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**United Nations
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**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fifth session**

Nairobi (online), 22–26 February 2021*
Item 5 of the provisional agenda**

**International environmental policy and
governance issues**

**Information on implementation of resolution 3/4 on
environment and health*****

Note by the Executive Director

Introduction

1. At its third session, held from 4–6 December 2017, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution UNEP/EA.3/RES.4, on “Environment and Health”. The Resolution requested the Executive Director among other things to prepare reports on, health and environmental impacts of pesticides and fertilizers, and ways to minimize them and on the environmental impacts of antimicrobial resistance and the causes for the development and spread of resistance in the environment.
2. The present report contains an update on progress in the development of these reports.

**I. Progress in the preparation of the report on environmental and health
impacts of pesticides and fertilizers, and ways to minimize them**

3. The report was developed in close consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization, and in collaboration with a wide range of experts and stakeholders. Various physical and on-line consultations were held from late 2018 to mid-2020 with policymakers from countries in different regions, experts on fertilizers and pesticides including the FAO and WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management, as well as specialists from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The draft report has been submitted for language and graphic editing, with a few final updates on the content.
4. To support the systematic process of knowledge compilation and assessment, reviews were conducted on the status of use, regulatory aspects and the scientific literature on environmental and human health effects of fertilizers and pesticides. In addition, detailed technical assessments were

* In accordance with the decisions taken at the meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly held on 8 October 2020 and at the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 1 December 2020, the fifth session of the Assembly is expected to adjourn on 23 February 2021 and resume as an in-person meeting in February 2022.

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*** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

conducted, including a review of epidemiological studies on the health effects of pesticides and fertilizers, a compilation of poison information centers' statistics, and an assessment of fiscal policies for fertilizers and pesticides.

5. The report is structured into four Parts. Part I introduces the Agri-Food System and important trends and actors that shape pesticides and fertilizer demand and use. Parts II and III discuss in more depth specific aspects of pesticides and fertilizers, respectively. They are structured in a similar way and present: status and trends; regulatory and policy environment; human health and environmental effects and impacts; current risk management; and options for action to address identified gaps. Part IV presents options for transformative actions and encourages stakeholders to scale-up commitment, develop road maps and strengthen partnerships. A summary for policymakers was developed to present the main findings of the report as well as options for action to facilitate global policy considerations in the UNEA process.

6. The report will be available for UNEA-5, and will be accessible here: <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/chemicals-and-waste-reports-unea-5>. An advance version of the report's summary for policy makers is already available in the same site.

II. Progress in the preparation of the report on the environmental impacts of antimicrobial resistance and the causes for the development and spread of resistance in the environment

7. The report is being developed in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization and World Organisation for Animal Health, and experts and stakeholders are being consulted. Broader consultation on the report is being organized for the end of December 2020 and the content will be updated/revised accordingly.

8. The Report will be available for UNEA-5, and will be accessible here: <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/chemicals-and-waste-reports-unea-5>.

9. A systematic review and meta-analysis on the association between antimicrobial resistance related to environmental causes and health-related outcomes has been done as well as a systematic review of the literature related to the environmental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, national case studies were developed to understand the situation of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the environment, lessons learned, including challenges encountered in tackling environmental causes of AMR and success stories. These case studies and both reviews will feed into the global report on the environmental impacts of antimicrobial resistance.
