and on the continuation of the work of thematic groups

assigned to implement parts of the workplan; UNEP and the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention are now seeking funds for implementation.

VI. Activities carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section IV, on waste management, including management of electrical and electronic waste, of decision 26/3

71. In its decision 26/3, the Governing Council called on the Executive Director to undertake a number of activities in relation to wastes management, a cross-cutting issue that is rapidly growing in importance for sustainable development. It noted the role of the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre, based in Osaka, Japan, and established under a 1992 agreement with the Government of Japan. Since late in 2011, the Centre has concentrated exclusively on issues related to waste management.

A. Integrated waste management

72. UNEP has continued its long-standing programme on integrated solid waste management in order to build local capacity and assist in the formulation of municipal plans. During 2011 and 2012, projects have been implemented in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Thailand and Viet Nam. Training has been provided to local project teams on waste data collection, the assessment of current waste management systems, target-setting, the identification of stakeholder concerns and planning. Other related activities have included support for Thailand in developing draft guidelines for the management of flood debris and a UNEP international expert mission to the tsunami-damaged Tohoku region of Japan to share experiences in managing disaster debris.³ The International Environmental Technology Centre organized a workshop for the Asia-Pacific region on integrated solid waste management, held in Osaka, Japan, on 19 and 20 April 2012, to review its pilot projects, training and online information. UNEP has also collaborated with UNITAR to provide regional training on municipal solid waste management for the Asia-Pacific region.

73. The emphasis placed by the Governing Council on integrated waste management was echoed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, where Heads of State and Government called for the development of comprehensive national and local waste management policies, strategies, laws and regulations and committed themselves to further reducing, reusing and recycling waste. In August 2012, UNEP and UNITAR initiated the preparation of guidelines for the development, review and updating of national waste management strategies.

B. Waste to energy

74. During 2011 and 2012, UNEP expanded its work on waste agricultural biomass by delivering demonstration projects in Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The projects included the characterization and quantification of waste agricultural biomass, the assessment of current patterns of use and disposal, the identification of suitable technologies for the conversion of the waste into energy and advice on implementation. UNEP also conducted a technical and economic feasibility study on converting waste palm oil trees in Malaysia into a sustainable resource. A regional workshop on waste agricultural biomass for Central America and Panama is scheduled for December 2012. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to increasing energy recovery from waste.

C. Electrical and electronic waste

75. UNEP has continued to support Governments in building capacities and formulating strategies for the environmentally sound management of e-waste and in meeting their international obligations. In 2011 and 2012, a particular focus of the work has been on so-called take-back schemes to facilitate the recovery of used devices for recycling and proper disposal and on public-private sector cooperation. A new manual on take-back systems⁴ provides guidance on how to develop strategies in partnership with the private sector, consumers and other stakeholders, complementing earlier manuals on e-waste inventories and management. An international training workshop on take-back systems was held in Osaka, Japan, from 13 to 15 July 2011. A multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on the theme "Addressing e-waste challenges and opportunities through public-private sector cooperation" was held

³ <http://www.unep.org/ietc/InformationResources/Events/SeminarinOsaka/tabid/79552/Default.aspx>.

⁴ http://www.unep.org/ietc/Portals/136/Events/WEEE-E%20workshop%20July%202011/UNEP_Ewaste_Manual3_TakeBackSystem.pdf.

in Osaka from 18 to 20 July 2012, and produced an outcome document entitled “The Future WEEE Need: A Call for Action”.⁵

76. UNEP has assisted coordination through the Global Partnership on Waste Management, under which the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) leads a focal area on e-waste. UNEP offices contributed to the Pan-African Forum on e-waste, held by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in Nairobi from 14 to 16 March 2012. UNEP supported the “Solving the e-waste problem” initiative in delivering an “e-waste academy” training session in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012. Other activities in which UNEP has cooperated include a World Intellectual Property Organization workshop on counterfeit goods, held in Bangkok on 3 and 4 July 2012, a training workshop on e-waste management organized by UNIDO and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in Hanoi from 10 to 13 July 2012 and a workshop of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, held in Cebu, Philippines, from 20 to 23 November 2012. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development drew attention to the particular challenges associated with solid wastes such as electronic waste and plastics.

D. Global Partnership on Waste Management

77. The Global Partnership on Waste Management was launched in November 2010 and the International Environmental Technology Centre serves as its secretariat. In December 2011, the lead organizations for the initial six focal areas under the Partnership, namely, integrated solid waste management, e-waste management, waste agricultural biomass, waste and climate change, marine litter and waste minimization, developed their respective workplans. On 5 and 6 November 2012, the first biennium conference of the Partnership was held in Osaka, Japan, to review activities and discuss challenges, opportunities and new trends in waste management, including the “waste as resource” approach.

78. Several consultations on the Partnership have already taken place. In order to enhance the Partnership’s responsiveness to the waste-management needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the secretariat prepared a report during 2012 on capacity-building needs, based on stakeholder inputs. The needs assessment will be updated on a biennial basis. The online information platform of the Partnership has been broadened and will continue to be developed. With a view to strengthening cooperation and coordination, the Partnership has built a network that includes UNIDO, UNITAR, UNCRD and the World Bank, as well as civil society organizations, including the International Solid Waste Association.

79. To ensure complementarity and avoid duplication, the secretariat of the Partnership has maintained regular contact with such entities as the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The Partnership was recognized by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in its decision BC-10/19 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, adopted at its tenth meeting, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 17 to 21 November 2011.

E. Support for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

80. In the context of its support for the implementation of the Basel Convention, UNEP is providing technical assistance to the secretariat of the Convention in the development of factsheets on destruction technologies for persistent organic pollutant wastes. At the invitation of the eighth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, UNEP is revising the technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutant wastes contaminated with unintentional persistent organic pollutants.

81. The Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach has also supported the implementation of the Basel Convention through six projects with a total value of \$1,437,267.

⁵ The workshop proceedings, including the outcome document, are available at <http://www.unep.org/ietc/OurWork/WasteManagement/MeetingsWorkshops/E-WasteworkshopJuly2012/tabid/79644/Default.aspx>.

VII. Activities carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to section V, on final provisions, of decision 26/3

82. Pursuant to the request to the Executive Director to submit input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in November 2011 UNEP submitted an input document in the context of the preparatory process of the Conference. The UNEP submission included text on chemicals and waste in a number of areas, including the strengthening of the Strategic Approach.

83. Issues related to chemicals and wastes are addressed in the outcome document of the Conference, entitled “The future we want” (paras. 213–223), in which Heads of State and Government expressed support for the input of UNEP to the Conference and, inter alia, noted that additional efforts were needed to enhance work towards strengthening capacities, including through partnerships, technical assistance and improved governance structures. They encouraged countries and organizations that had made progress towards achieving the goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020 to assist other countries by sharing knowledge, experience and best practices, and encouraged further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in the implementation of commitments.

84. They also called for continued, new and innovative public-private partnerships to enhance capacity and technology for environmentally sound chemicals and waste management, including waste prevention. They encouraged the development of environmentally sound and safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals in products and processes through, inter alia, life-cycle assessment, public information, extended producer responsibility, research and development, sustainable design and knowledge-sharing, as appropriate.

85. They also urged countries and other stakeholders to take all possible measures to prevent the unsound management of hazardous wastes and their illegal dumping, particularly in countries where the capacity to deal with those wastes was limited.
