

SYNERGIES BETWEEN CIRCULARITY, LIFE-CYCLE APPROACHES AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS



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CONVENTIONS

Synergies between circularity, life-cycle approaches and the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The decisions of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions on international cooperation and coordination¹ request the conventions' secretariat to

“enhance its cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP)”.

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), which share the common objective of protecting human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes. The 10YFP, hosted by the UN Environment Programme, is the intergovernmental framework of reference established by the UN General Assembly for advancing Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Sustainable Development Goal 12 as per [A/RES/76/202](#). The Global Strategy for SCP 2023–2030 ([A/77/607](#)) adopted by the 10YFP Board reinforces the importance of SCP for global action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and MEA objectives.



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¹ The most recent decisions are decisions BC-17/23, RC-12/10 and SC-12/24 on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations. Original decision from 2023 available [here](#). (UNEP/CHW.16/22–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/23)

What is the purpose of this document?

This information note seeks primarily to support **national focal points of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions** and **national focal points of the 10YFP** to explore the synergies between the provisions and objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions with circular economy and life-cycle approaches. It includes a non-exhaustive list of potential policy interventions to advance the objectives of the conventions and circular economy approaches.

Circular economy and life-cycle approaches as recognised in international decisions:

Member states recognised **circular economy** in **UNEP/EA.4/Res.1** as *“one of the current sustainable economic models, in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured, recycled or recovered and thus maintained in the economy for as long as possible along with the resources they are made from. The generation of waste, especially hazardous waste, is avoided or minimised, and GHG emissions are prevented or reduced.”*

The **nexus between circularity and pollution** was also established in **UNEP/EA.4/Res.21**, as Member States welcomed the plan *‘Towards a Pollution-Free Planet’* where *“building circularity into production processes and supply chains and key economic sectors”* is a key action for systemic long-term change against pollution.

Life-cycle approaches help to ensure that materials are used more productively by conducting a holistic assessment of the environmental impacts of every stage in a product life cycle, including acquisition of raw materials, design, production, transportation, use, end-of-life

treatment and final disposal.ⁱ This enables the identification of strategic entry points for interventions to reduce waste generation and environmental impact (e.g. *pollution*) as per **UNEP/EA.4/Res.1**. References on the need to use life-cycle approaches have been included in UNEA resolutions and the **Global Framework on Chemicals**. The importance of life-cycle approaches is also recognized in each of the conventions. In particular, life-cycle approaches are referenced in the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention (*Articles 11 and 16*) and the Stockholm Convention (*preambular paragraph 7 and Annex A parts VII and VIII*), and the Basel Convention’s *Framework for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste and Other Wastes*, technical guidelines and guidance documents. The **synergies process** launched in 2007 has also been framed as a means to strengthen a life-cycle approach to chemicals and wastes management.

Why transition to a circular economy in the context of chemical and waste pollution?

Current consumption and production patterns are driving the three planetary environmental crises, including the pollution and waste crisis. Approximately 38% of urban solid waste generated in 2020 was not managed in an environmentally sound manner, being disposed of in uncontrolled dumpsites or burned in the open air.ⁱⁱ Waste generation is projected to increase by 56% in 2050 compared to 2020 levelsⁱⁱⁱ, potentially leading to significant social, health, environmental and economic impacts. **Given that up to 80% of the environmental impacts of a product are determined at the design stage, pollution can more effectively be viewed as a system, process or product design flaw^{iv}.** Therefore, designing out pollution and waste in the design stage is an effective means of preventing or minimizing the associated impacts from across the life cycle^v.

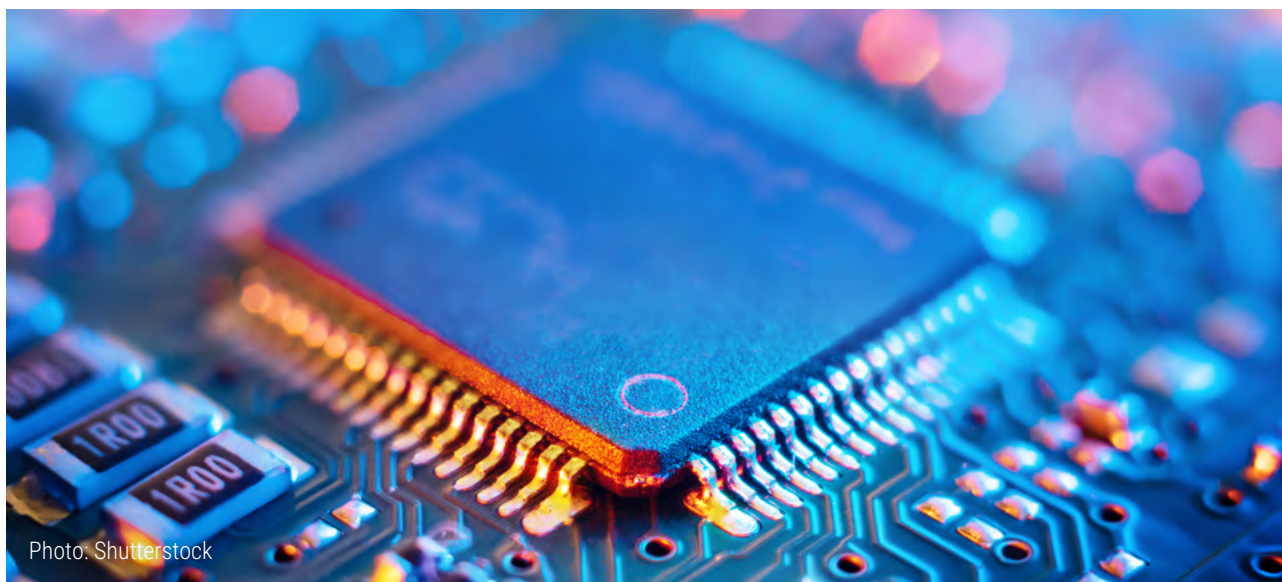


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Circular economy approaches can generate multiple co-benefits, including:

- **Lowering GHG emissions across the value chains:** by keeping materials at their highest value for as long as possible enables a higher multiplication of benefits at every stage, from extraction to disposal;
- **Preventing and reducing waste:** by closing material loops, preventing and minimizing waste by design, circular economy also facilitates more effective and cost-efficient disposal of waste;^{vi}
- **Preventing chemical pollutants from entering ecosystems:** circularity, by phasing out chemicals of concern, using (through design) safer chemical and non-chemical alternatives, and ensuring they are easily separable from recycled streams, helps prevent the release of hazardous substances into the environment, safeguarding human health, habitats and species;^{vii}
- **Regenerating natural ecosystems:** regenerative circular models are designed to increase the ecological productivity and/or biophysical function of an ecosystem or its components within existing land uses including contributions to human well-being derived from nature;^{viii}
- **Yielding economic benefits:** in a fully circular economy, an estimated annual net gain of US\$108.5 billion could be achieved through waste avoidance, sustainable business practices and comprehensive waste management.^{ix} Increasing resource efficiency and minimising material and energy inputs can generate savings while unlocking new market opportunities.^x

Issues to be managed in a circular economy:

- **Boosting jobs and skills:** a circular economy scenario is estimated to potentially generate a net total of 7 to 8 million new jobs in the wider economy by 2030.^{xi} However, an inclusive upskilling of the workforce, including informal workers, is a prerequisite of harnessing the socioeconomic potential of a circular transition;
- **Addressing key issues of global social and environmental justice:** waste workers in the informal sector without health or social protections are vulnerable to exploitation and are often paid only the material value of what they collect.^{xii} Pollution disproportionately impacts poor, disadvantaged, marginalised, and vulnerable people such as children and the elderly, due to their higher exposure and reduced resilience to social, environmental and economic risks. Hazardous chemical and pollution exposure impacts all humans, however, female workers are more likely to work in high-exposure sectors such as health, textile production, and cleaning.^{xiii} Inclusive municipal waste management policies can help to address poverty, public health and social equity;
- **Regulation of the global trade in chemicals and waste:** regulation is essential to prevent illegal traffic and trade and to ensure that a circular transition applied across countries and value chains does not lead to unintended impacts in developing countries. This underscores the importance of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions which provide trade control procedures based on notification and prior informed consent, to protect countries from receiving unwanted waste and chemicals they cannot manage in an environmentally sound manner.

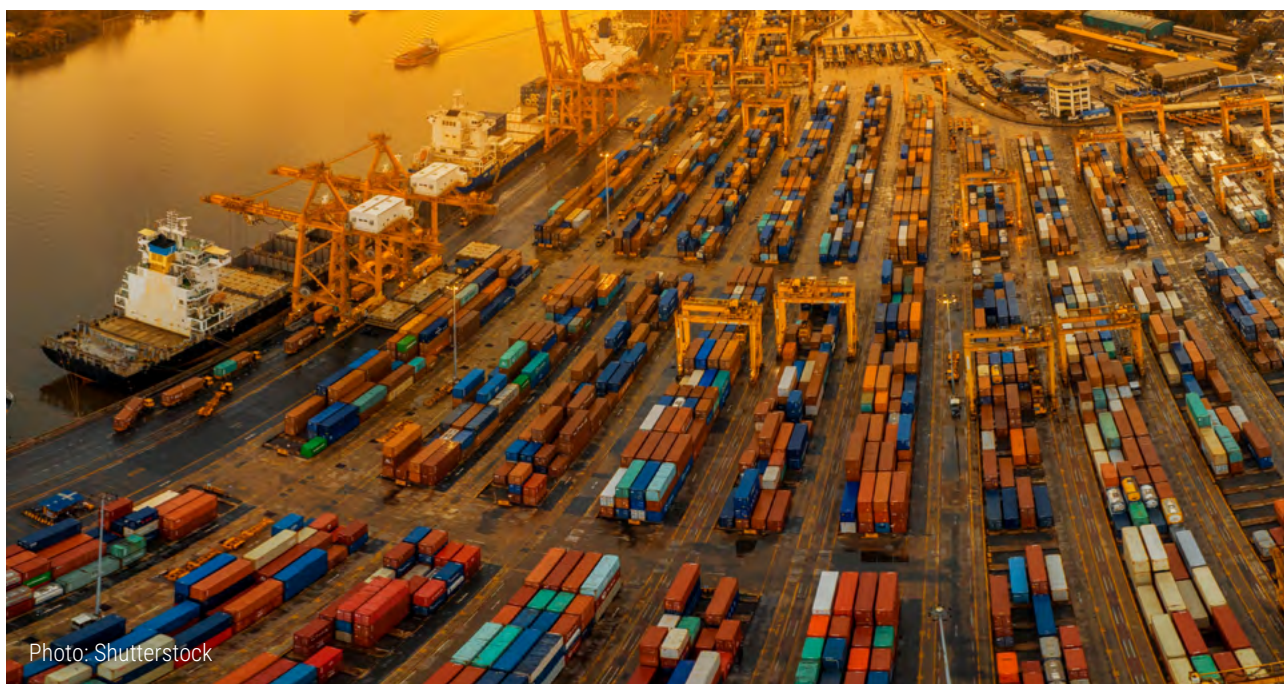
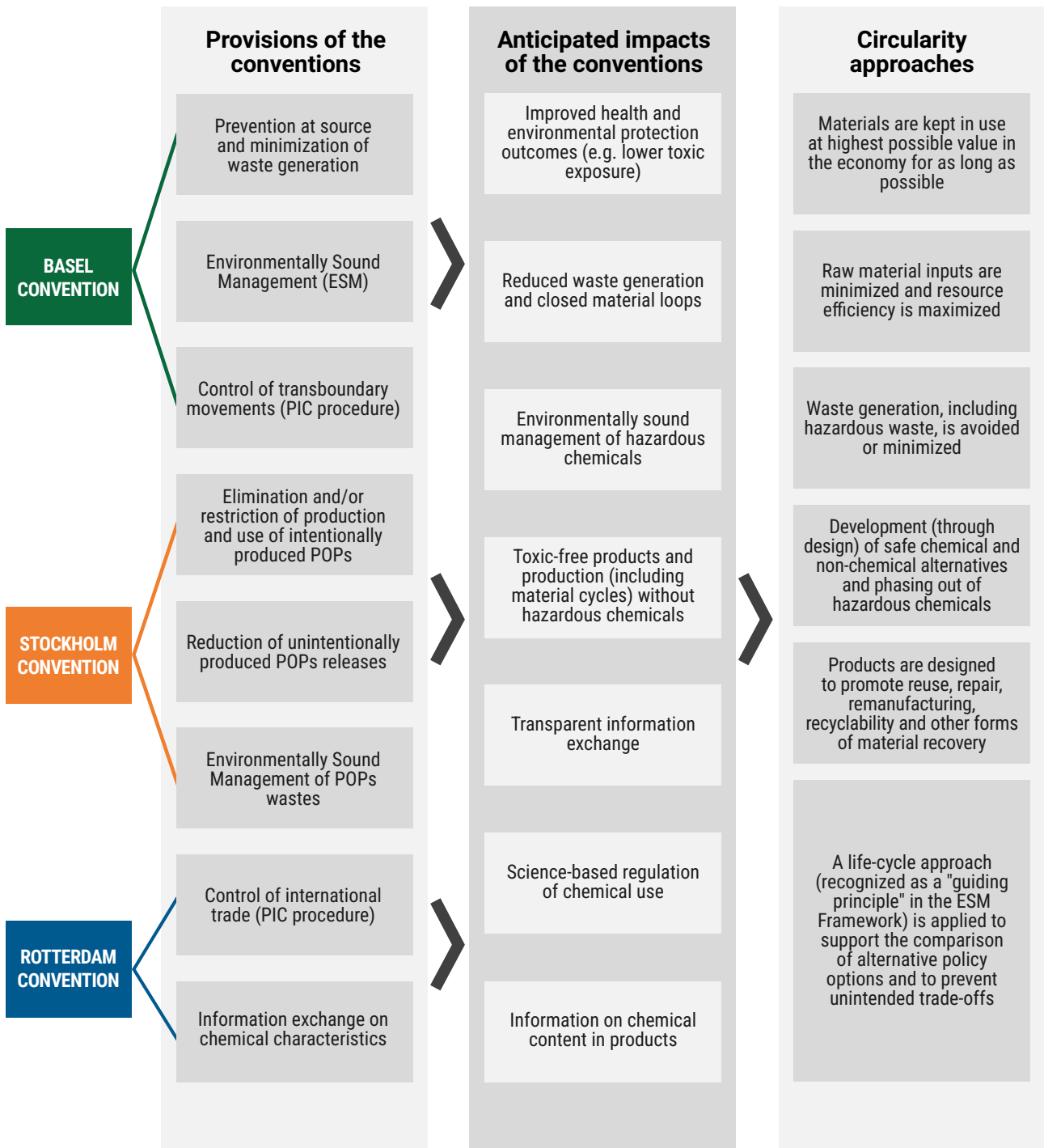


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How does implementing the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions contribute to achieving a circular economy?

Figure 1 provides an overview of how the objectives and provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are aligned and supportive of circularity approaches and the implementation of life-cycle approaches.^{xiv}

Figure 1: Interlinkages between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and circularity approaches



Basel Convention

By reducing the need for raw material extraction and maximising the value of materials in the economy by extending their use time, the Convention aligns closely with circular economy approaches. The three pillars of the Convention require Parties to: minimise or prevent the generation of hazardous and other wastes; promote their environmentally sound management (ESM); and control the transboundary movement of wastes through the Convention's trade control mechanism, the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. Recently, Parties have increasingly emphasised the application of the waste hierarchy and committed to actively promoting and **implementing more efficient waste prevention and minimisation strategies** through frameworks such as the 'Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization, and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes', as well as the ESM Framework, both of which offer tools and guidance for effective waste management. The Basel Convention also provides technical guidelines on ESM of hazardous and other wastes, which **outline circular strategies and approaches for specific waste streams**, such as plastic wastes or battery wastes, and provide policies and technical standards for their collection, repair, refurbishment, recycling and final disposal. The PIC procedure requires that Parties only export hazardous and other wastes if the receiving Party has expressed consent, promoting transparency and accountability in global waste trade and helping to prevent developed countries from shifting waste onto developing countries that do not have the capacity to manage them in an environmentally sound manner. In a circular economy, materials that can be safely re-used can be brought back into the economy and used in trade for example, according to a criterion of what constitutes re-usable materials. Recent amendments to the Convention, such as the inclusion of difficult-to-recycle plastics and all types of electronic waste under the PIC procedure, have further strengthened this oversight, helping to **promote opportunities for safer retention of materials in the economy worldwide**, and reducing leakage of plastic and other waste into the environment.

Stockholm Convention

By requiring Parties to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), including releases from unintentional production, and by promoting the development of safer alternatives, the Stockholm Convention supports the design of safer products with enhanced recyclability and potential for remanufacturing, repurposing and other ways of maintaining materials in the economy. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment by eliminating or reducing the release of POPs. Key activities, such as promoting best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP), directly advance a circular economy by **encouraging non-toxic production cycles**. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Basel Convention, it also **restricts the recycling of POPs-containing waste**, ensuring safe material cycles and preventing toxic substances from re-entering the environment or reaching consumers through recycled products.

Rotterdam Convention

The Rotterdam Convention promotes 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. By facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties, the Rotterdam Convention contributes to enhancing transparency in the international trade of chemicals, which may also contribute towards reducing content of certain hazardous substances in products. Tools, such as the Final Regulatory Action Evaluation Toolkit, support national authorities in taking scientifically sound decisions on the management of these chemicals. **In terms of information exchange, the Convention, among others, facilitates the exchange of scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning the chemicals within the scope of the Convention, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information, which helps contribute to advancing circular economy approaches.** This is also helped by the provisions on classification and labelling that apply to certain chemicals when exported.

Which policy interventions can advance the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and circularity?

Circularity approaches have little chance of success if implemented in isolation, hence the need for a set of **reinforcing policy instruments** to be coordinated and **implemented in collaboration with key stakeholders**, including multilevel government authorities, the waste management industry, chemical industry, product manufacturers and retailers, and households/consumers.

With **80% of the environmental impacts of a product determined at the design stage^{xv}**, policy instruments focusing on upstream innovation in addition to end-of-life treatment or disposal options are important. For instance, eco-design requirements can enhance product durability, reusability, and recyclability and reduce product toxicity, thereby increasing disposal options and minimising waste generation^{xvi}. Policy instruments such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes further shift producer incentives, driving both upstream innovation by encouraging sustainable design, and downstream action by ensuring producers are accountable for the end-of-life management of their products^{xvii}.

Effective implementation of policies depends on the right incentives to be in place and the ability of countries to apply them in a manner that aligns with **established**

technical standards and sound practices. To facilitate such implementation, the Basel Convention provides for the development and adoption of **technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste streams and disposal operations** by the Conference of the Parties. Technical guidelines support countries to operate at a standard at least as environmentally sound as that required by the Basel Convention. The transposition of technical guidelines on ESM of hazardous and other wastes into national legislation or regulatory frameworks may assist Parties in ensuring that human health and environmental are protected during the various waste management steps, *e.g., during collection, transport, repair and refurbishment, recycling and until final disposal*. Guidance developed under the Stockholm Convention on best available technologies and best environmental practices for intentionally produced POPs listed with exemptions provide the best practices and criteria to ensure that any production or use under such exemption is carried out in a manner that prevents or minimizes human exposure and release into the environment, *e.g. avoiding the recycling of POPs and their reintroduction into new products*.

Figure 2 shows a non-exhaustive list of the **policy instruments** for each stage of the product life cycle which may contribute to a synergistic implementation of the conventions' objectives and circularity approaches. These instruments are mentioned in the guidance documents developed under either the Basel Convention or Stockholm Convention.

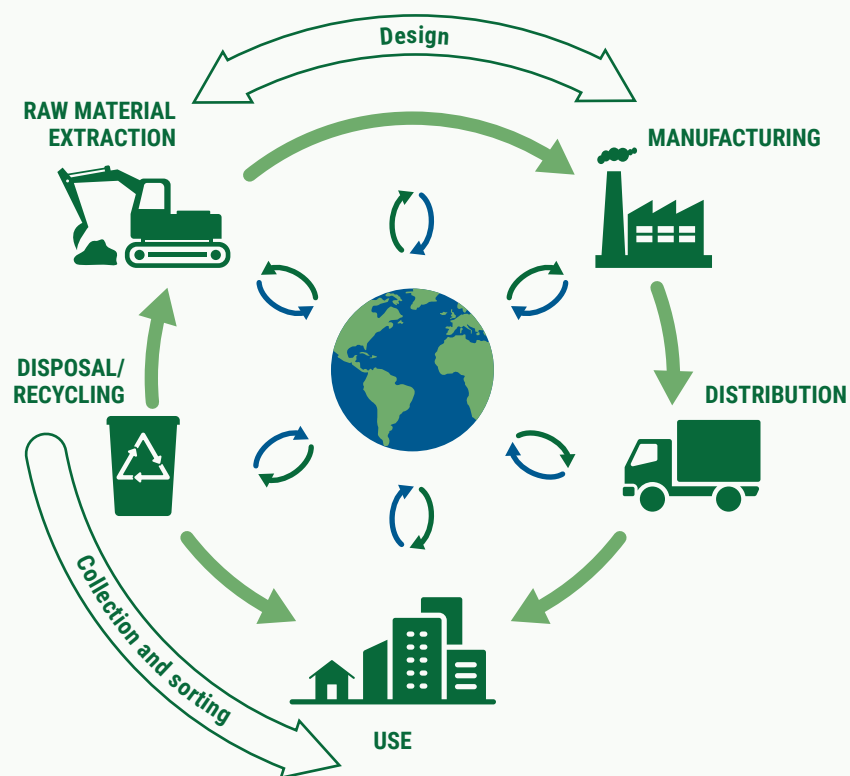


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Figure 2: Policy instruments and measures that may support the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and circularity approaches²

Policy instruments and product life-cycle stages

- **Permits, licenses and authorizations and certification schemes** for waste management facilities (e.g. recycling plants)
- **Minimum quality standards** for reuse and preparation for reuse
- **Landfill ban/incineration ban**
- Schemes for **composting** (for perishable items)
- Schemes for **anaerobic digestion** (for perishable items)
- **Pollution taxes** (added to service charges to incentivize pollution reduction)
- Regulatory measures and other approaches to **identify toxic substances** (e.g. POPs) in products, articles and waste streams (e.g. labelling)
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** schemes
- Support for **industrial symbiosis** models
- Cleaner production policies
- **Eco-labelling and information on chemicals** in products
- Incentives to reduce consumption (e.g. plastic bag levy, other product-related taxes)
- Sustainable design/ **eco-design requirements**
- **Product or substance bans** (e.g. single-use plastic, hazardous chemicals, such as POPs) and incentives for safer alternatives
- **Taxes on high impact virgin materials and products**
- Incentives for reuse and recycling (e.g. leasing vs purchasing)
- **Incentives for using secondary materials**, recycled materials or by-products (e.g. eco-modulation, targets for recycled content)
- **Market-based incentives for waste minimisation:**
 - Pay-as-you throw (PAYT) schemes
 - Disposal/landfill tax
 - Waste service charges
- **Market-based incentives to improve waste handling and sorting:**
 - Selling waste and scrap material to collection points
 - Deposit-refund schemes
 - Fines for improper sorting
- Sustainable **public procurement policies**
- Regulation **against planned obsolescence**
- **Tourist taxes** to support impact of fluctuating populations on waste services



Enablers

- Promote transparency and traceability across the life cycle of products through PIC and trade control procedures
- Strengthen and adapt consumer information tools to provide information on toxic content of products
- Leverage sustainable and circular public procurement policies
- Provide waste management finance, including financing of infrastructure and scaling up innovation to design out pollution
- Improve data management across the value chain to promote accountability and traceability (e.g. invest in compiling Material Flow Accounts, defining waste metrics and indicators)
- Set public recycling and material management goals, define national circular economy strategies and roadmaps
- Promote public and corporate awareness raising, education and training around waste prevention and minimization
- Propagate environmental management systems (EMS) among organizations
- Invest in innovation and fund research and development (e.g. start-up incubation programmes)
- Facilitate access to green finance
- Strengthen protections for both formal and informal workers

² These policy instruments are mentioned in guidance documents developed under the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention, such as the: [Overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste](#); [ESM toolkit \(collection of practical tools on ESM\)](#); [Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes](#); [General technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of POPs wastes](#); and the [Report on options for identifying POPs in stockpiles, products, articles and wastes](#).

Table 1: Relevant work of the 10YFP Secretariat/One Planet Network in advancing the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

10YFP area of focus	Relevant work for advancing objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
<p>1. Public Procurement</p> <p><i>Circularity in the Construction Sector and Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)</i></p> <p><i>Advancing Sustainable Food Systems through SPP, with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Framework for Action: Harnessing sustainable and circular public procurement to drive demand for near-zero emissions and resilient buildings. Promotes public procurement practices that prioritize resource efficiency, low-emission materials, and resilience in the construction sector. It directly supports the Basel Convention by promoting whole life-cycle approaches to prevent construction waste, minimize hazardous materials, and ensure the environmentally sound management of construction, refurbishment, demolition, and waste processing and disposal. • Working with FAO to develop a Framework for Action for adopting SPP practices that holistically integrate social and environmental considerations into public food procurement (Latin America and the Caribbean region). Advances sustainable procurement in school meals programmes, integrating environmental and social criteria. It supports the Stockholm Convention by promoting the reduction of chemical inputs in food supply chains, and the minimization of food waste and packaging waste, aligned with the Basel Convention’s waste prevention objectives. • The Circular & Fair ICT Pact (CFIT), an international procurement-led partnership to promote circularity, fairness and sustainability in the ICT sector. It aligns with the Basel Convention by supporting the reduction of hazardous e-waste generation and promoting environmentally sound management of ICT waste, and with the Rotterdam Convention by improving transparency in chemicals management within ICT supply chains. • Sustainable Procurement of Electronics: A Progressive Approach to Chemicals of Concern. Guidance developed to inform better specification of chemicals management in tenders for electronics products and provide recommendations on how best to integrate chemical management into sustainable procurement at a global level.
<p>2. Consumer Information</p> <p><i>Strengthening consumer protection and consumers’ access to information on products</i></p> <p><i>Blueprint framework for digital product information</i></p> <p><i>Global Circularity Protocol for Businesses</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information which offer clear guidance on making effective, trustworthy claims to consumers on product-related sustainability information. This contributes to strengthening consumer information tools and policies and encouraging more sustainable consumption patterns, preventing greenwashing.^{xviii} • Consumer information & protection and Multilateral Environmental Agreements: Pathways for Policy Integration developed in partnership with UNCTAD to map how MEAs (including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions) address consumer protection and how consumer protection policies can support the implementation of the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. • Product Lifetime Extension work is aiming to extend product life cycles by supporting stakeholders in creating an enabling environment for repair and developing policy briefs and recommendations for right to repair. • Addressing the Issue of Chemicals of Concern in Electronics: Challenges and recommendations for labelling initiatives. Publication addressing the role that labelling initiatives can play in managing chemicals of concern (CoC) and proposing recommendations to scale up these initiatives’ effectiveness to track and control the use of CoC along the electronics value chain. <p>Existing collaborations with Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot on Digital Product Information System to reduce waste in the textile sector and assess Chemical Footprint will be implemented in Argentina by The Basel Convention Regional Center for South America.

10YFP area of focus	Relevant work for advancing objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
<p>3. Lifestyles and Skills</p> <p><i>Low carbon and circular practices in the tourism sector</i></p> <p><i>Leverage sustainable lifestyles within 1.5 degrees high impact sectors</i></p> <p><i>Green Jobs for Youth Pact</i></p>	<p>Sustainable Tourism programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative brings tourism stakeholders together under a voluntary commitment-based framework which supports signatories in advancing towards a circular economy of plastics in tourism. • Capacity building on plastics management is being delivered in countries, recent activities focus on introduction of reusable alternatives to single-use plastics as well as improvement of recycling rates. Technical resources (i.e. knowledge products, webinars etc.) are available online. <p>Existing collaborations with Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Secretariat’s technical assistance programme, a number of projects are being implemented to promote the ESM of plastic waste in tourism (e.g. Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) projects, Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP) pilot projects, mountains project). The GTPI provided technical expertise in capacity building sessions organised by the Secretariat in June 2025 (training in Sri Lanka on solutions to plastic pollution) and in September 2025. • Both secretariats inform each other of their activities related to plastic waste in tourism and share relevant information that could be promoted in the other entity’s work.
<p>4. Governance and Mainstreaming</p> <p><i>10YFP Board</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring and reporting on SDG 12.1.1</i></p> <p><i>OPN Forum and Global Dialogue</i></p>	<p>The governance and mainstreaming pillar in the 10YFP Secretariat supports governments in linking agendas at national, regional and global levels. This includes promoting SCP and circularity approaches and facilitating dialogue and cooperation and best practice exchanges as well as monitoring progress on SCP. Available tools to support this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SCP Hotspot Analysis Tool helps countries to identify hotspot areas of unsustainable consumption and production. The tool analyzes a range of environmental pressures and impacts caused by domestic production. It also shows the environmental consequences of a country’s consumption occurring abroad. The tool has national level indicators for over 164 countries and regions and 120 economic sectors. It enables a country to assess sectors and sub-sectors to identify hotspots that can be addressed through policy interventions. • The Building Circularity into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) - A Practical Toolbox aims to support countries to identify, prioritize, implement and track circular economy interventions for increased ambition and accelerated implementation of their NDCs. <p>The toolbox aims to provide policymakers with the methodology, resources, and tools to help:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess and identify GHG emissions hotspots from material use to broaden and prioritize sectors and/or sub-sectors in the NDC for circular economy interventions for increased climate ambition; 2. Assess and select circular economy interventions in prioritized sectors/sub-sectors for the NDC; 3. Identify policy instruments and indicators for the implementation of selected circular economy interventions in the NDC; and 4. Track and report progress in the national Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) under the Paris Agreement. <p>The toolbox is organised in four stages, with entry points to the NDC cycle at each stage, to leverage a country’s policy cycle. Each stage includes a set of steps, key questions to consider, corresponding tools as well as a checklist and case studies.</p> <p>The value chain approach, which supports the implementation of a life-cycle approach to sectors / value chains, enables the identification and addressing of impacts relating to chemicals and waste.</p> <p>Who are the focal points that we work with?</p> <p>10YFP National Focal Points: To achieve sustainable consumption and production at the national level, each of the 193 UN Member States is invited to nominate a ‘National Focal Point’ for implementation of the 10YFP.</p> <p>These National Focal Points provide a key entry point within national governments, and can facilitate connections between government ministries and departments within countries; between the governments of different countries; between different programmes and initiatives, such as the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements; as well as a channel between national governments and the private sector and civil society.</p> <p>So far, more than 140 Member States have appointed a National Focal Point for the 10YFP.</p>

Annex

BRS Guidance Documents

Guidance documents developed under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions which provide entry points for member states looking to implement circular economy and life-cycle approaches.

Basel Convention

- ESM toolkit including:
 - Framework on for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of hazardous wastes and other wastes
 - Guidance on how to address the environmentally sound management of wastes in the informal sector
 - Guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving recycling and recovery of hazardous and other wastes
 - Guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal
 - Practical manuals on EPR and financing
 - Compilation of ESM criteria and core performance elements
 - Compilation of training materials
 - ESM Framework
 - Fact sheets on specific waste streams
 - Guidance on prevention and minimization
 - General technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants
 - Set of practical manuals for the promotion of the environmentally sound management of wastes
- Adopted technical guidelines
- Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes

Guidance developed under the Partnership Programme of the Basel Convention:

- Overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste
- Plastic Waste Partnership
- PACE-II

Rotterdam Convention

- Resource Kit

Stockholm Convention

- Guidance on BAT/BEP
- Alternatives to POPs
- Report on options for identifying POPs in stockpiles, products and articles in use as well as in wastes

Endnotes

- i UNEP (2024) Global Resources Outlook 2024: Bend the Trend – Pathways to a liveable planet as resource use spikes. International Resource Panel. Nairobi.
- ii UNEP (2024). Global Waste Management Outlook 2024: Beyond an age of waste – Turning rubbish into a resource.
- iii UNEP (2024). Global Waste Management Outlook 2024: Beyond an age of waste – Turning rubbish into a resource.
- iv Harvard Business Review (2023) *How Ecodesign Can Help the Environment and Your Bottom Line*; and International Resource Panel (2018). *Redefining Value – The Manufacturing Revolution. Remanufacturing, Refurbishment, Repair and Direct Reuse in the Circular Economy*
- v Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2021) *The Universal Circular Economy Policy Goals*
- vi UNEP (2024). Global Waste Management Outlook 2024: Beyond an age of waste – Turning rubbish into a resource.
- vii The 2023 *Bonn Declaration*
- viii Sitra, Chatham House (2021). The role of the circular economy in addressing the global biodiversity crisis
- ix UNEP (2024). Global Waste Management Outlook 2024: Beyond an age of waste – Turning rubbish into a resource.
- x UNEP, UNDP, UNFCCC Secretariat (2023) *Building circularity into NDCs*
- xi International Labour Organisation. (2023). *Decent work in the circular economy - An overview of the existing evidence base [Report]*
- xii UNEP (2024). Global Waste Management Outlook 2024: Beyond an age of waste – Turning rubbish into a resource.
- xiii GACERE (2024). Circular Economy, Pollution and Chemicals - Working paper. *GACERE working paper circular economy, pollution and chemicals*
- xiv Adapted from UNEA resolution *UNEP/EA.4/Res.1* and UNECE. (2024). *Guidelines for Measuring Circular Economy Part A: Conceptual Framework, Indicators and Measurement Framework*. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://unece.org/statistics/publications/guidelines-measuring-circular-economy-part-conceptual-framework-indicators>
- xv UNEP (2019). Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want. <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/27517>
- xvi Regulation (EU) 2024/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the setting of eco-design requirements for sustainable products, amending Directive (EU) 2020/1828 and Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 and repealing Directive 2009/125/EC
- xvii Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2021 *Extended-Producer-Responsibility-Statement-and-Position-Paper.pdf*; Basel Convention, Practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management (UNEP/CHW.14/5/Add.1): <https://www.basel.int/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-CHW-IMPL-CLI-ESM-Toolkit-12-20190430.English.pdf>
- xviii GACERE (2024). Circular Economy, Pollution and Chemicals - Working paper. *GACERE working paper circular economy, pollution and chemicals*

Cover photo: Close-up of colorful recycling bins in an urban environment, depicting waste management and environmental consciousness for a sustainable city living initiative. Adobe Stock

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