Strengthening Chemicals and Waste Management Through Sectoral Approaches: Interlinkages between Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans, other relevant international conventions and the Global Framework on Chemicals

Activity Options for Action Plans on Cross Cutting Issues of Specific Stockholm Convention Articles | Global Webinar
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The Triple Planetary Crisis

- Climate change
- Nature and biodiversity loss
- Pollution and waste

- Presentation focus:
  - Alignment with the **Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)**
  - Synergies with **Basel, Rotterdam, and Minamata Conventions, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Montreal Protocol**
  - Operationalizing a **sectoral approach**

Aligning NIPs with the GFC: Strategic opportunity

- NIPs are **legally required** and regularly updated. They already include:
  - Legal framework review
  - Institutional assessment
  - Inventories
  - Action plans
- **GFC: 5 Strategic Objectives**
  - 28 Targets (2030/2035)
  - Strong overlap with NIP structure
  - Opportunity for coherence and efficiency

Link with GFC Objectives – Objective A - Legal Frameworks, Institutional Mechanisms & Capacities

- NIPs provide a **platform to strengthen legal frameworks & institutional capacity**
- POPs lifecycle assessment informs broader **chemical management legislation**
- Technical infrastructure in NIPs supports **assessment, management & destruction of hazardous chemicals**
- NIPs engage industrial sectors in **capacity-building, awareness & lifecycle management**
- Guidance documents & BAT/BEP tools support **effective chemicals & waste management**
- NIPs monitor and prevent **illegal trade of POPs & chemicals**
- Support for **poison centres & chemical risk training**
- Integration of **highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)** into NIPs aligns with GFC Targets

Link with GFC Objectives – Objective B - Knowledge, Data & Information

- NIPs already include **chemical assessment systems** (new & existing chemicals)
- POP nomination & POPRC process strengthen **science–policy interface**
- POP inventories support **value chain transparency** (chemicals in products)
- Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) generates **human & environmental data**
- Use of **BAT/BEP guidelines & standardized risk assessment tools**
- NIPs promote **public awareness, education & stakeholder engagement**
- Platform to advance **GHS implementation & labelling of POPs**
- Model framework to expand data systems to broader Chemicals of Concern

Link with GFC Objectives – Objective C - Issues of Concern (IoC) Identified, Prioritized and Addressed

- Many IoCs directly overlap with **POPs management under NIPs**
- PFAS, HHPs, EDCs, chemicals in products & electronics already addressed through POP listings
- NIPs provide **existing inventories, action plans & stakeholder platforms**
- Substitution, alternatives assessment & life-cycle management embedded in NIPs
- Opportunity to **expand NIPs to broader Chemicals of Concern (CoCs)**
- **Target C1:** Use NIPs to establish processes, timelines & programmes for IoCs

Link with GFC Objectives – Objective D - Safer Alternatives & Sustainable Solutions

- NIPs already promote **substitution of POPs with safer alternatives**
- Built-in **life-cycle approach** (production, use, waste)
- Alternatives assessment & green chemistry integrated in NIPs
- Engagement of key sectors (agriculture, EEE, construction, textiles, transport)
- Support for **EPR, circularity & waste management** (with Basel Convention)
- Occupational health & exposure reduction measures included
- NIPs provide platform to scale toward broader Chemicals of Concern

Link with GFC Objectives – Objective E - Enhanced Implementation

- NIPs provide a platform for **mainstreaming chemicals & waste management** into sectors, budgets, and development plans (E1)
- Stakeholder **partnerships & networks** built via inventory, action plans, and sectoral engagement (E2)
- **Financial mobilization** supported through NIPs, EPR schemes, and co-financing approaches (E3, E5)
- NIPs identify **funding gaps** and support capacity-building (E4)
- Promote **synergies with other environmental, health, and labor policies** (E6)
- Leverage POPs sectoral approaches: EEE, transport, construction, plastics, textiles, agriculture
- Integrate **circular economy, climate, and biodiversity co-benefits**

Sectoral Approach: Why It Matters

- Stockholm Convention NIPs increasingly apply a **sectoral approach**: electronics, transport, buildings/construction, textiles, agriculture, pulp/paper
- Sectors targeted are **chemically intensive** and highly relevant to circular economy solutions
- NIPs assess **POPs and other Chemicals of Concern (CoCs)**, enabling **multi-chemical, multi-sector synergies**
- **Alternative assessment & substitution**: guidance for POPs supports life cycle management and avoids regrettable substitutions
- **Integration of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)** in NIPs aligns with GFC Target A7
- Opportunities for **cross-sector collaboration** and leveraging tools like **USEtox®** and UNEP Sustainable Chemistry Initiative
- Supports **preventive, safe, and sustainable chemical management** in low- and middle-income countries

Synergies: Basel Convention & Stockholm Convention NIP

- POPs in plastics across **EEE, transport, construction, textiles, and paper** tracked and managed.
- **Basel Convention** provides legally binding framework for plastic waste, ESM guidelines, and emerging textile policies.
- **Inventories aligned**: POP-containing plastics complement Basel plastic inventories and support circular economy planning.
- **Recycling & regulation**: LPCL/UTC limits and Extended Producer Responsibility enable safe separation and reuse of plastics.

Synergies: Rotterdam Convention & Stockholm Convention NIP

- Rotterdam Convention regulates **trade of hazardous chemicals** via Prior Informed Consent (PIC).
- Many **POPs under Stockholm Convention are also listed in Annex III** of Rotterdam, allowing coordinated import/export control.
- NIP development encourages **aligning Stockholm Convention exemptions with Rotterdam Convention** import consents.
- Practical challenges: missing HS codes, unlabelled POPs in products, and inconsistent notifications.
- Synergies can improve POPs management, prevent duplication, and strengthen regulatory oversight.

Synergies: Minamata Convention & Stockholm Convention NIP

- Mercury and POPs **co-occur** in electronics, transport, and buildings; joint inventories enable synergy.
- Shared emission sources (e.g., incinerators, metal and cement plants) allow **coordinated assessment and reduction** of UPOPs and mercury.
- **BAT/BEP measures**, like activated carbon filters, reduce both mercury and unintentional POPs simultaneously.
- Sectoral synergy examples: EEE/WEEE, vehicles (ELVs), and building materials.
- **Integrated NIP/NAP updates** enhance efficiency, avoid duplication, and strengthen multi-pollutant management.

Synergies: Biodiversity & Stockholm Convention NIP

- Chemical pollutants, including POPs, are **major drivers of biodiversity loss**; ~1 million species threatened globally.
- POPs assessment under Stockholm Convention considers persistence, bioaccumulation, long-range transport, and biodiversity impacts.
- BRS Conventions and Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) collaborate to **integrate chemical management with biodiversity targets** (GBF Target 7).
- NIP integration: include biodiversity context, POPs impact on wildlife, awareness campaigns, research priorities, and action plans.
- Coordinated approach strengthens chemical and biodiversity management, reducing risks to ecosystems and species.

Synergies: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol & Stockholm Convention NIP

- POPs, especially unintentional (UPOPs), are **released from sources that also emit GHGs**—e.g., waste incineration, industrial fuel use.
- POPs often **co-occur with high-global warming potential substances** in electronics, insulation foams, and vehicles, linking climate, ozone, and chemical policies.
- **Integrated inventories and management** of POPs, F-gases, and CFCs/HCFCs can improve NIP implementation, recycling, and destruction activities.
- **Sectoral synergies exist** in electronics, construction, and transport: recycling plastics, managing insulation foams, and handling end-of-life vehicles.
- **BAT/BEP implementation** and reducing open burning cut both POPs and GHG/SLCP emissions, creating climate and chemical co-benefits.

Synergies: SDGs & Stockholm Convention NIPs

- **NIPs should align with sustainable development strategies**, integrating chemical and POPs management.
- **POPs management contributes to multiple SDGs**: health (SDG3), food security (SDG2), water safety (SDG6), urban sustainability (SDG11), and ecosystem protection (SDG14 & 15).
- **NIP actions reduce risks from POPs** to workers, communities, and urban environments, supporting safe and resilient settlements.
- **Promotes sustainable production and consumption (SDG12)** through life-cycle chemical and waste management.
- Encourages green and sustainable chemistry, phasing out hazardous POPs and adopting safer alternatives.

Thank you

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