

Roundtable Report

National Coordination Mechanisms for Robust NIP Implementation

13 November 2025



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Introduction

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) seeks to safeguard human health and the environment from the adverse effects of POPs. Under the Convention, Parties are required to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. To this end, each Party must develop a National Implementation Plan (NIP) outlining how it will meet its obligations. The Convention further calls on Parties to periodically review and update their NIPs, particularly when new chemicals are listed or when national circumstances evolve. In addition, Parties are required to report to the Conference of the Parties (COP) on the measures taken to implement the Convention and on their effectiveness in achieving its objectives.

To support this objective, the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), under the GEF-funded and UNEP-led Global NIP Update project (GEF ID 10785), convened a virtual roundtable on 13 November 2025 focused on National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs) for robust NIP implementation. The session explored the critical role of NCMs throughout the NIP lifecycle — from preparation and consultation, through review and endorsement, to submission and reporting — and examined how these mechanisms can be leveraged to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration, facilitate data access and ensure sustained capacity for ongoing implementation.

Building on the [Guidance for Setting a National Mechanism for NIP Review and Update, and Reporting](#) developed under the project, countries shared concrete experiences of establishing and operationalizing NCMs in diverse institutional contexts. Presentations outlined the modalities through which mechanisms were formed, the institutions represented, and how roles and responsibilities were distributed to ensure effective coordination. Countries reflected on how NCMs were leveraged during different phases of the NIP process — including inventory development, stakeholder consultations, decision-making, drafting, national validation and endorsement — identifying where the mechanism proved particularly useful in fostering ownership, ensuring technical accuracy, or accelerating administrative procedures.

Speakers

- Mihaela Claudia Paun, Officer-in-Charge, Head of Knowledge and Risk Unit, UNEP
- Ivan Durickovic, Senior Adviser for Systematic Monitoring of Chemicals/Stockholm Convention Official Contact Point, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia
- Emilia Kjupeva Nedelkova, Head of Division for Chemicals and Industrial Accidents, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia
- Mamadou Lamine Diame, Stockholm Convention Focal Point, Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition, Senegal
- Fathimath Fairoza, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Maldives
- Moderator: Anastasiya Buchok, Senior Project Associate, GGKP

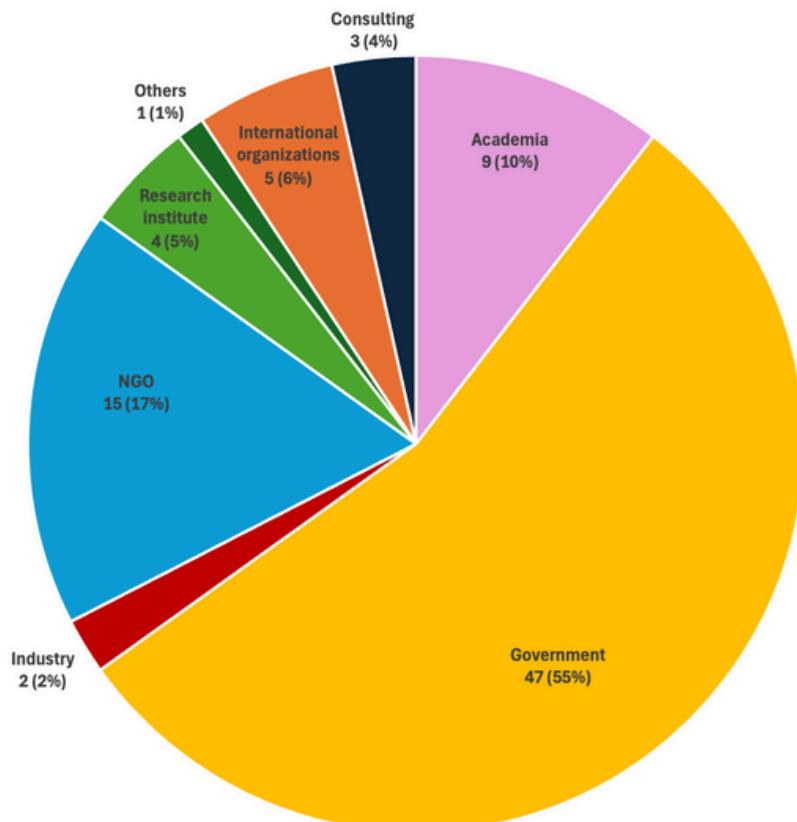
Registration and attendance

Number of registrants: 191 / total attendance: 86
(Approx. 51% female, 49% male)

Participants by country

Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees
Nigeria	10	France	1	Morocco	1
Senegal	4	Gambia	1	Qatar	1
Armenia	3	Ghana	1	Australia	1
Bangladesh	3	Indonesia	1	Maldives	1
India	3	Japan	1	Jamaica	1
Portugal	3	Lao People's Democratic Republic	1	Argentina	1
Zimbabwe	3	Liberia	1	Guyana	1
Botswana	2	Madagascar	1	Romania	1
Kenya	2	Mauritius	1	Dominican Republic	1
South Africa	2	Mozambique	1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Switzerland	2	Myanmar	1	Kuwait	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2	Peru	1	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Uruguay	2	Congo	1	Kyrgyzstan	1
Côte d'Ivoire	2	Slovakia	1	Greece	1
North Macedonia	2	Thailand	1	Italy	1
Pakistan	2	Uganda	1	Tajikistan	1
Albania	1	Zambia	1	Serbia	1
Egypt	1	Cabo Verde	1	Republic of Korea	1
		Cambodia	1		

Participants by sector



Key highlights

This roundtable brought together international and national experts to explore how NCMs can support robust NIP implementation under the Stockholm Convention. Through knowledge resources developed by UNEP and country experiences from Serbia, Maldives, North Macedonia and Senegal, participants examined practical approaches to establishing and sustaining NCMs, including legal and procedural frameworks, institutional architectures and operational practices. The interventions highlighted both progress and persisting challenges, offering concrete lessons on how countries can strengthen coordination across ministries and stakeholders, maintain institutional memory, and better align POPs management with broader chemicals and waste governance.

Mihaela Claudia Paun, UNEP's Knowledge and Risk Unit, presented complementary knowledge products developed under the Global NIP Update project to support countries in establishing and maintaining NCMs throughout the NIP lifecycle. These resources — available as guidance documents, model laws and procedures — were designed to accommodate diverse country contexts, allowing Parties to adopt the format most suited to their institutional needs, whether through internal ministerial orders or standalone procedures.

Mihaela Paun outlined an step-by-step approach for NIP review and update: identify the need to review and update; initiate the review and update process; establish a coordinating mechanism and organizational process; develop a POPs inventory and assess national infrastructure and capacity; conduct a priority assessment and set objectives; formulate revised and updated NIPs; endorse the revised and updated NIPs; and transmit the updated NIP to the Conference of Parties. Many countries have successfully maintained the NCMs established during initial NIP development throughout the implementation, update and reporting cycle, and expanded their NCMs beyond POPs to address the broader chemicals and waste agenda. These NCMs are particularly valuable given the high staff turnover, ensuring continuity and shared understanding of processes and responsibilities.

Ivan Djurickovic, Senior Adviser for Systematic Monitoring of Chemicals/Stockholm Convention Official Contact Point, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia, introduced his country's NCM, which coordinates the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions under a single institutional framework. Initially established during Serbia's NIP update process to support POPs inventories and data collection, the mechanism transitioned into a permanent national coordination body with formal government recognition, clear authority and defined responsibilities.

Serbia's approach aligns all chemicals and waste management responsibilities within a single circular economy sector, creating a coherent governance structure where each convention has a designated focal point with direct access to shared resources. The NCM operates through biannual meetings where members review joint work plans, assigning responsibilities across ministries and institutions, with mandatory progress reporting and adaptive planning to maintain oversight of priority tasks. Institutional participation extends across the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Protection Administration, Customs Administration, Serbian Environmental Protection Agency, industry representatives through the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, NGOs, and academic experts in toxicology and POPs.

Key highlights

Serbia's most notable advancement is a dedicated IT platform for the four convention focal points that has transformed data collection and reporting processes. The system accelerates communication with customs and environmental agencies, automatically issues email notifications before reporting deadlines, hosts all coordination body documentation, enables electronic voting for remote members, and allows direct upload of large datasets, particularly valuable for POPs assessments involving extensive customs or monitoring data. Serbia intends to integrate its NCM with emerging global frameworks, including the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Fathimath Fairooza, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Tourism and Environment of the Maldives, presented the Maldives' NCM established to support the NIP update within its unique geographical context. With 324,000 tonnes of annual waste generation, a dispersed population and overlapping institutional mandates for chemicals management across pesticide regulation, waste management, environmental regulation, interagency coordination, health protection and local government administration, structured coordination became essential. Its NCM was developed through iterative institutional mapping, informed by the 2017 initial NIP and existing project experience. It was formalized through official invitation letters and terms of reference, comprising an executive and 14 member institutions, including environmental regulators, customs authorities, defense bodies and government ministries (agriculture, health, transport and environment), Maldives National University and the Waste Management Corporation Limited.

The NCM provides strategic direction to the NIP review and update process, assesses progress, ensures activities remain within approved timelines and budgets, allocates human and technical resources, shares information on chemicals-related initiatives, and develops coordinated approaches. The Maldives' early operational insights highlighted the need for adequate meeting notice, reminders, advance circulation of updated workplans, hybrid meeting modalities to ensure broad participation given dispersed geography and limited technical personnel, and virtual engagement tools for stakeholders on outer islands. Strengthened collaboration with local government authorities was identified as essential for accelerating the NIP review and update process, reflecting practical considerations of operating a multi-institutional mechanism within a small island developing state (SIDS) context where logistical constraints and limited human resources require adaptive coordination arrangements.

Emilia Kjupeva Nedelkova, Head of Division for Chemicals and Industrial Accidents, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia, outlined the country's evolution from separate steering committees to a unified NCM for chemicals and waste management. North Macedonia's NCM, led by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning's POPs unit, includes the Ministry of Health's chemicals division and inspectorate, Ministry of Economy for industrial chemicals, Ministry of Agriculture's Phytosanitary Administration for pesticides, Customs Administration for border control, and State Environmental Inspectorate for enforcement, serving as a central hub to coordinate oversight and ensure strategic alignment. The NCM supports NIP updates by mobilizing multi-sectoral expertise for new POPs listings, integrating national legal requirements and international obligations, fostering broad ownership through participatory review processes, and securing stronger political endorsement that enhances legitimacy and cross-sectoral implementation.

Key highlights

Despite solid foundations, North Macedonia's NCM has faced challenges, including irregular meetings, inconsistent participation with temporary representatives, limited enforcement authority to compel ministries, and heavy reliance on external donor funding due to insufficient domestic budget allocations, creating gaps in practical delivery. Emilia Nedelkova recommended formalizing the NCM's mandate and composition in national legislation to ensure consistent participation, establishing clear accountability through mandatory reporting on NIP implementations and resource allocations, and securing dedicated national budget lines to reduce donor dependency and enable sustainable implementation under the Stockholm Convention and related agreements.

Mamadou Lamine Diame, Stockholm Convention Focal Point, Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition of Senegal, presented his country's NCM, which is anchored in four components: the Basel and Stockholm Regional Centre for French-speaking African countries (CRCBS-AF); a steering committee led by the National Commission for the Management of Chemicals; a technical committee; and inventory experts. Key institutions include Ministries of Environment, Health, Commerce, Finance (Customs), Agriculture, Labour and Civil Protection, supported by specialized laboratories and the Senegalese Association for Standardization (ASN), with Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa representing civil society. Operational leadership by the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition through the Stockholm Convention focal point coordinates experts and laboratories for inventories and studies. Draft technical reports undergo technical committee review for data validation and methodological consistency before steering committee approval, ensuring rigorous technical verification and increasing efficiency.

Senegal's NCM facilitated POPs pesticide inventory through Plant Protection Directorate data on importers, formulators, sites and high-risk areas, identifying pesticides in circulation, including illegal POPs. For unintentional POPs (uPOPs), collaboration with the Ministries of Industry and Trade mapped iron recycling and cement production emissions, with the Ministry of Trade aligning Harmonized System (HS) codes with national product codes for POPs-containing construction and furniture items. Despite these achievements, Senegal had challenges in integrating new actors into the NCM, maintaining focal points amid heavy workloads and lengthy validation processes. Mamadou Diame emphasized integrating institutions directly affected by POPs into the mechanism from the outset, formally designating focal points in each ministry, respecting reporting deadlines and adopting lighter procurement procedures as lessons learned from Senegal's experience.

Questions and answers

Q1. Is the model law document in the format of practical text that countries can directly copy and adapt to their national contexts?

Mihaela Paun: We aimed to develop a logical, practical text that countries can use if they want to regulate this internally, beyond the guidance. Should countries need a clear internal ministerial order or regulation, we have developed predefined chapters, sections, articles and placeholders in the text to adapt to their national context. For example, Article 1 states that external factors shall determine the evaluation process for reviewing and updating, with step-by-step responsibilities for the national leading agency. Countries can either refer to or revise and apply it when developing a ministerial order or transform it into an internal procedure. It's not mandatory to have legislative instruments, but if desired, this predefined structure makes it easy to adapt to the country context.

Q2. With many entities involved in Senegal's NCM, how do you maintain continuous engagement throughout the discussion, reporting and follow-up processes?

Ivan Djurickovic: We leveraged the pilot coordination working group for the NIP update, where we knew cooperative contacts from other institutions. After finishing the NIP update, we repeated nomination requests — both formally and unofficially — asking previous members to introduce decision-makers to the benefits of retaining the same personnel in the NCM. We are fortunate to have over 80% of the same people from the NIP update process now involved in the joint coordination mechanism.

Q3. Does the Maldives' NCM involve stakeholders outside government, like NGOs or private industry, beyond the National University of Maldives and waste management corporation?

Fathimath Fairooza: It was recommended by an NCM member during the initial meeting, but the Executive suggested approaching NGOs and associations through the Ministry of Cities, Local Government and Public Works. They preferred keeping the NCM membership, as coordination is already challenging due to overlapping mandates between ministries. It should be managed with careful coordination.

Resources

- The concept note and video recording in **English**, **French** and **Russian** are available on the Global NIP Update platform:

<https://www.greenvpolicyplatform.org/webinar/national-coordination-mechanisms-robust-nip-implementation>



French

Russian

- **Guidance for Setting a National Mechanism for NIP Review and Update, and Reporting:** <https://www.greenvpolicyplatform.org/guidance/guidance-setting-national-mechanism-nip-review-and-update-and-reporting>
- **Useful links**
 - Serbia: [Experience of Synergy Approach in Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in Serbia](#)
 - Maldives: [National Coordination Mechanism in Maldives for the NIP Update](#)
 - North Macedonia: [How North Macedonia Built an Effective National Coordination Mechanism for Chemicals and Waste Management](#)
 - Senegal
 - English: [Senegal's National Coordination Mechanism for Stockholm Convention Implementation](#)
 - French: [Mécanisme national de coordination du Sénégal pour la mise en œuvre de la Convention de Stockholm](#)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the GGKP team.

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