



## Strengthening action on chemicals in the toy sector

**Virtual Expert Group**  
**15 July 2020, 1pm – 3:30pm CEST**  
**United Nations Environment Programme**  
**Advanced concept note**

### Background and context

Chemicals in Products have been a longstanding Emerging Policy Issue (EPI) under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). To further advance this issue, a GEF-funded project, “Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under SAICM,” has been launched in 2019 and running through 2021. Amongst others, this project addresses the use of chemicals of concern in the three priority sectors toys, building products and electronics, and aims at increasing the ambition of different stakeholders to track and control chemicals in supply chains of these sectors. Activities under the project include developing quantitative tools to compare chemical alternatives in order to avoid regrettable substitution and enhancing the ambition of compliance with regulatory requirements.

### Overall Goal and Objectives of the Meeting

The virtual expert group meeting, organized by the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is gathering key experts of the toy value chain, with the goal of further understanding chemicals of concern and identifying potential action points for shifting to alternatives. It is an opportunity to consult with key experts and to review and complement sector-specific information and explore next steps within the project.

The expert group will have the opportunity to consult on preliminary results of research on chemicals of concern and an initial mapping of toy safety policies and to further explore potential next steps that could be taken to address the issue of chemical of concern at international level.

Specifically, the workshop will cover the following objectives:

- Introduction of newly developed approaches for risk screening and alternatives assessment for chemicals in toys based on the USEtox consensus model.
- Consult on preliminary results of research on chemicals of concern in toys and an initial mapping of toy safety policies containing chemical requirements in low- and medium-income countries.

- Explore relevant areas and ideas for further activities under the project, such as for example, the development of guidance documents or case studies demonstrating different ways of how chemicals of concern can be addressed at different stages of the toys value chain.

The outputs of the workshop will include:

- Suggestions for refining the overview of toy safety policies in low- and middle-income countries.
- Exchange of best practice examples on addressing chemicals of concern
- The identification of relevant areas and cornerstones for further activities addressing the issue of chemicals of concern in toys.

## Operating Details

- **Date** : 15 July 2020, 1pm – 3:30pm CEST
- **Connection detail**: to be provided
- **Meeting Facilitator**: United Nations Environment Programme
- **Indicative list of invited participants** (TBC, a maximum of 20 people are expected):
  - Industry representatives
  - NGOs representatives
  - Standards and eco-label representatives
  - Countries representatives
  - Project partners and UNEP (UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP Resource and Market Branch, SAICM Secretariat, Secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, Basel Convention Regional Center China, DTU, University of Michigan)

## Agenda to follow