Cross-mapping of the United Nations System Common Approach Towards a Pollution-Free Planet with the Global Framework on Chemicals

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I. Context

In 2023, governments adopted the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (GFC)[1], a milestone in international efforts to strengthen the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste. Building on the experience of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the GFC promotes a life-cycle approach, fosters collaboration across sectors and stakeholders, and directly links chemicals and waste management to the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. By doing so, it positions chemicals and waste issues as central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, protecting both human health and the environment.

Alongside this development, the United Nations system has advanced the Common Approach Towards a Pollution-Free Planet (the Common Approach) as its framework for coordinated action on pollution in all its forms. The Common Approach originates from the UNEA Ministerial Declaration on a Pollution-Free Planet by the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) and the subsequent UNEP implementation plan adopted in UNEA-4 in 2019, which call for concerted global efforts to reduce pollution and its adverse impacts on both human health and ecosystems.

The Common Approach is the result of a comprehensive mapping exercise by the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG), that reviewed ongoing activities and initiatives related to pollution within the United Nations system, with the objective to establish a plan to mainstream pollution prevention and strengthen coherence across the system in support of global efforts to combat pollution[2]. Since chemicals and waste are an integral dimension of pollution, the effectiveness of the Common Approach depends on its ability to support the global objectives of the GFC. As implementation of the GFC is being advanced through its Implementation Programmes[3], the role of the Common Approach is to help ensure that UN system action remains coherent, coordinated and responsive to Member States's priorities. In practical terms, this means strengthening the capacity of the UN system to connect and align its contributions, so that support provided to countries, as they implement the new Global Framework, is more integrated, consistent and effective.

This cross-mapping exercise offers an opportunity to examine how far the Common Approach already aligns with the GFC, where gaps remain, and where closer integration may be needed. Clarifying these linkages will strengthen coordination within the UN system and maximize its contributions to support Member States and other partners in the implementation of the GFC objectives.

[1] The GFC was established at the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management in September 2023. UNEP (2023), The Global Framework on Chemicals.

[2] These efforts culminated in the endorsement of a United Nations System Common Approach Towards a Pollution-Free Planet by the EMG Senior Officials on October 10, 2023. EMG (2023), The United Nations System Common Approach Towards a Pollution-Free Planet

[3] The GFC Implementation Programmes: https://iomc.info/support-for-gfc-implementation-programmes

II. Synergies with other mechanisms

The implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) is supported by a set of established mechanisms, in particular the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)[4] and the Implementation Programmes[5] under the Framework. In this context, the Common Approach provides a system-wide framework to enhance coherence across UN entities, connect chemicals and waste management with broader pollution and sustainable development agendas, and support coordinated UN contributions to the GFC, including where relevant to its Implementation Programmes.

The Common Approach can be key to make the link between chemicals and waste concerns and global agendas already prioritized by governments, including the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Education for Sustainable Development framework (ESD for 2030), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the One Health approach. As instruments that safeguard ecosystems that play a vital role in mitigating the impacts of hazardous chemicals and waste, the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, and the Law of the Sea BBNJ Agreement collectively provide powerful mechanisms to enhance pollution prevention and the application of nature-based solutions. Integrating the sound management of chemicals and waste within these agendas helps ensure that action under the GFC is not seen as additional, but as a synergistic contribution to other existing national and international commitments.

Through the Common Approach, UN entities can better align their efforts with existing mechanisms, ensuring that chemicals and waste management is consistently embedded within the wider sustainable development priorities. This strengthens coherence and enables a more effective and coordinated UN system response in support of Member States.

[4] Since its establishment in 1995, the IOMC has served as the main platform for UN agencies and other international bodies to coordinate on chemicals management. Over time it has been instrumental in advancing policy coherence, strengthening capacity, and producing technical tools for governments and stakeholders. It was a key partner in supporting the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and is now fully engaged in the GFC.

[5] The IPs are designed to complement the formal meetings of the Framework by creating a space for regular knowledge-sharing, recognition of good practices, the involvement of new stakeholders, and the identification of gaps and joint solutions. They are intended to mobilize and support concrete initiatives by those stakeholders committed to achieving specific GFC targets.

III. Cross mapping of the Common Approach towards a Pollution-free Planet and the GFC objectives

At the level of their overarching goals, the United Nations Common Approach towards a Pollution-free Planet and the Global Framework on Chemicals are closely aligned. The Common Approach sets out a vision of a pollution-free planet that protects both people and the environment, grounded in the recognition of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all. It makes clear that this ambition can only be achieved if pollution is prevented or reduced to levels that no longer threaten human or planetary health, and it explicitly identifies the sound management of chemicals and waste as part of this effort. This is aligned with the GFC stated aim of preventing, or where full prevention is not possible, minimizing harm from chemicals and waste in order to safeguard human health and the environment, with particular attention to vulnerable groups and workers. This shared ambition provides a strong foundation for alignment between the two frameworks.

The following cross-mapping exercise reviews the 5 strategic objectives and 28 targets of the GFC in relation to the 11 objectives and 30 expected outcomes of the Common Approach. It is important to recognize that the Common Approach addresses pollution in all its forms, of which chemicals and waste are only one part. At the same time, it is also important to note that implementation of the GFC is being advanced through its Implementation Programmes and existing mechanisms. In this context, the purpose of this exercise is to identify where the Common Approach can help strengthen coherenc, highlight linkage, and support more integrated UN System contributions to the GFC. This provides a clearer picture of how the UN system, through the Common Approach, can support the GFC's specific objectives on chemicals and waste as part of the broader global ambition to achieve a pollution-free planet.

A. Legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities are in place to support and achieve the safe and sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life cycle

Strategic Objective A of the GFC focuses on the need for countries to have robust legal frameworks and institutions in place in order to handle the sound management of chemicals. It not only addresses the adoption of these frameworks, but also their correct and effective enforcement, and the ability of institutions to operationalize these frameworks in practice. Furthermore, it highlights the role of the private sector in actively implementing the prevention and reduction of impacts of chemicals across all life-cycle stages.

Strategic Objective 3 of the Common Approach is closely aligned, as it recognizes the need of legislative and regulatory frameworks to prevent, manage and remediate pollution across all sectors. It emphasizes the role of the UN in leading the development and implementation of international standards and policy frameworks on pollution, including chemicals and waste, which guide and inform national legislation and regulatory practices. Moreover, it underscores the UN's role in promoting and advocating for strong private-sector engagement to implement these frameworks and reduce the polluting impacts of their activities. The Common Approach also

emphasizes the UN's responsibility to support States in integrating robust health, environmental and social standards into their legal frameworks on pollution. With respect to enforcement, it highlights the UN System's key role in building national capacities to ensure effective implementation, particularly those of enforcement and inspection authorities.

This area of alignment is also reflected in ongoing efforts under the GFC Implementation Programmes, notably Implementation Programme 1 (IP1), which focuses on strengthening national chemicals legislation and institutional capacities. In this context, the Common Approach can add value by helping to align and connect UN System contributions in support of IP1, facilitating knowledge-sharing, and linking these efforts with broader pollution and sustainable development priorities.

Furthermore, **Strategic Objectives 6 and 7 of the Common Approach** are also highly relevant. They highlight UN System's convening power and technical expertise to foster multi-stakeholder action and partnerships that support the implementation of international legal and policy commitments and promote transformation of high-impact economic sectors. This also includes the UN's role in identifying and promoting safer and cleaner alternatives to enable this transformation. These measures align closely with the GFC's sectoral priorities under Objective A, such as the phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides in the agricultural sector.

Objective 3 of the Common Approach. Develop and implement policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks, strategies, plans and actions, addressing all types and sources of pollution, including promoting circular economy opportunities at the international, regional, national, subnational and local level.
Objective 6 of the Common Approach. Transform high-impact sectors for a pollution-free planet throughout value chains.
Objective 7 of the Common Approach. Identify, promote, and implement safer and cleaner alternatives and sustainable and resilient infrastructure development.

The following table cross-maps specific expected UN outcomes under the Common Approach that are relevant to the specific targets under the GFC Strategic Objective A, and proposes contribution opportunities by the UN System:

Strategic targets **of the GFC**	**Relevant outcomes of the Common Approach**	**Opportunities**
Target A1 – By 2030, Governments have adopted and are implementing and enforcing legal frameworks, and have established appropriate institutional	Under Outcome 3.1, the UN is expected to promote the implementation of international frameworks on the sound management of chemicals and waste and to support capacity-building for enforcement.	*The UN system may:* *- undertake a coordinated effort to identify gaps in the ratification of chemicals and waste MEAs, as well as the more persistent challenges related to*

capacity to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste as appropriate for their national circumstances.	Under Outcome 3.2, the UN is expected to offer technical guidance to help States integrate health, environmental, and social standards into national policies and legislation related to pollution control. Under Outcome 3.3 the UN is expected to provide technical assistance and capacity-building programmes to help States strengthen their ability to implement pollution-related policies and legislation, including capacities of environmental policy and inspection authorities, police, customs, and the judiciary.	*their implementation and enforcement. This could help inform and support the delivery of country-specific assistance under IP, strengthening the ability of governments not only to adopt, but also to effectively implement and enforce their regulatory frameworks.* *- foster synergies across biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, ocean governance, and chemicals and waste management by supporting the translation of existing linkages into coordinated implementation at national level. This could include helping policymakers identify practical entry points for aligning policies, institutions, and investment priorities across these domains. l.* *- scale up its green and sustainable procurement for chemicals and materials and convert this experience into practical guidance for governments, offering tested criteria, procedures, examples, and lessons learned that countries could adapt in their own public procurement systems.* *- building on ongoing efforts under IP1 to strengthen national enforcement and compliance systems, strengthen system-wide support for customs and enforcement authorities to address illegal trade in chemicals and waste, including detection methods, inspection and evidence procedures, and compliance monitoring. This could build on existing initiatives and, where relevant, support the establishment of structured training pathways, including certification options, for frontline authorities.*
Target A2 – By 2030, intergovernmental stakeholders develop guidelines to support the needs of interested Governments and relevant stakeholders to implement effective chemicals and waste management strategies, building on, among other	Under Outcome 3.1, the UN is expected to support knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices to facilitate stakeholders to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution. Under Outcome 3.2, the UN is expected to provide guidance to States in integrating health, environmental, and	*The UN system may:* *- in support of the IOMC, strengthen the further development of the IOMC Toolbox by enhancing its responsiveness to user needs. This could include gathering feedback from governments and practitioners, identifying priority gaps, improving usability, and, where relevant,*

things, updates of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management.	social standards into their national pollution-related policies and legislation. Under Outcome 3.3, the UN is expected to provide technical assistances and knowledge sharing to support states in enhancing their capabilities to implement pollution prevention and reduction.	*expanding content with additional regulatory approaches aligned with international standards and best practices. The Common Approach can contribute by bringing a system-wide perspective, helping identify common implementation bottlenecks, and linking user needs with broader pollution and sustainable development agendas, thereby supporting more effective uptake and contributing to the wider goal of a pollution-free planet.*
Target A3 – By 2030, companies implement measures identified to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals throughout their life cycle.	Under Outcome 3.1, the UN is expected to leverage the engagement of all sectors, including the private sector, in implementing and achieving the sound and integrated management of chemicals and waste. The UN is also expected to advocate for the adoption of circular economy, green and sustainable chemistry and environmentally sound technologies. Under Outcome 6.1, the UN is expected to convene key players in high-impact sectors and facilitate the integration of pollution prevention and reduction actions into business models and practice. Under Outcome 6.2, the UN is expected to promote and establish international standards for sustainable production and to promote sustainable trade. Under Outcome 6.3, the UN is expected to provide technical assistance and guidance to support States in phasing out/redirecting harmful incentives from polluting industries and to incentive the adoption of cleaner practices. Under Outcome 7.1, the UN is expected to promote circular economy, sustainable and circular bioeconomy and green economy; and to encourage production using sustainable and safer alternatives.	*The UN system may:* *- establish a UN-led platform to convene public–private partnerships that support voluntary commitments in high-impact sectors, and showcase models and innovations that advance global chemicals and waste and pollution-prevention objectives, and showcase circularity in value chains.* *- promote and scale UN system–supported pilot and demonstration projects showcasing green chemistry applications, circular economy models for hazardous materials, and safer waste treatment technologies, providing replicable examples for companies and regulators.* *- co-develop transition pathways with industry associations for high-impact sectors (e.g., plastics, textiles, pesticides, mining, construction), outlining practical steps for companies to phase out hazardous chemicals, adopt safer technologies, and shift toward sustainable materials.* *- expand tools and databases on safer alternatives.* *- jointly develop and deliver training programmes for companies on implementing safer alternatives, applying green and sustainable chemistry, and complying with MEA-related requirements.*

Target A4 – By 2030, stakeholders have effectively prevented all illegal trade and traffic of chemicals and waste.	Under Outcome 3.3, the UN is expected to providing technical assistance, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building programmes to support States in enhancing their capabilities to implement pollution prevention and reduction measures, including capacities of environmental policy and inspection authorities and customs. Under Outcome 6.2, the UN is expected to promote sustainable trade.	*The UN system may* *- Strengthen system-wide support for customs and enforcement authorities to prevent and combat illegal trade and traffic in chemicals and waste, including through training on detection methods, inspection and evidence procedures, and compliance monitoring. This could build on existing initiatives and, where appropriate, support the development of structured training pathways, including certification options, for frontline authorities.* *- establish a UN-coordinated rapid alert mechanism for illegal trade cases, enabling real-time exchange of intelligence between customs, environment authorities, MEA secretariats, and enforcement networks.* *- facilitate voluntary collaboration among companies, industry associations, and regulators to promote sustainable practices in global supply chains, including the adoption of safer chemicals, improved traceability, and circular approaches.*
Target A5 – By 2030, Governments work towards notifying, regulating or prohibiting the export of chemicals they have prohibited nationally, in line with their international obligations.	Outcomes 3.1 and 3.3 highlight the role of the UN in providing technical assistance, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building programmes to support Member States in meeting obligations under conventions such as the Rotterdam Convention.	*UN entities may* *- in support of Implementation Programme 1 (IP1), work jointly to conduct UN-led assessments to support countries in identifying and addressing gaps in national legislation related to banned or severely restricted chemicals and in strengthening regulatory frameworks to enable effective notification, regulation, or prohibition of exports in line with their obligations under relevant multilateral environmental agreements.*
Target A6 – By 2030, all countries have access to poison centers equipped with essential capabilities to prevent and respond to poisonings, as well as access to training in chemical risk prevention and clinical toxicology.	Under Outcome 3.2, the UN is expected to provide technical expertise and guidance to States in integrating environmental and social standards into their national policies and legislation related to pollution control.	*UN entities may* *- work jointly to support access to poison center services, by further disseminating and supporting the practical application of the WHO Guidelines for Establishing a Poison Center. r This could include promoting training in clinical toxicology*

	Under Outcome 3.3, the UN is expected to provide technical assistance and knowledge sharing to support states in enhancing their capabilities to implement pollution prevention and reduction.	*and chemical risk prevention, as well as exploring regional approaches and shared services where national centers are not feasible.*
Target A7 – By 2035, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available, and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives.	Outcome 6.1 encourages UN entities to convene and support the establishment of multi-stakeholder forums and initiatives, where key players in high-impact sectors come together and collaborate to accelerate change. UN entities can encourage and facilitate the integration of pollution prevention and reduction actions into business models and practices; and enable transformative change, innovation, and the adoption of sustainable practices through knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices. Outcome 7.1. states that UN entities can advocate for sustainable economic development by promoting circular economy, sustainable and circular bioeconomy, and green economy; and help promote safer and cleaner production, the deployment of life cycle management approaches and help States implement policies that encourage production using sustainable and safe(r) alternatives.	*UN entities may* *- actively support and participate in the Global Alliance on HHPs and support countries in designing national transition plans that align with the GFC and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework objectives on pesticides.* *- systematically identify and evaluate safer and affordable alternatives to HHPs and the UN system maintains an updated list of recommended alternatives to support national decision-making.* *- support pilots showcasing:* *- agroecological and ecosystem-based approaches,* *- low-toxicity and green chemistry alternatives,* *circular and bio-based agricultural inputs,* *- private sector innovations.* *The UN system may* *- leverage UN knowledge platforms, including the Global Chemicals Outlook and the SAICM knowledge platform, as it transitions to a new global chemicals knowledge hub, to systematically communicate emerging research, innovative solutions, and proven practices on safer alternatives and pollution prevention, and to facilitate regular knowledge-sharing and best-practice exchanges among governments, industry, and other stakeholders.* *- scales up FAO-led Farmer Field Schools and related regional training initiatives to build the capacities of farmers, cooperatives, and extension services in integrated pest management, safe pesticide handling, biological and agroecological alternatives, and*

		methodologies for assessing and transitioning to safer substitute products and practices.

B. Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions.

Strategic Objective B of the GFC places a strong emphasis on ensuring that knowledge, data, and information on chemicals, products and waste are widely available to guide decisions and actions. The Common Approach supports this ambition through its **Strategic Objective 2**, which underscores the need to generate and make available knowledge, data and information on pollution and facilitating science-based, risk-informed decisions. It highlights the role of the UN in working with States and relevant stakeholders to develop standardized methodologies for data collection, analysis, and reporting, and in supporting capacity-building efforts to strengthen national capabilities to use pollution-related data effectively. The Common Approach also stresses the importance of the UN in building capacities and empowering States to adopt digital solutions for pollution prevention and to enhance the generation, management, and dissemination of information.

The GFC identifies a number of concrete data needs, including information on chemical properties, production and releases, as well as surveillance data on human and environmental exposures. All of these information areas can be supported under the broader pollution agenda advanced by the Common Approach. Some of the more specialized frameworks promoted by the GFC, such as standardized risk assessment methods or the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS), are not directly referenced in the Common Approach. However, it would be valuable to consider how UN entities could encourage the generalized and broad uptake of such standards, particularly by framing them within policy and governance objectives, which fits within Strategic Objective 3 of the Common Approach.

Furthermore, the Strategic Objective 1 of the Common Approach is also relevant. It stresses the UN's role in ensuring access to information, meaningful participation of all actors in decision-making processes, and promoting accountability for pollution-related harms. These aligns with the GFC Strategic Objective B, which underscores the importance of making information on chemicals and products publicly available, to generate and disclose data on chemical production and use, and to implement education, training, and public awareness programs.

Objective 2 of the Common Approach. Generate and make available to all knowledge, data and information on pollution to enable risk-informed decisions and actions.
Objective 1 of the Common Approach. Respect, protect and fulfil human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

The following table cross-maps specific expected UN outcomes under the Common Approach that are relevant to the specific targets under the GFC Strategic Objective B, and proposes contribution opportunities by the UN System:

Strategic.targets **of the GFC**	**Relevant outcomes of the Common Approach**	**Opportunities**
Target B1 – By 2035, comprehensive data and information on the properties of chemicals are generated and made available and accessible.	Under Outcome 2.1 the UN is expected to enable the development of standardized methodologies for data collection, analysis, and reporting and facilitate the exchange of data, knowledge, expertise, resources, and technologies through global partnerships and collaborating with different stakeholders. Under Outcome 2.3, UN entities are expected to support the development of robust, digital infrastructure and networks that enable effective data collection, analysis, and sharing. They can also promote the adoption and utilization of emerging technologies to monitor pollution levels, detect pollution sources, and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.	*UN entities may* *- support countries in establishing chemicals information systems, such as PRTRs, chemical registers, and national inventories, promoting the adoption of harmonized methodologies for data collection, analysis, and reporting. This includes promoting participation in frameworks such as the Kiev Protocol on PRTRs and improving interoperability and harmonization of national PRTR data in line with UN and MEA guidance.* *- assist countries in establishing policies and digital systems that ensure public, worker, and community access to chemical hazard information, promoting the realization of the right-to-know principle and relevant regional instruments such as the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement.* *- engage the UNEP Science-Policy Panel to coordinate research that generates missing chemical properties and hazard data, disseminate emerging scientific findings, and facilitate regular exchanges that help policymakers and regulators apply this evidence to decision-making.* *- explore the use of AI and other digital tools to generate and improve chemical property and hazard data, leveraging global initiatives such as Data4Now, UNEP's World Environment Situation Room (WESR), the Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS), and UNEP's Digital Accelerator Lab to support generation and accessibility of data.*
Target B2 – By 2030, stakeholders make available, to the extent possible, reliable	Outcome 1.1 expects the UN to promote the availability of data on impacts of pollution and on the causes of pollution,	*The UN system may*

information on chemicals in materials and products throughout the value chain.	in particular for consumers, workers and other right-holders. It suggests the UN to support States to take regulatory action to compel responsible third parties to generate the information necessary to understand the hazards and risks of exposure and to make information accessible. Under Outcome 2.1, the UN is expected to collaborate with relevant stakeholders on generating and enhancing accessibility to data and knowledge, and promote transparency. Under Outcome 6.2, UN entities are expected to lead efforts to promote sustainable and less polluting trade e.g. by supporting the adoption of information transparency across value chains and providing technical assistance to States and other relevant stakeholders.	*- advance the creation of an Interoperable and Digitalised Global Trade Ecosystem under UN/CEFACT, including digitising trade processes to enhance transparency and efficiency integrating environmental tracking tools to incentivize cleaner production.* *- assist countries in drafting or strengthening laws and regulations that require manufacturers, importers, and distributors to generate, disclose, and share chemical information in materials and products, enabling workers, consumers, and right-holders to access essential safety information, promoting the realization of the right-to-know principle and relevant regional instruments such as the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement, and the Globally Harmonized System (GHS).*
Target B3 – By 2035, stakeholders generate data on the production of chemicals, including the use of chemicals in materials and products, in addition to data on emissions and releases of chemicals and waste to the environment, making these data available and publicly accessible.	Under Outcome 2.1, the UN is expected to collaborate with relevant stakeholders on generating and enhancing accessibility to data and knowledge, and promote transparency.	*The UN entities may* *-assist countries in drafting or strengthening laws and regulations that require manufacturers to generate, disclose, and share chemical information in materials and products, enabling workers, consumers, and right-holders to access essential safety information, promoting the realization of the right-to-know principle and relevant regional instruments such as the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement, and the Globally Harmonized System (GHS).* *- UN entities support countries in establishing chemicals information systems, such as PRTRs, chemical registers, and national inventories, promoting the adoption of harmonized methodologies for data collection, analysis, and reporting. This includes promoting participation in frameworks such as the Kiev Protocol on PRTRs and improving interoperability and harmonization of national PRTR data in line with UN and MEA guidance.*

Target B4 – By 2035, stakeholders apply appropriate guidelines, best available practices and standardized tools for hazard and risk assessment and chemical and waste management.	Outcome 2.2 states that UN entities can support capacity-building efforts to enhance the technical skills and capabilities of national institutions in utilizing pollution-related data effectively for science-based and risk-informed decision-making. Outcome 3.2 suggests that UN entities could provide assistance to States in the establishment of health, environmental, and social standards to prevent and reduce pollution, that can be leveraged to inform policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks.	*The UN system may* *-promote global adoption and effective implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).* *- engage the UNEP Science-Policy Panel to coordinate research that generates missing chemical properties and hazard data, disseminate emerging scientific findings, and facilitate regular exchanges that help policymakers and regulators apply this evidence to decision-making.* *- jointly expand the Hazard Assessment Scheme under the IOMC Toolbox.*
Target B5 – By 2030, educational, training and public awareness programs on chemical safety, sustainability, safer alternatives and the benefits of reducing chemicals and waste risks have been developed and implemented, taking into consideration a gender-responsive approach.	Outcomes 1.1 and 1.2 stress the UN's role in supporting informed participation and access to information.	*- facilitate education and training programmes to raise awareness and enhance local capacities, that build on a human rights based and gender-responsive approach.*
Target B6 – By 2030, all Governments have implemented the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in all relevant sectors as appropriate for their national circumstances.	Outcome 2.2 promotes risk-informed and science-based frameworks that can underpin harmonized classification systems, but the CA does not explicitly reference GHS, making alignment indirect.	*The UN system may* *- increase the political commitment to implementing GHS and national chemicals management systems* *-promote global adoption and effective implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and UN entities assist countries to adopt and implement the GHS.* *- lead by example in advancing global implementation of the GHS by ensuring that all UN entities adopt and apply GHS consistently across their own operations, procurement, laboratories, workplaces, and training programmes.*
Target B7 – By 2030, stakeholders generate, to the extent possible, and make available comprehensive and accessible monitoring and surveillance data and	Under Outcome 2.1, the UN is expected to collaborate with relevant stakeholders on generating and enhancing accessibility to data and knowledge, and promote transparency.	*The UN system may* *- engage the UNEP Science-Policy Panel to facilitate the exchange of expertise, resources, and technologies, enabling the development of standardized*

information on concentrations and potential exposure sources of chemicals in humans (disaggregated by sex, age, region, other demographic factors, and other relevant health determinants as feasible), other biota and environmental media.	Under Outcome 2.3, UN entities are expected to promote the adoption and utilization of emerging technologies to monitor pollution levels, detect pollution sources, and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Under Outcome 1.1, the UN is expected in supporting States to guarantee the right to access information.	*methodologies for data collection, analysis, and reporting.* *- explore the use of AI and other digital tools to generate and improve monitoring and surveillance data on potential exposure sources, leveraging global initiatives such as Data4Now, UNEP's World Environment Situation Room (WESR), the Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS), and UNEP's Digital Accelerator Lab to support generation and accessibility of data.*

C. Issues of concern are identified, prioritized and addressed.

Strategic Objective C of the GFC focuses on the identification and effective management of issues of concern. These chemicals and waste issues of concern align closely with **Objective 6 of the Common Approach**, which emphasizes the need to transform high-impact sectors and their value chains as a pathway toward systemic change. By fostering multi-stakeholder action for pollution prevention within high-impact sectors, the UN is expected to accelerate transformative change and promote the adoption of sustainable practices in sectors such as those where chemicals of concern exert the greatest global impact. This approach provides a key opportunity to integrate chemicals and waste issues of concern into the broader sustainable development agenda and elevate them as priority areas requiring urgent action.

In practice, progress in this area is being advanced through the GFC Implementation Programmes, which provide a platform for translating identified issues of concern into concrete actions and programs of work. In this context, the Common Approach can support these efforts by helping to embed issues of concern within wider pollution prevention strategies and sectoral transformation processes. Objective 6 of the Common Approach also highlights the importance of phasing out harmful subsidies for polluting industries and redirecting them toward sustainable alternatives.

In addition, **Objective 3 of the Common Approach** reinforces the mandate to identify and address chemicals and waste issues of concern, underscoring the role of the UN in aligning with and contributing to global processes that define, assess, and respond to priority concerns in chemicals management.

Objective 3 of the Common Approach. Develop and implement policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks, strategies, plans and actions, addressing all types and sources of pollution, including promoting circular economy opportunities at the international, regional, national, subnational and local level.

Objective 6 of the Common Approach. Transform high-impact sectors for a pollution-free planet throughout value chains.

The following table cross-maps specific expected UN outcomes under the Common Approach that are relevant to the specific targets under the GFC Strategic Objective C, and proposes contribution opportunities by the UN System:

Strategic targets **of the GFC**	**Relevant outcomes of the Common Approach**	**Opportunities**
Target C1 – Processes and programs of work including timelines are established, adopted and implemented for identified issues of concern.	Under Outcome 3.1, the UN is expected to leverage its convening power and expertise to facilitate partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders to transform economic sectors and promote responsible, risk-informed and environmentally sound practices in the management of chemicals and waste. Under Outcomes 6.1 and 6.3, the UN is expected to promote systemic change in high-impact sectors.	*The UN system may* *- integrate issues of concern into overall work on high-impact sectors and support the development of roadmaps and actions within broader pollution prevention efforts, in particular through engaging in the GFC Implementation Programmes.*

D. Safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions in product value chains are in place so that benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where prevention is not feasible, minimized.

Strategic Objective D of the GFC calls for stronger action to advance safer alternatives and innovative, sustainable solutions across product value chains, with the aim of protecting both people's health and the environment. The Common Approach directly supports this agenda through its **Strategic Objectives 6 and 7**, which highlight the role of the UN in promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration to transform high-impact sectors and their value chains. This includes fostering safer and cleaner production, supporting policies that encourage the uptake of sustainable and safer alternatives, and expanding the availability and practical use of such alternatives globally.

In this area, the GFC Implementation Programmes, including those focusing on engagement with the private sector and value chains, provide an important platform for advancing these objectives. The Common Approach can support these efforts by helping align and connect UN system contributions, and by linking private sector action on chemicals and waste with broader pollution and sustainable development agendas.

In addition, Strategic Objective D of the GFC also expects that the private sector, including the financial sector, consistently incorporates chemicals and waste considerations into investment strategies, business models, and reporting standards. **Objective 8 of the Common Approach** seeks

to mobilize predictable and sustainable financial resources for pollution reduction, including redirecting investment flows toward cleaner activities.

Objective 6 of the Common Approach. Transform high-impact sectors for a pollution-free planet throughout value chains
Objective 7 of the Common Approach. Identify, promote, and implement safer and cleaner alternatives and sustainable and resilient infrastructure development.
Objective 8 of the Common Approach. Identify, incentivize, and mobilize predictable and sustainable financial resources for pollution-free action and risk reduction.

The following table cross-maps specific expected UN outcomes under the Common Approach that are relevant to the specific targets under the GFC Strategic Objective D, and proposes contribution opportunities by the UN System:

Strategic.targets **of GFC**	**Relevant outcomes of the Common Approach**	**Opportunities**
Target D1 – By 2030, companies consistently invest in and achieve innovations towards advancing sustainable chemistry and resource efficiency throughout the life cycle of chemicals.	Outcome 6.1 expects the UN to convene and support the establishment of multi-stakeholder forums and initiatives, where key players in high-impact sectors come together and collaborate to integrate pollution prevention and reduction actions into business models and practices, ensuring adherence to the highest standards. Outcome 7.1 expects the UN to promote safer and cleaner production and help States implement policies that encourage production using sustainable and safe(r) alternatives. In addition, the UN can advocate for sustainable economic development by promoting circular economy, sustainable and circular bioeconomy, and green economy among all stakeholders.	*UN system may* *- support the uptake and practical application of existing guidance on circular economy approaches, life-cycle thinking, and green chemistry by working with industry associations and relevant stakeholders to identify needs, co-develop sector-specific approaches, and promote targeted awareness where gaps exist. The Common Approach can add value by convening stakeholders and linking these efforts to broader pollution prevention and sustainable development objectives.* *- establishes a UN-led platform to convene public–private partnerships that support voluntary commitments in high-impact sectors, and showcase models and innovations that advance global chemicals and waste and pollution-prevention objectives, and showcase circularity in value chains.* *- promote and scale UN system–supported pilot and demonstration projects*

		showcasing green chemistry applications, circular economy models for hazardous materials, and safer waste treatment technologies, providing replicable examples for companies and regulators. *- facilitate technology-transfer platforms that provide developing countries and SMEs with access to safer chemical substitutes, cleaner production technologies, and resource-efficient manufacturing methods.*
Target D2 – By 2035, Governments implement policies that encourage production using safer alternatives and sustainable approaches throughout the life cycle, including best available techniques, green procurement and circular economy approaches.	Outcome 7.1 expects the UN to promote safer and cleaner production and help States implement policies that encourage production using sustainable and safe(r) alternatives.	*The UN system may* *-support initiatives focused on repurposing harmful subsidies, efficient tax policies, regulations, and incentives that could increase private investment in green and blue economic strategies.*
Target D3 – By 2030, the private sector, including the finance sector, incorporates strategies and policies to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste in its finance approaches and business models and applies internationally recognized or equivalent reporting standards.	Outcome 8.1 expects the UN to take a leading role on identifying and promoting tools to redirect investments to less-polluting activities. This includes an active role in shaping the discourse around private sector finance, comprising private investment, banking, loans or insurance.	*The UN system may* - *develop guidance and tools for integrating chemicals and waste risk into financial decision-making, promoting standardized risk assessment frameworks, ESG indicators, and taxonomy criteria that enable banks, insurers, investors, and credit agencies to systematically evaluate and manage chemicals- and waste-related risks in financing decisions.*
Target D4 – By 2030, relevant stakeholders give priority to sustainable solutions and safer alternatives to harmful substances in products and mixtures, including in consumer products, in their research and innovation programs.	Outcome 7.1 expects the UN to actively promote circular economy, sustainable and circular bioeconomy, and green economy, promoting the uptake of safer alternatives.	*UN entities may* *- provide sector-specific technical guidance and toolkits to help companies incorporate pollution prevention, safer alternatives, and lifecycle approaches into business models, supply chains, and product design.* *- co-develop transition pathways with industry associations for high-impact sectors (e.g., plastics, textiles, pesticides, mining, construction), outlining steps companies can take to phase out hazardous chemicals, adopt safer*

		technologies, and shift toward sustainable materials. *- may lead by example by ensuring that all UN entities prioritize and adopt safer alternatives in their procurement practices.*
Target D5 – By 2030, Governments implement policies and programs to increase support to safer and more sustainable agricultural practices, including agroecology, integrated pest management and the use of non-chemical alternatives, as appropriate.	Outcome 7.1 expects the UN to promote safer and cleaner production and help States implement policies that encourage production using sustainable and safe(r) alternatives.	*UN entities may* *-support pilots showcasing:* *- agroecological and ecosystem-based approaches,* *- low-toxicity and green chemistry alternatives,* *circular and bio-based agricultural inputs,* *- private sector innovations.* *- scale up FAO-led Farmer Field Schools and related regional training initiatives to build the capacities of farmers, cooperatives, and extension services in integrated pest management, safe pesticide handling, biological and agroecological alternatives, and methodologies for assessing and transitioning to safer substitute products and practices.* *- partner with governments to develop national roadmaps for sustainable agriculture, integrating safer pesticide alternatives, circular nutrient management, and green financing for farmers and cooperatives.*
Target D6 – By 2030, sustainable chemical and waste management strategies have been developed and implemented for major economic and industry sectors that identify priority chemicals of concern and standards and measures, such as the chemical footprint approach, to reduce their impact and, where feasible, their input along the value chain.	Outcome 6.1 expects the UN to convene and support the establishment of multi-stakeholder forums and initiatives, where key players in high-impact sectors come together and collaborate to integrate pollution prevention and reduction actions into business models and practices, ensuring adherence to the highest standards.	*The UN system may* - *co-develops transition pathways with industry associations for high-impact sectors (e.g., plastics, textiles, pesticides, mining, construction), outlining steps companies can take to phase out hazardous chemicals, adopt safer technologies, and shift toward sustainable materials.*
Target D7 – By 2030, stakeholders implement measures and strive to ensure effective occupational health	Under Outcome 3.2, the UN is expected to provide technical expertise and guidance to States in integrating environmental and social standards into	

and safety practices as well as environmental protection measures in all relevant sectors and throughout the supply chain.	their national policies and legislation related to pollution control.	

E. Enhanced implementation occurs through increased and effective resource mobilization, partnerships, cooperation, capacity-building, and integration into all relevant decision-making processes.

Strategic Objective E of the GFC emphasizes the importance of strengthening implementation through resource mobilization, partnerships, capacity-building, and integration of chemicals and waste management into wider policy and planning processes. Strategic Objective 4 of the Common Approach highlights the need to connect pollution with wider health, human rights, and other societal priorities. It sets the role of the UN to promote this holistic approach, ensuring that policies, strategies, and initiatives address multiple dimensions simultaneously and are embedded within wider development frameworks.

Strategic Objective 6 of the Common Approach highlights the UN System's convening power and to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships that support the implementation of international legal and policy commitments and promote transformation of high-impact economic sectors. On financing, Strategic Objective 8 of the Common Approach calls for the mobilization of predictable and sustainable resources by incorporating the real costs of pollution into economic decision-making, redirecting investments toward cleaner and less-polluting activities, and broadening access to finance for prevention and risk reduction. It also highlights the importance of the polluter-pays principle, which ensures that industries internalize the costs of pollution.

In this context, Implementation Programme 3 of the GFC (IP3), which focuses on mainstreaming chemicals and waste management into the broader sustainable development agenda, provides a key platform for advancing these objectives. The Common Approach is well positioned to support these efforts by connecting chemicals and waste priorities with wider pollution, climate, biodiversity, and health agendas, and by helping ensure that such integration is reflected consistently across UN system programming and partnerships.

Finally, Strategic Objective 11 of the Common Approach commits the UN system to lead by example by mainstreaming pollution prevention across its own programming and operations. This reinforces the integration of chemicals and waste management within broader sustainable development efforts and supports a more coherent system-wide response.

Objective 4 of the Common Approach. Increase systematic use of cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches to health, notably One Health approach, to address pollution
Objective 6 of the Common Approach. Transform high-impact sectors for a pollution-free planet throughout value chains

Objective 8 of the Common Approach. Identify, incentivize, and mobilize predictable and sustainable financial resources for pollution-free action and risk reduction.
Objective 11 of the Common Approach. Mainstream pollution prevention and reduction and maximize resource use efficiency in UN System operations and programming: Lead by example.

The following table cross-maps specific expected UN outcomes under the Common Approach that are relevant to the specific targets under the GFC Strategic Objective E, and proposes contribution opportunities by the UN System:

Strategic.targets **of the GFC**	**Relevant outcomes of the Common Approach**	**Opportunities**
Target E1 – By 2035, Governments have mainstreamed the sound management of chemicals and waste through implementation in all relevant sectoral plans, budgets and development plans and development assistance policies and programs.	Outcome 3.1 expects the UN to promote and support States in the implementation of the sound and integrated management of chemicals and waste. Outcome 11.1 expects the UN to lead by example, by mainstreaming pollution prevention and reduction within the UN System and its entities in their programmatic work.	*The UN system may* *- support the integration of GFC priorities into UN programming processes, including UNSDCFs, by aligning chemicals and waste considerations with broader pollution and sustainable development priorities.*
Target E2 – By 2030, partnerships and networks among sectors and stakeholders are strengthened to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.	Outcome 6.1 expects the UN to convene and support the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships to collaborate on integrating pollution prevention practices in high-impact sectors. Outcome 4.1 expects the UN to promote a holistic approach, bringing together the pollution, health, human rights and other societal priorities sectors.	*The UN system may* *- promote and give visibility to the multistakeholder dimension of chemicals and waste pollution, through the IMG reports, publications and lessons learned.* *- raise awareness about the multistakeholder dimension of pollution.*
Target E3 – Adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources from all sources needed to support achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste are identified and mobilized in alignment with the vision, strategic objectives and targets of the Framework in all	Outcomes 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 set the UN role in supporting the identification, incentive, and mobilization of predictable and sustainable financial resources for pollution-free action and risk reduction.	*The UN system may* *- support awareness-raising and dialogue on economic instruments such as the polluter-pays principle and the internalization of pollution costs, helping to link chemicals and waste financing needs with broader sustainable finance agendas.*

sectors by and for all stakeholders, including by leveraging private finance and promoting innovative and blended-finance schemes.		
Target E4 – Funding gaps for the implementation of sound management of chemicals and waste are identified and considered for capacity-building, including through the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.	Objective 8.1 highlights the UN role to facilitate that pollution externalities are better accounted for through economic analysis and tools to redirect investments to less-polluting economic activities.	*The UN system may* *- contribute to identifying capacity-building and funding needs in regards to linkages of chemicals and waste management with other key environmental, health and labour work.*
Target E5 – By 2030, Governments have taken measures to put in place policies to internalize the costs of the sound management of chemicals and waste through different approaches.	Outcome 8.3 highlights the need to internalize pollution costs through economic tools and the polluter-pays principle. It suggests that the UN can provide technical assistance, capacity-building support, and guidance to Member States in implementing mechanisms that hold industries accountable for the costs associated with pollution.	*The UN system may* *- organize panels, meetings and advocacy events about the polluter pays principle and the internalization of costs.*
Target E6 – By 2030, stakeholders identify and strengthen, as appropriate, synergies and linkages between chemicals and waste management and other key environmental, health and labour policies, such as those related to climate change solutions, biodiversity conservation, human rights protection, universal health coverage or primary health care.	Outcome 4.1 expects the UN to provide capacity-building and technical assistance to States and stakeholders on understanding the interlinkages between pollution and other societal priorities, such as health, climate change, biodiversity, disaster risks, and socio-economic issues. It also expects the UN to ensure that policy coherence is promoted at the UN level.	*The UN system may* *- organize panels, meetings and advocacy events about the One Health approach and linkages.*

IV. Conclusions and recommendations: Future contributions of the Common Approach to the implementation of the GFC

The Common Approach was conceived to help the UN system align its work on pollution with the needs and priorities identified by Member States, and to provide a coordinated and coherent response that supports countries efficiently. The UN System invests a substantial amount of economic and human resources in addressing pollution and its consequences, which can have a greater impact when they are coherently delivered through a shared approach and closer collaboration. This objective remains highly relevant in the context of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), where implementation is now moving forward through established mechanisms, including the Implementation Programmes.

The cross-mapping confirms that the two frameworks are closely aligned. Both place emphasis on governance, access to knowledge and data, resource mobilization, and the need to act across sectors and along value chains. The Common Approach has a key role to bring a wider lens, situating the chemicals and waste management issues and needs within the broader challenges of pollution, health, climate, biodiversity and sustainable development. The Common Approach also adds value by enabling the UN system to act more coherently, ensuring that efforts carried out under the GFC are reinforced by wider UN action and are better linked to other policy agendas that matter to countries.

The following considerations build on the opportunities identified throughout the exercise and suggest where the UN system could focus its efforts.

A¡.Legal.frameworks?.institutional.mechanisms.and.capacities.are.in.place.to.support.and.achieve.the.safe.and.sustainable.management.of.chemicals.throughout.their.life.cycle

Advancing this objective requires more than the adoption of legal instruments. In many cases, the challenge lies in putting these frameworks into operation and ensuring they are enforced consistently.

In this area, the Common Approach can help sharpen and connect UN system support by:

1. Promoting policy coherence

Helping countries connect chemicals and waste management with related areas such as public health, biodiversity, labor and development planning.

2. Aligning efforts with GFC Implementation Programme 1 (IP1)

Ensuring that support provided by different UN entities contributes in a complementary way to ongoing efforts to strengthen national legal and institutional frameworks.

3. Reinforcing compliance and enforcement systems

Supporting practical capacity-building for customs, inspection bodies and judicial authorities, with an emphasis on applied skills and operational coordination.

4. Supporting change in high-impact sectors

Bringing together public and private actors to advance concrete transition pathways that reduce chemical risks across value chains.

B¡.Comprehensive.and.sufficient.knowledge?data.and.information.are.generated?available.and.accessible.to.all.to.enable.informed.decisions.and.actions¡

Both frameworks underline that effective action depends on reliable, accessible information. While this is an area of strong alignment, the challenge remains in translating it into functioning systems at national level.

The UN system can contribute by:

1. Strengthening national data systems

Countries need support to develop, maintain or access data from systems such as PRTRs, chemical inventories, and digital information platforms. The UN system can help by promoting harmonized methodologies, supporting interoperability, and expanding technical assistance for data generation and management.

2. Improving transparency across value chains

Reliable and accessible chemical information is essential for workers, consumers, regulators and communities. The UN can help countries adopt or strengthen legal requirements for disclosure, support the adoption of frameworks such as the GHS, and encourage companies to provide clear information throughout supply chains.

3. Bridging science and policy

Facilitating collaboration across institutions to close knowledge gaps and ensure that scientific evidence is usable for policy and regulatory purposes.

4. Strengthening public access and participation

Strategic Objective B of the GFC and the Common Approach both highlight the importance of access to information and meaningful public participation. The UN can support efforts to make information available and understandable, and to enable meaningful participation in decisions that affect health and the environment.

C. Issues of concern are identified, prioritized and addressed.

This mapping exercise shows that Strategic Objective C of the GFC and the UN Common Approach share a strong focus on identifying and acting on chemicals and waste issues that pose the greatest risk. The Common Approach highlights the need to transform high-impact sectors and value chains where many of these concerns originate, which gives the UN an impactful role to convene stakeholders from these high-impact sectors and achieve integrated and systemic transformations.

The following priorities stand out:

1. Anchor issues of concern into sector transformation efforts

Issues of concern should not be treated in isolation. The UN system can ensure that they are embedded into the broader work on transforming high-impact sectors, helping countries translate global priorities into sector-specific roadmaps and actions.

2. Strengthening coordination around global processes that define issues of concern

The UN has an important role in supporting governments as they engage in global mechanisms for identifying and assessing chemicals and waste issues of concern. This includes helping countries understand the implications of newly identified issues and supporting the development of national plans to address them.

3. Promoting policy reforms and redirect harmful subsidies

Many issues of concern persist because policy environments still favor polluting practices. The UN can help countries identify harmful subsidies, design alternatives that support cleaner production, and embed these reforms into broader pollution-prevention and development strategies.

D. Safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions in product value chains are in place so that benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where prevention is not feasible, minimized.

Strategic Objective D of the GFC and the UN Common Approach reinforce one another in advancing safer alternatives and sustainable solutions across value chains. Both frameworks highlight the need to shift production systems, phase out hazardous chemicals, and broaden access to innovative and less-polluting options.

Building on ongoing work, including through Implementation Programmes focused on value chains and private sector engagement, the Common Approach can:

1. Support sectoral transitions at scale

Working with industry and governments to define practical pathways that enable the uptake of safer alternatives across value chains.

2. Help move from pilots to wider application

Supporting the replication of successful approaches and ensuring that innovations are translated into broader practice.

3. Engage financial actors alongside industry

Promoting approaches that integrate chemicals and waste considerations into investment decisions and financial frameworks.

4. Increasing support for sustainable agriculture and non-chemical alternatives

The UN system, working through entities such as FAO and UNEP, can help countries scale up agroecological practices, biological pest control and other low-toxicity alternatives that reduce health and environmental risks in food systems.

E. Enhanced implementation occurs through increased and effective resource mobilization, partnerships, cooperation, capacity-building, and integration into all relevant decision-making processes.

Sustained progress depends on embedding chemicals and waste management within wider development processes. Implementation Programme 3 (IP3), with its focus on mainstreaming, is central in this regard.

The Common Approach can reinforce this direction by:

1. Integrating chemicals and waste into national and UN planning processes

Countries need support to ensure that chemicals and waste considerations are part of sectoral plans, budgets, development strategies and UN cooperation frameworks. The UN system can help mainstream GFC priorities into programming and leading by example within its own operations.

2. Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation

Progress depends on collaboration across governments, business, civil society, and the scientific community. The UN should continue using its convening role to bring sectors together and support partnerships that link chemicals and waste management with health, human rights, labour, climate and biodiversity agendas.

3. Mobilizing predictable and sustainable finance

Addressing chemicals and waste requires financial systems that recognize the real costs of pollution and redirect investment toward safer and cleaner activities. The UN can play a key role in promoting and building capacities on economic tools such as the polluter-pays principle, subsidy reform, and others.

Conclusion

The Global Framework on Chemicals provides a clear direction for action on chemicals and waste. The Common Approach offers a way for the United Nations system to act in a more connected and coherent manner across its different areas of work.

The analysis confirms that the two are largely complementary. Where the GFC defines priorities and targets, implementation is being advanced through its Implementation Programmes and other established mechanisms. The Common Approach can help ensure that these efforts are better connected to the wider work of the UN system, linking them to broader processes and strengthening the overall coherence of support provided to countries.

By focusing on alignment, the Common Approach can play a practical role in reinforcing implementation. In doing so, it can help ensure that chemicals and waste management is not treated in isolation, but as part of the wider effort to reduce pollution and protect both people and the environment.

Annex I: Opportunities for UN entities to support GFC implementation in the context of the Common Approach

GFC Strategic Objective / Target	Opportunities for UN entities to support GFC implementation in the context of the Common Approach
Objective A – Governance, legal frameworks and capacity	
A1–A5: Legal frameworks, enforcement, illegal trade, export prohibitions	Identify gaps in the ratification of chemicals and waste MEAS; Strengthen national enforcement and compliance systems including structured training pathways for customs, inspectors, police and judiciary; Support integrated policy alignment across biodiversity, land, ocean, climate and chemicals agendas, helping countries identify practical entry points for coherent implementation; scale up UN green and sustainable procurement and convert this experience into practical guidance for governments; Strengthen system-wide support to prevent illegal trade; explore a UN-coordinated rapide alert mechanism for illegal trade cases; support counties in strengthening regulatory frameworks.
A6: Access to poison centres	Support the application of the WHO Guidelines for establishing a poison center; promote training in toxicology and chemical risk prevention; consider shared services where national centers are not feasible.
A7: Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)	Participate in the Global Alliance on HHPs and support countries in designing national transition plans; Identify safer and affordable alternatives to HHPs; support pilots on agroecology, biological alternatives, circular and bio-based inputs and green chemistry; leverage UN knowledge platforms; scales up FAO Farmer Field Schools and initiatives on integrated pest management.
Objective B – Knowledge, data and information	
B1–B3: Data on chemical properties, production, releases	Support establishment and strengthening of PRTRs, chemical registers and national inventories using harmonized methodologies; engage the UNEP Science-Policy Panel to coordinate research on hazard data; explore the use of AI and digital tools for improving chemical data; support digital systems ensuring public, worker and community access to hazard information, advancing the right-to-know.
B4: Hazard and risk assessment tools	Promote global adoption of the GHS; expand the Hazard Assessment Scheme under IOMC Toolbox; support capacity-building for risk-informed decision-making.
B5: Education, training and public awareness	Facilitate gender-responsive and human-rights based education and training programmes to raise awareness and enhance local capacities.
B6: Globally Harmonized System (GHS)	Promote worldwide adoption; include GHS requirements in UN operations, procurement and workplaces; support training programmes.

B7: Monitoring and surveillance data of exposure sources	Engage the UNEP Science-Policy Panel to facilitate the exchange of expertise, resources enabling the development of standardized methodologies; explore the use of AI and other tools to improve monitoring and surveillance data
Objective C – Issues of concern	
C1: Identification and management of issues of concern	Integrate issues of concern into work on high-impact sectors and support development of roadmaps and actions within pollution prevention efforts; engage in GFC Implementation Programmes.
Objective D – Safer alternatives and innovation	
D1: Corporate innovation and sustainable chemistry	Support uptake of existing guidance on circular economy, life-cycle approaches, and green chemistry; CA can add value by convening stakeholders; scale UN system-supported pilot and demonstration projects on green chemistry, circular moderls and safer waste treatment technologies; facilitate technology-transfer platforms for developing countries and SMEs.
D2: Government policies on alternatives	Support repurposing harmful subsidies, tax policies and regulations to increase private investment in green and blue economic strategies.
D3: Finance sector integration	Develop tools and guidance for integrating chemicals and waste risk into financial decision-making, including ESF indicators and taxonomies.
D4: Stakeholder innovation programmes	Provide sector-specific toolkits for integrating safer alternatives and lifecycles approaches into product design, business models and supply chains; co-develop transition pathways with industry associations for high-impact sectors; prioritize safer alternatives in UN procurement.
D5: Sustainable agriculture	Support pilots on agroecology; scale up Farmer Field Schools and regional training on IMP, partner with governments to develop national roadmaps for sustainable agriculture.
D6: Sector strategies (chemical footprint, priority chemicals)	Co-develop transition pathways with industry associations for high-impact sectors.
D7: Occupational health and safety	
Objective E – Implementation, finance and cooperation	
E1: Mainstreaming into development plans	Support integration of GFC into UN programming including UNSDCFs.

E2: Partnerships	Highlight the multistakeholder dimension of chemicals and waste pollution through IMG reports and outreach; promote cross-agency partnerships.
E3: Mobilization of finance	Support dialogue on economic instruments such as the polluter-pays principle; link chemicals and waste financing needs with broader sustainable finance agendas.
E4: Capacity-building and GFC Fund	Identify capacity-building and funding needs where chemicals and waste intersect with health, labour and environment.
E5: Internalizing costs of pollution	Organize panels, meetings and advocacy events about polluter pays principles and the internalization of costs.
E6: Synergies with other policies	Organize panels, meetings and advocacy events about polluter pays principles and the internalization of costs.

Annex II: Cross-mapping of the Common Approach to Pollution with the SDGs, prepared by the UN EMG.

Objectives of the Common Approach to Pollution	**SDGs**	**Targets**
All Objectives	**SDG 3, SDG 6, SDG 12**	**3.9, 6.3, all SDG 12 targets**
1. Respect, protect, and fulfil human rights, particularly the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.	**SDG2, SDG 3, SDG 6, SDG 16**	**2.3, 2.4, 5.5, 6.b, 11.2, 11.3, 16.3, 16.7, 16.10**
2. Generate and make available knowledge, data and information on pollution to all to facilitate risk-informed decisions and actions.	**SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 9, SDG11, SDG 14, SDG 17**	**2.4, 4.7, 9.5, 9.c, 11.6, 14.9, 17.6, 17.14, 17,18, 17.19**
3. Develop and implement policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks, strategies, plans and actions addressing all types and sources of pollution, including promoting circular economy at the international, national, regional and local level.	**SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 16, SDG 17**	**11.2, 11.6, 11.b, 13. 2, 14.1, 16.3, 17.14**

4. Increase systematic use of cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches to health, notably the One Health approach, to address pollution.	**SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 13, SDG 17**	**2.1, 3.d, 6.3, 13.2, 17.14**
5. Protect vulnerable ecosystems and restore those damaged by pollution, while simultaneously managing ecosystems for pollution prevention and reduction.	**SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 6, SDG 11, SDG 14, SDG 15**	**1.5, 2.3, 2.4, 6.5, 6.6, 11.b, 14.2, 14.5, 15.1, 15.4, 15.4, 15.4, 15.9**
6. Transform high impact sectors for a pollution-free planet throughout value chains.	**SDG 2, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 14, SDG 17**	**2.4, 2.b, 6.3, 7.a, 8.4, 11.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 14.4, 14.6, 17.1, 17.16**
7. Identify, promote and implement safer and cleaner alternatives and sustainable and resilient infrastructure development.	**SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 17**	**1.5, 2.4, 9.1, 9.4, 11.2, 11.6, 11.b, 13.1, 17.7**
8. Identify, incentivize, and mobilize predictable and sustainable financial resources for pollution-free action and risk reduction.	**SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 17**	**6.a, 7.a, 9.a, 11.c, 12.b, 13.a, 17.1, 17.3, 17.14**
9. Raise global awareness about adverse impacts of pollution and the role of consumers in driving sustainable consumption and production, so as to inform and inspire action.	**SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 13, SDG 16**	**4.7, 8.4, 8.7, 13.3, 16.10**
10. Prevent and reduce pollution, risks and impacts associated with man-made and natural hazards, conflicts, and humanitarian response.	**SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 16, SDG 17**	**1.5, 3.d, 11.5, 11.b, 13.3, 16.1, 16.10, 17.16**
11. Mainstream pollution prevention and reduction and maximize resource use efficiency in UN System operations and programming: Lead by example.	**SDG 6, SDG 17**	**6.a, 17.14**