



# UNEP Chemicals Branch Newsletter

November 2014

Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

## Special Programme

### FOREWORD

The Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), is the remarkable result of governments' and other stakeholders' efforts to find solutions to strengthen the institutional platform for the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste at the national level. Adopted at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in June 2014, the Special Programme, which is an element of an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes, is a direct response to a call made by Governments at COP4 of the Stockholm Convention to strengthen the financial basis for the implementation of the legally binding chemicals and waste conventions. Through the Special Programme financial support can be provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their sustainable institutional capacity to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation and to gain access to financial and other resources for effective frameworks for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SACIM.

Governments in a position to do so, as well as the private sector and other stakeholders, are encouraged to mobilize the financial resources for the effective establishment and quick start implementation of the Special Programme.

An integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes is a strategic and synergistic approach to improve financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels. The other elements of an integrated approach are mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external financing, which are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels. The Special Programme is an integral part of dedicated external financing.



### 1 What are the Objectives of the Special Programme?

The Special Programme intends to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of sound management of chemicals and wastes (SMCW), taking into account:

- National development strategies, plans and priorities of each country;
- Increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the SMCW throughout their life cycle.

### Definition of Institutional strengthening

For the purposes of the SP, institutional strengthening is defined as enhancing the sustainable institutional capacity of Governments to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation, as well as to gain access to financial and other resources for an effective framework for the implementation of the instruments for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle.

## 2 Who is eligible for support?

- Support from the SP will be available for developing countries, taking into account the particular needs of least developed countries and small island developing States, and for countries with economies in transition, with priority given to those with least capacity;
- Applicants will be eligible if they are party to any one of the respective conventions or have demonstrated that they are in the process of preparing for ratification of any one of the conventions;
- Applications will include identification of the associated domestic measures to be taken to ensure that the national institutional capacity supported by the Special Programme is sustainable in the long term.
- The Special Programme will receive applications directly from national Governments.

## 3 What are the Governance arrangements?

- An Executive Board will be the decision making body and oversee the Special Programme with the support of a secretariat;
- The Executive Board will provide operational guidance on the implementation of the Special Programme and will provide advice on other matters as required.
- The Executive Board will reflect a balance between donors and recipients;
- The term of the representatives will be in a two year rotation.
- The Executive Secretaries of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, the Coordinator of the Strategic Approach and a representative of the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, as well as representatives of Governments and regional economic integration organizations, any implementing agencies and one representative from each of the Bureaus of the governing bodies of the Instruments may participate, at their own expense, as observers at the meetings of the Executive Board.

## Range of Activities funded

- Identifying national institutional capacity, weaknesses, gaps and needs, as well as strengthening the institutional capacity to do so, where required;
- Strengthening institutional capacity to plan, develop, undertake and monitor;
- Coordinate the implementation of policies, strategies and national programmes for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
- Strengthening institutional capacity to improve progress reporting and performance evaluation capabilities;
- Promoting an enabling environment to foster the ratification of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention;
- Enabling the design and operation of institutional structures dedicated to the promotion of the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle;
- Strengthening institutional capacity to promote measures to support all aspects of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including more specific nationally identified thematic areas covered by the Instruments.

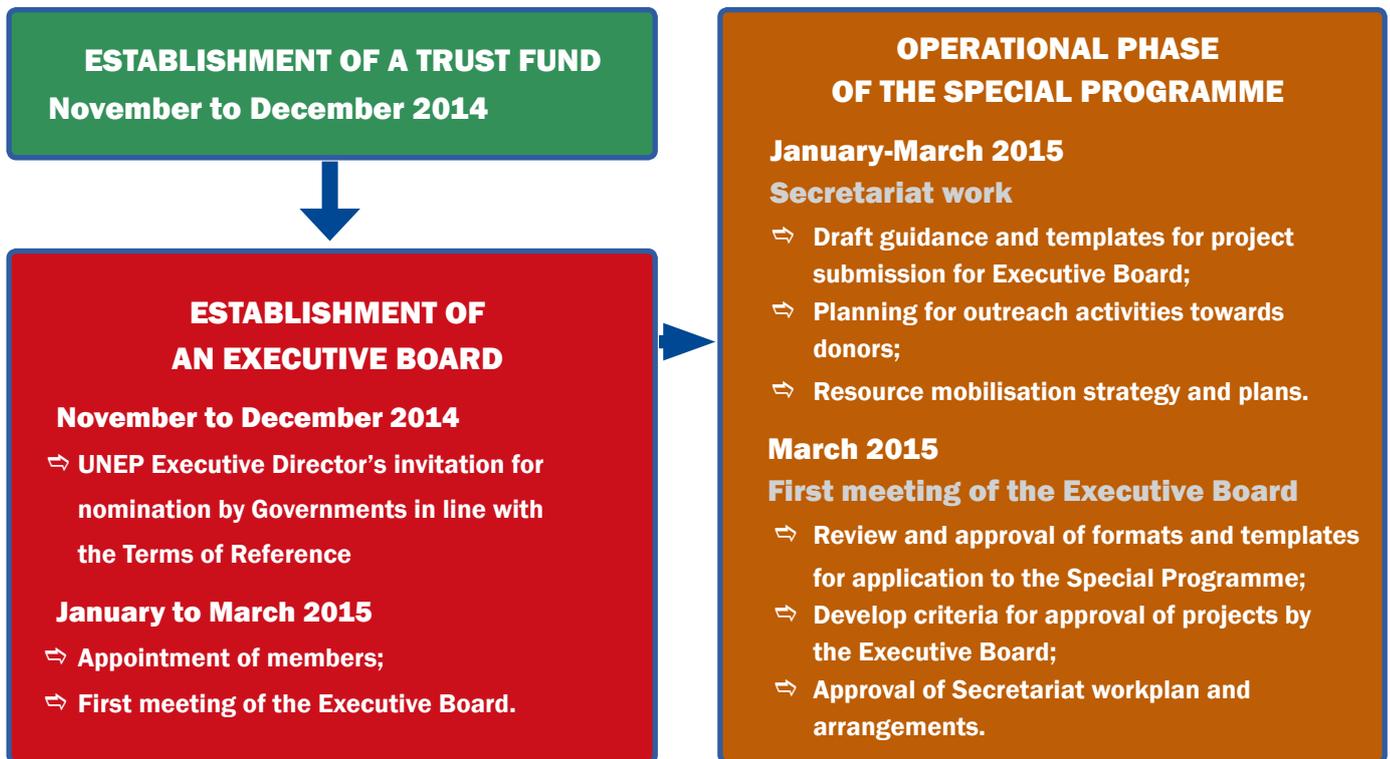
## Composition of the Board

The Executive Board will be composed of the following:

- Four representatives of recipient countries, reflecting equitable, geographical representation, drawn from the following United Nations regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Executive Board will have one representative from a least developed country or a small island developing State on a rotational basis;
- Five donor representatives, which are not also recipient countries.



## CALENDAR OF IMPLEMENTATION



Gaspar Alves

### 4 Contribution and duration of the Special Programme

The Special Programme will be open to receive voluntary contributions and applications for support for seven years from the date it is established.

On the basis of a satisfactory review and evaluation, and subject to a recommendation from the Executive Board to the United Nations Environment Assembly, the Special Programme may be eligible for a one-time extension, not to exceed an additional five years.

### About trust funds...

- A trust fund is a fund comprised of a variety of assets intended to provide benefits to an entity or organization. It reinforces financial cooperation between Member States by providing financial support to the implementation of the UNEA Resolution.
- Trust funds are rapidly growing part of the multilateral system. These funds are administered by multilateral agencies on behalf of bilateral donors and allows for maximum flexibility and a potential ability to respond to the needs of recipient countries.

## NEXT ON YOUR CALENDAR

### SAICM OEWG2, Geneva, 15 to 17 December 2014

The 2nd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG2) on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, will be held in Geneva at the Centre International de Conférence Genève (CICG) from 15 to 17 December 2014.

OEWG2 will, among other things, consider the draft Overall Orientation and Guidance towards meeting the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management and prepare stakeholders for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in September 2015.

The meeting will open on Monday 15 December at 10 a.m. Registration will take place on Sunday 14 December from 10 a.m. and will continue until 17 December. Provision has also been made for technical briefings and informal regional and other group meetings on Sunday 14 December 2014.



### MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS (BC COP-12, RC COP-7, SC COP-7), 4 TO 15 MAY 2015, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (BC COP-12), the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-7), the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-7) and the third meeting of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions (ExCOPs-3) will be held back-to-back from 4 to 15 May 2015, in Geneva.

The objectives of holding the meetings in a coordinated manner is to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the conventions, promote a more effective and coherent decision-making policy and enhance efficiency in the provision of support to parties, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels.



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*The UNEP Chemicals Branch Newsletter is published periodically to give readers world-wide an update of activities to promote the environmentally sound management of chemicals and so help protect public health and the environment.*

*UNEP promotes sustainable development by catalysing vital global actions and building national capacity for the sound management of chemicals through information exchange, training, and capacity building.*

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