Draft resolution on Eliminating Exposure to Lead Paint and Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-Acid Batteries

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Emphasizing that to reduce the level of exposure to lead is important since no known level of exposure to lead is considered safe and recognizing the need for progress in all regions toward addressing sources of lead exposure;

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 and 2/7 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, which recognized the significant risks to human health and environment arising from releases of lead into the environment and encouraged action on reducing sources of lead, as well as the goal of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to have environmentally sound management of chemicals by 2020, as also reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals;

Concerned about the health and environmental impacts from waste lead-acid batteries recycling, including through activities in the informal sector in developing countries, and the lack of awareness about lead poisoning and adequate infrastructure for environmentally sound management;

Recognizing that recycled lead is used in both developed and developing countries, however the environmental and health impacts from the waste lead-acid battery recycling occurs primarily in developing countries;

Also Concerned that exposure to lead, including lead in paint and in waste lead-acid batteries, can cause serious lifelong damage, especially in children, such as loss of IQ and behavioral problems, and that exposure of pregnant women to high levels of lead can cause miscarriage, stillbirth as well as malformations;

Recognising that the sound management of chemicals and waste should benefit from an increased political attention in order to reach sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda;

Welcoming once again the work undertaken and the decisions taken within the framework of inter alia SAICM and the Basel Convention, and building on UNEA resolution 1/5 and its annex on "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term";

Recognizing the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) and the progress made;

Welcoming also the work of the Global Partnership on Waste Management as a tool for providing an overview analyses and recommendations for policies and actions for environmentally sound management of waste;
Noting the release of the Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint by the United Nations Environment Programme;

Welcoming the call to action by the 70th World Health Assembly to phase out lead paint by 2020;

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of UNEA Resolution 2/7 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste;

Stressing the importance of financial, technical, technological, and capacity building support, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to strengthen national capabilities for the management of lead.

1. Reiterates strong determination to continue to reduce exposure to lead, including through promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and eliminating lead paint;

2. Encourages governments, that have not yet done so and in light of national circumstances, to develop, adopt and implement legislation/regulations, and to support the development of private sector strategies where appropriate, to eliminate lead paint, and to undertake actions throughout the value chain, including disposal, in order to remove the risks such paints pose, especially to vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, infants and children;

3. Encourages Member States to continue their efforts for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries;

   (a) Develop national strategies in order, inter-alia, to manage the collection of waste lead-acid batteries and to address the issue of remediation of contaminated sites;

   (b) Adequately address releases, emissions and exposures from waste lead-acid batteries, including recycling, and utilizing appropriate standards and criteria;

   (c) Cooperate in collecting waste lead-acid batteries for environmentally sound processing at regional or national recycling facilities, consistent with relevant provisions of the Basel Convention and relevant regional conventions, such as the Bamako Convention, as applicable;


5. Requests the Executive Director, to continue assisting countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to strengthen and enhance national, subregional and regional implementation of environmentally sound management of waste, subject to the availability of resources, including by providing further capacity-building with respect to waste lead-acid batteries to implement regulatory frameworks and programmes for recycling, and better track and trace shipments, in close cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat.

6. Invites governments and other relevant stakeholders to become a partner of the Lead Paint Alliance.

7. Urges governments and other stakeholders to continue to support the Global Partnership on Waste Management and, where appropriate to take action in partnerships in core areas of environmentally sound management of waste.

8. Requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to assist countries to eliminate the use of lead paint, leading the Lead Paint Alliance with WHO, in particular providing tools and capacity-building, for developing national legislation and regulations, and to work regionally where appropriate.
9. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of this resolution at the next session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as part of the report on implementation of previous resolutions on sound management of chemicals and waste.