UN environment

United Nations
Environment Programme

The sound management of chemicals and wastes in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals: links between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

UN environment

United Nations
Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
Tel: +254-(0)20-762 1234
Fax: +254-(0)20-762 3927
Email: uneppub@unep.org
web: www.unep.org

Publication: The sound management of chemicals and wastes in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals: links between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Published in April 2016

ISBN No:
Produced by UNEP Division for Environmental Law and Conventions

Director of Publication: UNEP/DELC

Author:

Acknowledgements:

Citation
Role of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya

This publication is available online at: www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/

Design:
Printing: UNON/Publishing Services Section/Nairobi, ISO 14001:2004-Certied
Job No: D1 -

UN environment
United Nations Environment Programme

The sound management of chemicals and wastes in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals: links between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

BASEL CONVENTION

Rotterdam Convention

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

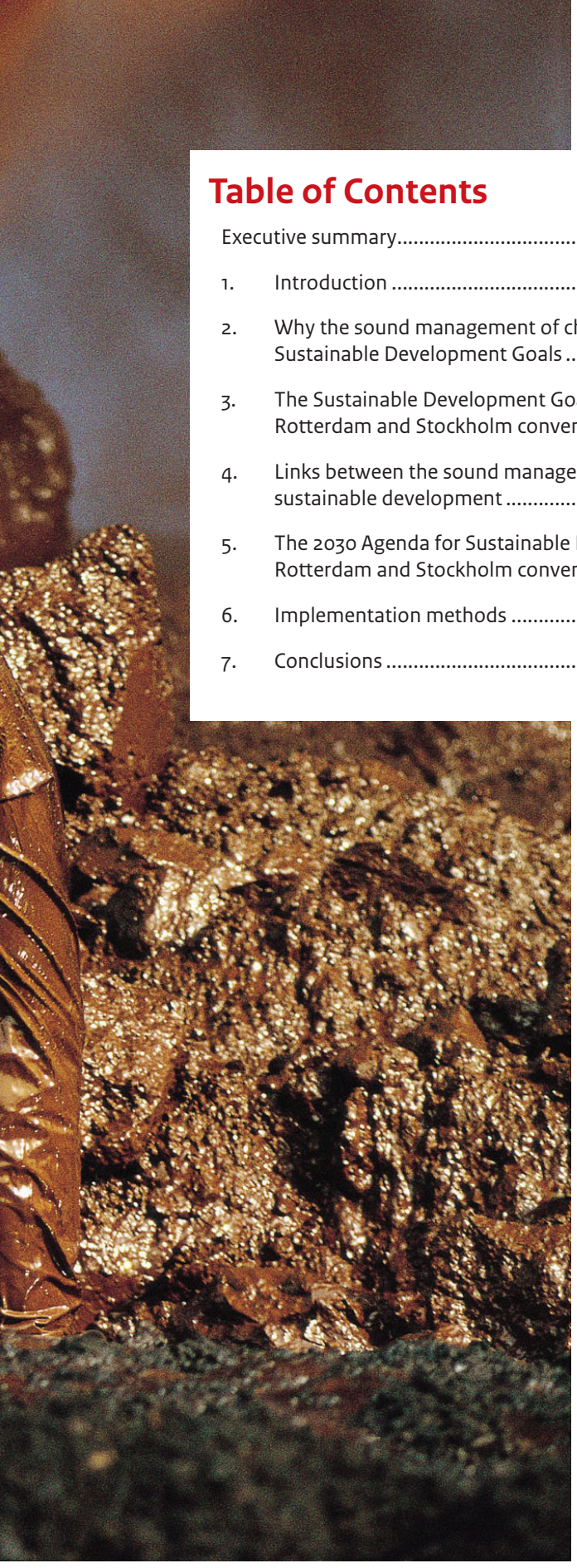

Table of Contents

Executive summary 6

1. Introduction 7

2. Why the sound management of chemicals and waste is integral to the Sustainable Development Goals 9

3. The Sustainable Development Goals and priority areas under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions 10

4. Links between the sound management of chemicals and wastes and sustainable development 13

5. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions 20

6. Implementation methods 40

7. Conclusions 43

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at a glance

	Basel Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm Convention
Title	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Legal status	Legally binding	Legally binding	Legally binding
Adoption	22 March 1989	10 September 1998	22 May 2001
Entry into force	5 May 1992	24 February 2004	17 May 2004
Number of parties	185 (at the time of printing)	157 (at the time of printing)	181 (at the time of printing)
Objectives	To protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes	To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm, and to contribute to their environmentally sound use	To protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants
Scope	Hazardous wastes, based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, and other types of waste	Pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by parties.	26 persistent organic pollutants

	Basel Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm Convention
Key provisions	Minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes Promotion of the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes Conditions for, and control of, transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes	Prior Informed Consent procedure, which provides for a national decision-making process on the import of hazardous chemicals included in Annex III to the Convention and attempts to ensure compliance with those decisions by exporting parties Exchange of information on a broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals	Elimination of the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A to the Convention Restriction of the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex B to the Convention Minimization of the unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C to the Convention

Executive summary

The focus of discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals has shifted to the development of appropriate indicators for measuring progress in the implementation of the Goals at the global, regional and national levels. While the role and relevance of multilateral environmental agreements in that regard have long been recognized, current efforts to develop the Sustainable Development Goal indicators seem to have been hindered by the appropriateness of the data and information emanating from the implementation of those agreements. The present paper outlines the links between existing and proposed goals, targets and indicators of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, focusing on the key issues and opportunities to link the discussions and actions concerning the targets and indicators in an attempt to inform the deliberations in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators of the United Nations Statistical Commission and at the multilateral environmental agreement level.

1. Introduction

At a special United Nations summit in September 2015, world leaders agreed on a global agenda with the overarching goal of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. In paragraphs 72 and 73 of the outcome document, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", Governments underscored that a "robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework [would] make a vital contribution to implementation" and would "promote accountability to our citizens, support effective international cooperation in achieving [the 2030] Agenda and foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning". In addition, a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals was adopted as part of the agreed agenda.[1]

Also in 2015, Member States agreed on a series of other global frameworks to support the realization of the new agenda, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In December 2015, the United Nations Statistical Commission published the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (document E/CN.3.2016/2) and the final list of proposed indicators, which are critical for measuring progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and were discussed and approved by the Statistical Commission in March 2016.[2]

In response to paragraph 90 of "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in January 2016, issued a report on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level (A/70/684). The report clearly assigns the primary responsibility for implementing the Agenda to Member States, at the national level, with the full and informed participation of all relevant stakeholders. The report also outlines the key responsibilities of Member States in coming up with the means of implementation, including in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, together with the key function of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council to focus on issues such as voluntary national reviews, the frequency of which is not stipulated in the 2030 Agenda. In addition, paragraphs 89–91 of the report provide recommendations on common voluntary reporting guidelines and the following few paragraphs point out that the High-level Political Forum thematic review for 2017 is expected to cover key environment-related Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 2 (Zero hunger), 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life below water), 15 (Life on land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

1 http://www.un.org sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/ (accessed 20 December 2015)

2 Excel file available at http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Official%20List%20of%20Proposed%20SDG%20Indicators-Excel%20file.xlsx.

With progress and outcomes on various fronts such as the proposed indicators for measuring progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda to the suggested Goal-specific reviews by the High-level Political Forum, the responsibility for responding to those outcomes has shifted to the national level. Countries now need to focus on prioritizing targets, adopting and/or designing suitable indicators for measuring progress; using available platforms, mechanisms and forums to support implementation; and responding to the global commitments made to implement not only the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development but also other multilateral processes such as the multilateral environmental agreements, trade agreements and social and economic frameworks. It should be noted that in this mapping exercise that the Basel Convention has its goals and objectives in its Strategic Framework The strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021was adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties through decision BC-10/2 . The strategic framework consists of a vision, guiding principles, strategic goals and objectives , means of implementation, indicators for measuring achievement and performance and evaluation. On the other hand, the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have their overarching objectives stated in their respective preambles.

2. Why the sound management of chemicals and waste is integral to the Sustainable Development Goals

Chemicals are inextricably linked to our lives, as they are used or produced in almost every industry and sector of society, including health, energy, transport, agriculture, construction, textiles and consumer products. While they contribute significantly to the well-being of society, however, they also pose a threat to human health, the environment and sustainable development if they are not managed in a sound manner. In view of the diversity and potential consequences of their adverse impacts, combined with the limited capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to manage those impacts, the sound management of chemicals and wastes is a key cross-cutting issue.

The global community attaches great importance to the sound management of chemicals and wastes for the protection of human health and the environment. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, Governments agreed to the goal of ensuring that, by 2020, chemicals were used and produced in ways that led to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. The 2020 goal was further recognized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and reaffirmed by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, when the 2006 Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, which established the Strategic Approach, recognized the sound management of chemicals to be crucial to achieving sustainable development. More recently, at the simultaneous meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Geneva in May 2013, ministers and heads of delegation reinforced their Governments' commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste by 2020. The Geneva Statement on the sound management of chemicals and waste specifically underlines that the full and effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions contributes to sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment.

3. The Sustainable Development Goals and priority areas under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The Sustainable Development Goals, along with their accompanying targets and indicators, address various aspects of human well-being. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established by the General Assembly, in the process of developing the Goals, identified the following priority areas in which the sound management of chemicals and waste could contribute to their implementation.

Poverty eradication. Poor populations are the most vulnerable to exposure to hazardous substances because of where they live, how they earn a living, their low levels of education and awareness in regard to the risks associated with exposure to toxic chemicals, a lack of – or limited – access to health care and poor nutrition. Exposure may result in diseases that can interfere with an individual's ability to retain employment, for example. In urban settings, the poor often reside in areas close to landfills, dumping sites for hazardous and other wastes, incinerators and other industrial and polluting activities.

Employment and social protection. The chemicals industry, which is a major driver of economic growth, employs more than 20 million people around the globe. Nearly all workers are potentially exposed to some sort of chemical hazard because of the ubiquitous use of chemicals in every type of industry, from mining to welding and mechanical and manufacturing work, as well as in office work and other occupations. While significant advances have been made in occupational health and safety globally, workers around the world still face unhealthy and unsafe working conditions. Accidents resulting in exposure and chronic health effects from long-term exposure to lower levels of exposure remain a global concern.[3] The safety of people engaged in economic activities where chemical exposures are significant, such as e-waste recycling, agriculture, small-scale and artisanal mining, lead acid battery recycling and so on, needs to be ensured without compromising employment opportunities.

Gender equality and vulnerable groups, including women and children. The adverse effects of chemicals and wastes on various population groups vary depending on the level of exposure, behavioural patterns, age, biological effects such as endocrine disruption, geographical location, nutritional status and co-exposure to other chemicals. Some types of chemicals, such as persistent organic pollutants, can build up to dangerous levels in humans and wildlife and cause adverse reproductive, developmental, immunological, hormonal and carcinogenic effects, with varied impacts on vulnerable groups. Children are particularly susceptible to the negative health impacts of chemicals owing to their rapid growth and development and their greater exposure relative to body weight. Breastfeeding can transfer toxic chemicals from mother to child.

3 UNEP, 2013, Global Chemical Outlook, p. 46.

Governance and human rights. The sound management of chemicals and wastes contributes to the effective realization of human rights, including the right to life, health, clean water, food, adequate housing, safe and healthy working conditions, information, participation and freedom of association. International multilateral environmental agreements in the field of chemicals and waste management have integrated the norms, standards and principles of the international human rights framework. This includes the promotion of public access to information and accountability and transparency in government decision-making. A failure to adhere to principles of good governance impedes the effective enforcement of international and national laws on chemicals and waste management.

Health and population dynamics. The ability to enjoy the right to work and education is affected by health. Indoor and outdoor air pollution, a lack of clean water and sanitation and poor working conditions hinder prevention, fuel the spread of diseases and create barriers to healthy living, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalized populations. Air pollution alone is estimated to cause several million preventable deaths each year, and estimates suggest that one quarter of the global burden of disease can be attributed to environmental risks, including those associated with the effects of climate change[4] and exposure to toxic chemicals.

Chemical releases into the environment are major contributors to environmental pollution and, consequently, to human exposure.[5] Many of the chemicals regulated under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are known or suspected carcinogens or are associated with other serious health effects, including adverse reproductive, developmental, neurological, immunological and endocrine-disrupting effects.

Sustainable consumption and production. Currently, over 60 per cent of ecosystems and ecosystem services are degraded, overexploited or have already been lost. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns result in increased water and air pollution, land and forest degradation, waste generation and use of harmful chemical substances. Economic growth will have to be decoupled from resource use and environmental degradation to ensure the sustainability of inclusive socioeconomic development.[6]

Food security and sustainable agriculture. Insecticides, herbicides and fungicides are vital to modern agriculture but can affect a wide variety of non-target organisms, including beneficial soil microorganisms and lead to decreased ecosystem resilience and reduced soil fertility, thereby undermining food security. Once used, pesticides accumulate in the air and water or on land, where they can harm nontarget species and diminish biodiversity.

4 United Nations Technical Support Team, "Health and sustainable development", in Compendium of TST Issues Briefs (DESA, 2014). Available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1554TST_compendium_issues_briefs_rev1610.pdf.

5 Resource Futures International, 2008, Mainstreaming the Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning: Background and Rationale. Available at http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Portals/9/Mainstreaming/EnviroFactorsBrnstrmingMeeting%201-3July09%20-%20BSolomon.pdf.

6 United Nations Technical Support Team, "Sustainable consumption and production, including chemicals and waste", in Compendium of TST Issues Briefs (DESA, 2014). Available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1554TST_compendium_issues_briefs_rev1610.pdf.

By contaminating groundwater, lakes, rivers and other bodies of water, pesticides pollute drinking supplies, fish stocks and other resources that are vital for human well-being. By polluting the soil, they can endanger farmers at work and children at play. While developing countries use only 25 per cent of global pesticide production, they experience 99 per cent of the deaths caused by pesticide exposure.[7] Poor people often use severely hazardous pesticide formulations rather than safer alternatives.

Water and sanitation. Groundwater resources around the world are threatened by pollution from agricultural and urban areas, solid waste, on-site wastewater treatment, mining, manufacturing and other industrial sources. Hazardous pollutants include trace metals, such as cadmium, lead and mercury, pesticides and their by-products, such as dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and chlordecone, industrial chemicals and combustion by-products. Persistent organic pollutants, such as polychlorinated biphenyls and DDT, concentrate in fatty tissues, remaining for long periods and biomagnifying up the food chain, with the highest concentrations found in top predators. Organisms can accumulate contaminants from water, sediment and food, resulting in contaminant levels in tissue that are much higher than those in the surrounding environment. Although conventional hazardous pollutants are declining in many industrialized areas, additional contaminants are raising new concerns. Examples include polybrominated diphenyl ethers, which are flame retardants; perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, a persistent organic pollutant used for surface treatment and also common in non-stick products, stain-resistant fabrics and all-weather clothing; and endosulfan, a broad-spectrum insecticide used to control a wide range of pests on a variety of crops, such as coffee, cotton, rice, sorghum and soy.

Environmental sustainability and climate change. Chemicals and wastes can contribute to ozone depletion and climate change, with the organic fraction of municipal wastes contributing about 5 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions known to be responsible for climate change,[8] also causing severe environmental degradation and disrupting ecosystems through the contamination of water, soil, air and flora and fauna. The sound management of chemicals and wastes can help to prevent or minimize the entry of harmful substances into the environment and reduce the need for difficult and costly environmental remediation.[9]

7 Jerry Jeyaratnam, "Acute pesticide poisoning: a major global health problem", World Health Statistics Quarterly, vol. 43, No. 3 (1990), pp. 139–44.

8 UNEP, 2011, *Towards a green economy: Pathways to sustainable development and poverty eradication*. Available at http://web.unep.org/greeneconomy/sites/unep.org.greeneconomy/files/field/image/green_economyreport_final_dec2011.pdf.

9 UNDP/GEF, 2007, *Managing Chemicals for Sustainable Development*.

4. Links between the sound management of chemicals and wastes and sustainable development

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of the new, universal, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are integrated and indivisible and strike a balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Chemicals and wastes are reflected in a number of the Goals and targets, including those on health, water, cities and human settlements, oceans and sustainable consumption and production. The sound management of chemicals and wastes is also an important, albeit less prominent, factor in areas such as education, gender equality and climate change. As such, it is acknowledged that its cross-cutting nature can provide practical solutions to global and local challenges. Its full integration into global sustainable development policy, therefore, is crucial to enabling societies to benefit from clean air and water, sanitation, safe food and sustainable ecosystems and cities while promoting healthy lives, safe jobs and sustainable economic growth.

While chemicals make a major contribution to national economies, a clear link has been established between poverty and increased risks of exposure to hazardous chemicals and wastes: it is predominantly the poor that routinely face unacceptably high risks because of their occupations, living conditions and lack of knowledge about the detrimental impacts of such exposures.

5.1 Targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Table 1.a Interlinkages between the targets of the Basel Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Basel Convention goals	Basel Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
1. Ensure the effective implementation of parties' obligations on transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes	1.1 To reach a common understanding among parties of definitions, interpretation and terminology relating to wastes covered by the Convention, including the distinction between wastes and nonwastes	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
	1.2 To prevent and combat illegal traffic in hazardous and other wastes--	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
		11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Basel Convention goals	Basel Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
	1.3 To improve performance in meeting requirements pertaining to, among other things, notifications of national definitions of hazardous and other wastes, prohibitions and other control measures	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
	1.4 To generate, provide, collect, transmit and use reliable qualitative and quantitative information and data regarding export, import and generation as required under Article 13 of the Convention	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
		12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
2. Strengthen the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes	2.1 To pursue the development of the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, especially through the preparation of technical guidelines, and to promote its implementation in national legislation	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Basel Convention goals	Basel Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
		12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.
		5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
	2.2 To pursue the prevention and minimization of hazardous waste and other waste generation at source, especially through supporting and promoting activities designed to reduce at the national level the generation and hazard potential of hazardous and other wastes	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
		6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
		6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

Basel Convention goals	Basel Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
	2.3 To support and promote capacity-building for parties, including technological capability, through technology needs assessments and technology transfer, so as to reduce the generation and hazard potential of hazardous and other wastes	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
		12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
		17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
		17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Basel Convention goals	Basel Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
		17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
	2.4 To enhance and promote the sustainable use of resources by improving the management of hazardous and other wastes and to encourage the recognition of wastes as a resource, where appropriate	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
		12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
		8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Basel Convention goals	Basel Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
3. Promote the implementation of the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes as an essential contribution to the attainment of sustainable livelihoods, the Sustainable Development Goals and the protection of human health and the environment	3.1 To develop national and regional capacity, particularly through the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, by integrating waste management issues into national sustainable development strategies and plans for sustainable livelihood	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
		17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
	3.2 To promote cooperation with national, regional and international bodies, in particular cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to improve environmental and working conditions through the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

5. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Several of the 169 targets associated with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals relate directly to chemicals and wastes, in particular targets 2.1, 3.9, 6.3, 11.6, 12.4, 12.5, 14.1 and 16.1. In addition, those targets correspond directly to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm convention strategies and work plans, under their respective programmes of work, as well as their implementation targets and/or objectives. The Sustainable Development Goals can therefore provide a holistic and integrated framework for enhanced coherence and a cross-sectoral approach to sound chemicals management across the board. The Goals, along with the accompanying targets and indicators, address various aspects of human well-being.

Some of the Goals that are relevant to the sound management of chemicals and wastes can be illustrated as follows.

Table 1.b Interlinkages between the targets of the Rotterdam Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Rotterdam Convention goals	Rotterdam Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
1. Promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm	Implementation of the Convention by all parties (Article 15)	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
	Implement the Prior Informed Consent procedure on hazardous chemicals and pesticides (Articles 5 and 7)	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
	Provide technical assistance to parties (Article 16)	17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
		17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Rotterdam Convention goals	Rotterdam Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
2. Contribute to the environmentally sound use of hazardous chemicals and pesticides covered by the Convention by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, providing for national decision-making processes on their import and export and disseminating the resulting decisions to parties	Facilitate information exchange (Articles 5, 6, 10, 11, 13 and 14)	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Table 1.c Interlinkages between the targets of the Stockholm Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Stockholm Convention goals	Stockholm Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
1. Protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants	Levels of persistent organic pollutants in human beings and the environment diminish over time	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
2. Eliminate the production, use, import and export of the chemicals listed in Annex A to the Convention	All parties to the Convention take measures, including legal and administrative measures, to control the production, import, export and use of the persistent organic pollutants listed in annexes A and B to the Convention that meet or exceed the Convention requirements	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Stockholm Convention goals	Stockholm Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
3. Restrict the production, use, import and export of the chemicals listed in Annex B to the Convention	Quantities of persistent organic pollutants produced, used and imported and exported for use diminish over time	
		11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
		12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
4. Minimize and, where feasible, eliminate releases of the unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C to the Convention	All parties to the Convention develop and implement action plans to identify, characterize and address releases of the chemicals listed in Annex C to the Convention	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Stockholm Convention goals	Stockholm Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
	Releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants diminish over time	11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
		12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
5. Ensure that stockpiles and wastes containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants are managed in a manner protective of human health and the environment	Levels of persistent organic pollutants being released into the environment from stockpiles and wastes diminish over time	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
		11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Stockholm Convention goals	Stockholm Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
		12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
6. Facilitate or undertake the exchange of information relevant to persistent organic pollutants	All parties to the Convention designate focal points and establish information exchange mechanisms	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
7. Promote and facilitate public information, awareness and education	Public awareness of persistent organic pollutant issues improves	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Stockholm Convention goals	Stockholm Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
8. Undertake research, development, monitoring and cooperation pertaining to persistent organic pollutants, candidate persistent organic pollutants and alternatives	All parties to the Convention undertake research, development, monitoring and cooperation pertaining to persistent organic pollutants, candidate persistent organic pollutants and alternatives	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
9. Support developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition in implementing the Convention	Timely and appropriate technical assistance and technology transfer is made available to developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition to enhance their capacity to implement the Convention	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
	Developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition receive financial resources to meet the incremental costs of implementing measures to fulfil their obligations under the Convention	12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
		17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

Stockholm Convention goals	Stockholm Convention targets	2030 Agenda targets
		17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
		17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
		17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

5.2 Sustainable Development Goal indicators of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Table 2.a Interlinkages between the indicators of the Basel Convention Strategic Framework and relevant proposed Sustainable Development Goals indicators

Basel Convention indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
The number of agreed technical guidelines that assist parties in reaching a common understanding on definitions, interpretations and terminologies covered by the Basel Convention	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
	11.6.1 Percentage of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities
Number of parties that have reached a level of administrative and technical capacity (in the form of customs, police, environmental enforcement, port and judicial authorities, among others) adequate to prevent and combat illegal traffic Sub-indicators: • Number of parties that develop and execute training programmes for the staff involved • Number of controls and inspections carried out	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	11.6.1 Percentage of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities.
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

Basel Convention indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
Percentage of parties that have notified national definitions of hazardous wastes to the Secretariat in accordance with Article 3 of the Basel Convention	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
Percentage of parties reporting information to the Secretariat under Article 13.	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals, that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled
Number of parties with national hazardous waste management strategies or plans in place Sub-indicators: • Number of guidelines on environmentally sound management of wastes developed	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled
	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

Basel Convention indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
Number of parties that have developed and implemented national strategies, plans or programmes for reducing the generation and hazard potential of hazardous and other wastes Sub-indicators: • Number of parties that have implemented systems for measuring hazardous waste generation in order to assess progress in selected hazardous waste streams and to reduce the generation and hazard potential of hazardous wastes and other wastes	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
	6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan
Number of parties that have developed and implemented national strategies, plans or programmes for hazardous waste minimization Sub-indicators: • Number of parties receiving capacity-building support that report reductions in hazardous waste generation • Number of parties receiving capacity-building support for hazardous waste minimization	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled
	17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries

Basel Convention indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
	17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
	17.3.1 Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget
Number of programmes, projects or activities carried out by parties, jointly with other parties or together with other stakeholders (regional and international organizations, conventions, industry bodies, etc.), aimed at the environmentally sound management of priority waste streams that have been monitored and assessed to achieve this goal.	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled
	8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex
Percentage of parties that collect information on the generation, management and disposal of hazardous and other wastes. Sub-indicators: • Number of training and awareness-raising activities undertaken to enhance and promote the sustainable use of resources • Percentage of parties that require the separation of hazardous wastes from non-hazardous other wastes • Percentage of parties that have national inventories on the generation and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes • Percentage of selected Convention waste streams reused, recycled or recovered	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

Basel Convention indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled
	8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex
Number of parties reporting, through the Secretariat, to the Conference of Parties on the integration of waste and hazardous waste issues into their national development plans or strategies	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
	17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
Number of activities on common issues undertaken by the bodies under the three Conventions	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

Table 2.b Interlinkages between proposed indicators for the Rotterdam Convention and relevant proposed Sustainable Development Goals indicators

Rotterdam Convention proposed indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
Number of parties that have designated one or more national authorities	
Number of parties that have adopted or amended national legislative or administrative measures in order to implement the Convention	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)
	3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
Number of chemicals that are subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)
	3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
Number of severely hazardous pesticide formulations included in Annex III to the Convention at the request of a developing-country party or a party with an economy in transition	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)
	3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
Number of import responses available on the Convention website	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)

Rotterdam Convention proposed indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
	3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
Number of parties with systems in place for meeting the requirements of the Convention in respect of the export of chemicals listed in Annex III to the Convention	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)
	3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
Number of parties that have provided other parties with technical assistance, including training in developing their infrastructure and capacity to manage chemicals throughout their life cycle	
Number of notifications of final regulatory action in the database of notifications of final regulatory action	17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries
Number of export notifications available on the Convention website*	17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
Number of parties that have fulfilled the requirement for an exporting party, when exporting chemicals to be used for occupational purposes, to ensure that an up-to-date safety data sheet is sent to the importer**	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
Number of parties that have fulfilled labelling requirements for exports of chemicals included in the prior informed consent procedure, as well as for other chemicals that are banned or severely restricted in the exporting countries	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals, that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

Rotterdam Convention proposed indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
Number of parties with national registers and databases including safety information for chemicals	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

*There is no mandate for parties to transmit the export notifications to the Secretariat for publication on the website.

**The means of verifying indicator 2.2.4 are unclear, as is the meaning of the phrase “chemicals to be used for occupational purposes”.

Table 2.c Interlinkages between proposed indicators for the Stockholm Convention and relevant proposed Sustainable Development Goals indicators

Stockholm Convention proposed indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
Changes in the levels of listed persistent organic pollutant in the air Changes in the levels of listed persistent organic pollutants in human beings Changes in the levels of listed persistent organic pollutants in other environmental media, as available	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
Number of parties that have prohibited and/or taken legal and administrative measures to control the production, import, export and use of the persistent organic pollutants listed in annexes A and B to the Convention that meet or exceed the Convention requirements	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
For each chemical listed in annexes A and B to the Convention, the changes in the quantities produced, used, imported and exported for use	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)
	3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
Number of parties that have developed and implemented action plans for identifying, characterizing and addressing the release of the chemicals listed in Annex C to the Convention	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution

Stockholm Convention proposed indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
Percentage change in the quantity of persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C that each party has produced unintentionally and released into the environment	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)
	3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
	11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
Number of parties that have developed and used appropriate strategies for identifying stockpiles Number of parties with measures in place to manage stockpiles in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner Number of parties with measures in place to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
Quantity of wastes identified and destroyed over time, including waste products and articles consisting of or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)
	3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
	11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

Stockholm Convention proposed indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
Number of parties with designated national focal points Number of parties that have established information exchange mechanisms	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
Number of parties that have taken measures to implement Article 10 of the Convention	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
Number of parties that report having undertaken research and development initiatives to implement Article 11 of the Convention	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
Number of parties providing technical assistance and technology transfer	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
	17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries
	17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
	17.3.1 Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget

Stockholm Convention proposed indicators	Proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
Total monetary value of financial resources made available to developing country parties, including technical assistance provided	12.a.1 Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies
	17.7.1 Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies

6. Implementation methods

6.1 The Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and other related chemicals conventions.

The synergies process agreed upon by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as a means of enhancing cooperation and coordination aims to strengthen the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels by providing coherent policy guidance, enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to the parties to the conventions, reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels while maintaining the legal autonomy of the three conventions. This unique approach is a successful example to other parts of the global environmental community of how international environmental governance can be enhanced through coordination and cooperation. It is a viable option for synergizing the Minamata Convention on Mercury, once it comes into force.

In addition to initiating reforms of the secretariats of the three conventions on an administrative and operational level, the synergies process is changing the way in which the implementation of the conventions are undertaken at the national and regional levels, with the parties to the conventions and the entities supporting them in their implementation efforts, such as regional centres, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, also striving to increase the coherence of those efforts. Some examples of the benefits that countries can derive from enhanced coordination and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements include the following:

- Improved use of available resources through more coordinated national frameworks, institutional mechanisms and enforcement capacity in dealing with chemicals and waste;
- Raised profile of chemicals and waste issues at the national and international levels, which can result in increased resources to support chemicals and waste management programmes;
- Better coordinated technical assistance activities and better use of resources to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the conventions;
- A more integrated approach to sound chemicals and waste management and the opportunity to mainstream related issues into national development plans;
- More cost-effective implementation of the conventions.

6.2. Strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021

The aim of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021 is to protect human health and the environment by controlling transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes and by ensuring and strengthening the environmentally sound management of such wastes as a contribution to promoting sustainable livelihoods and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Responsibility for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Basel Convention lies primarily with each party, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders. The support of the Convention secretariat and the regional and coordinating centres will be crucial to the attainment of those goals and objectives by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, taking into account their respective capacities and particular requirements. Attainment also hinges upon the availability of means of implementation. In this regard, full consideration should be given to Article 10 of the Convention.

The strategic framework has three main goals:

- Effective implementation of the parties' obligations on transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes;
- Strengthening the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes;
- Promoting the implementation of the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes as an essential contribution to the attainment of sustainable livelihoods and the Millennium Development Goals and the protection of human health and the environment.

6.3 Programmes of work and/or secretariat work plans

The secretariat Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions has developed work plans for implementing the programmes of work of the three. At their meetings in 2015, the conferences of the parties to the conventions approved the programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2016–2017, by their decisions BC-12/25, RC-7/15 and SC-7/33, including 17 joint activities.

The activities constitute a continuation of the activities implemented in the biennium 2014–2015, taking into account the lessons learned, financial contributions received and outcomes achieved.

The cross-cutting and joint activities are clustered in the following areas:

Conferences and meetings

- Technical assistance and capacity-building
- Scientific and technical activities
- Knowledge and information management and outreach
- Overall management, including resource mobilization and a review of the synergies decisions
- Legal and policy
- Office maintenance and services

7. Conclusions

The present paper has sought to provide a brief overview of the links between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in an attempt to facilitate a better articulation of the available data and information on existing and possible targets and indicators for those three conventions relevant to finalizing indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The paper will be updated and revised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) when more information on the discussions to finalize the Sustainable Development Goal indicators under the aegis of the United Nations Statistical Commission becomes available.

Considering the relevance of implementation-related actions at the national level, it is relevant also to consider how countries will take on board the indicators proposed by the Statistical Commission in its reporting.

The sound management of chemicals and wastes is also important, albeit to a less pronounced degree, in areas such as education, gender equality and climate change, and its cross-cutting nature is acknowledged as having the capacity to provide practical solutions to global and local challenges. Its full integration into the global sustainable development policy agenda is therefore crucial to enabling societies to benefit from clean air and water, sanitation, safe food and sustainable ecosystems and cities while promoting healthy lives, safe jobs and sustainable economic growth.

While chemicals make a major contribution to national economies, a clear link has been established between poverty and increased risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals and wastes: it is predominantly the poor that routinely face unacceptably high risks because of their occupations, living conditions and lack of knowledge about the detrimental impacts of such exposure.

The coordinated efforts of the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and the Chemicals and Waste Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economy, including the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and many other partners coordinated their efforts to ensure that chemicals and waste management issues were integrated into the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and their associated targets.

To implement the comprehensive and integrated Sustainable Development Goals as they relate to chemicals and wastes effectively, the global community needs to move beyond minimizing the adverse effects of toxic chemicals and stockpiles on human

health and ecosystems. The effectiveness of the implementation of the Goals calls for a circular economy and a life-cycle approach to promoting sustainable consumption and production and a proactive framework for addressing related environmental and health issues, coupled with measures to advance a green economy and sustainable chemistry at all levels. It is equally important to promote the mainstreaming of chemicals and hazardous waste management into national public health, environment and social and economic policies and legislation.