

## UNSDCF Planet Results Group

### Minutes of Meeting

<b>Meeting organizers</b>	UNEP
<b>Meeting attendees</b>	Ministry of Environment, Central Management Unit (PMO); AUB-Nature Conservation Center, AUB – Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Dept., EU, UNDP, UN-Habitat, WHO, World Bank, 3RF Independent Oversight Board
<b>Unable to attend</b>	EBRD, KFW, AICS, Issam Fares Institute, Lebanon Environment Forum Lebanon Eco Movement, Waste Management Coalition, FAO, WFP, UNHCR
<b>Location</b>	UN ESCWA
<b>Date</b>	20 July 2023
<b>Duration</b>	1.5 hrs.
<b>Meeting nr.</b>	1
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening and Welcome Remarks</li> <li>2. Background to the link between the UNSDCF and 3RF</li> <li>3. Presentation on the proposed National Chemical Management roadmap for Lebanon</li> <li>4. Feedback and Group Discussion on the Roadmap</li> <li>5. Closing Remarks, Way forward and Next Steps</li> </ol>

Minutes of meeting	
<b>1. Opening Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>UNEP</b> noted that today’s meeting is the first 3RF-style inclusive policy dialogue of the UNSDCF Planet Results Group. The proposed roadmap towards national chemical management that will be presented today is still in its inception phase, so the different stakeholder groups present are encouraged to share their feedback and input to it.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Environment</b> on behalf of the Minister, Mr. Mohammad Abiad, welcomed that this important policy topic will be discussed today in this format.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Background to the link between the UNSDCF and 3RF</b>	<i>Please see the presentation from the 3RF Secretariat</i>
<b>3. Presentation on the proposed National Chemical Management roadmap for Lebanon</b>	<i>Please see the presentation from UNEP</i>
<b>4. Feedback and Group Discussion on the Roadmap</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AUB–Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Department (EHSRM):</b> Will you include an inventory of chemicals present in country?</li> </ul>



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- **UNEP:** Yes, first there will be a chemical classification stage and then the registration system will include an inventory.
- **Ministry of Environment (MoE):** One issue is the data on the chemicals coming into Lebanon through customs, where chemicals are not always registered accurately. Is there any plan to address this?
  - **UNEP:** Maintaining a proper registry is key. UNEP held a one-week training program on Greening the Customs in Oman. This could be an element to incorporate into the proposed roadmap for Lebanon.
- **AUB-EHSRM:** An important stakeholder to include is the Lebanese Army, specifically the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (CBRN) unit, as they did a chemical inventory after the blast. It's also important to include industrialists, as their manufacturing entails using chemicals. At the AUB we purchased a chemical management software, which covers many aspects that are mentioned in the proposal: management of chemicals, handling, safety data sheets, tracking the chemicals from purchase to disposals, etc.
- **WHO:** Chemicals are a multi-sectoral issue, not just industrial. Each sector may need to be analyzed. In the National Strategy on Health and Environment 2021 - 2026 there is a chapter on chemical safety, including a literature review and a proposed framework of action. We need to ensure that loopholes are shut, since sometimes what is banned by one ministry is allowed by another.
  - **UNEP:** Different ministries have different databases but these need to be coordinated.
- **3RF:** Given the multi-sectoral nature of this topic – where would the chemical advisory board be anchored – within the Ministry of Environment?
  - **UNEP:** the institutional arrangement will become clear through consultations and the situational analysis. Wherever it is anchored, it will definitely need to have an inter-ministerial coordination function. This links to the other policy priority for the Planet Result Group: environmental compliance – how do we ensure that then all the stakeholders are complying with the regulations? Would the advisory board also have a compliance function?
- **AUB-EHSRM:** Defining the scope of which chemicals will be ex/included is important. The occupational hazard of exposure to chemicals as well as chemical security should also be tackled. The advisory board shouldn't only have an administrative function, it should also have a technical board classifying, banning, etc. chemicals with toxicologists on board. Prevention, greening, circularity of chemicals should also be considered.
  - **UNEP:** This proposal includes the management of all chemicals. The technical board would probably fall under the 'risk assessment' of the diagram. The advisory board would be more for coordination.
  - **MoE:** Different ministries regulate different chemicals linked to their sector – there are loopholes since there are conflicting recommendations from different ministries. We want to do a thorough assessment and monitor most importantly what comes through customs. We learned through a Ministry of Industry investigation that customs do not always register chemicals in the right category.



- **UNEP:** While the chemicals being imported need to be monitored, we also need to consider locally produced chemicals. Currently, the management of chemicals is being done in silos. The idea behind this concept is to have a national level unified comprehensive management system across the board.
- **UN-Habitat:** Recommendation to check the regulations of [Libnor](#) – Lebanese Standards Institution during the situational analysis; we refer to their standards on construction.
- **AUB-Nature Conservation Center:** A large part of chemicals arrive in Lebanon illicitly to – is there a way to take this into account?
  - **UNEP:** We can't claim that we will be able to control illegal smuggling. But this could be part of the capacity building of law enforcement entities ('training of gatekeepers') – because chemicals are not always obviously recognizable as illegal.
- **MoE-Department of Chemical Safety:** A holistic multi-stakeholder approach to this is crucial for Lebanon. It is important to define the scope of the chemicals that will be included and which Conventions they fall under (Rotterdam Convention, Chemical Weapons Convention etc.). It's also important to consider [Law 444/2002](#) on environmental protection, which calls for the sound management of chemicals. Customs are an executing entity, what about chemicals in products where the custom-code is not clear?
- **AUB-EHSRM:** Apart from baseline assessment will there be an investment component for the project?
  - **UNEP:** Not in this first phase. But even though it doesn't have an investment component, we can include a strategy for upscaling.

#### **Closing Remarks, Way forward and Next Steps**

- **PMO:** Good luck with this, this good initiative will be relayed to the PM.
- **UNEP:** As a next step, we'll update the concept note based on your input and share it with all the participants, inviting your comments. Please also mention if there is a part that you would be able to contribute to.

#### **Documents shared**

Presentation on 3RF

Presentation on National Chemical Management



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# Overview of the 3RF

Presentation for the Planet Results Group

Date: July 2023

# Background

- Launched in Dec. 2020: an innovative partnership between UN, WB, EU, government, civil society, & donors in response to the Beirut blast
- Original scope: 2 parallel tracks

Track 1: People-centred recovery – (unconditional) 18-months; geographic area impacted by the Beirut blast, 3-5km around the port

Track 2: Reforms & Reconstruction – (conditional) progress on critical reforms a prerequisite for further investments; national scope

- Sector commitments under 4 pillars for both tracks

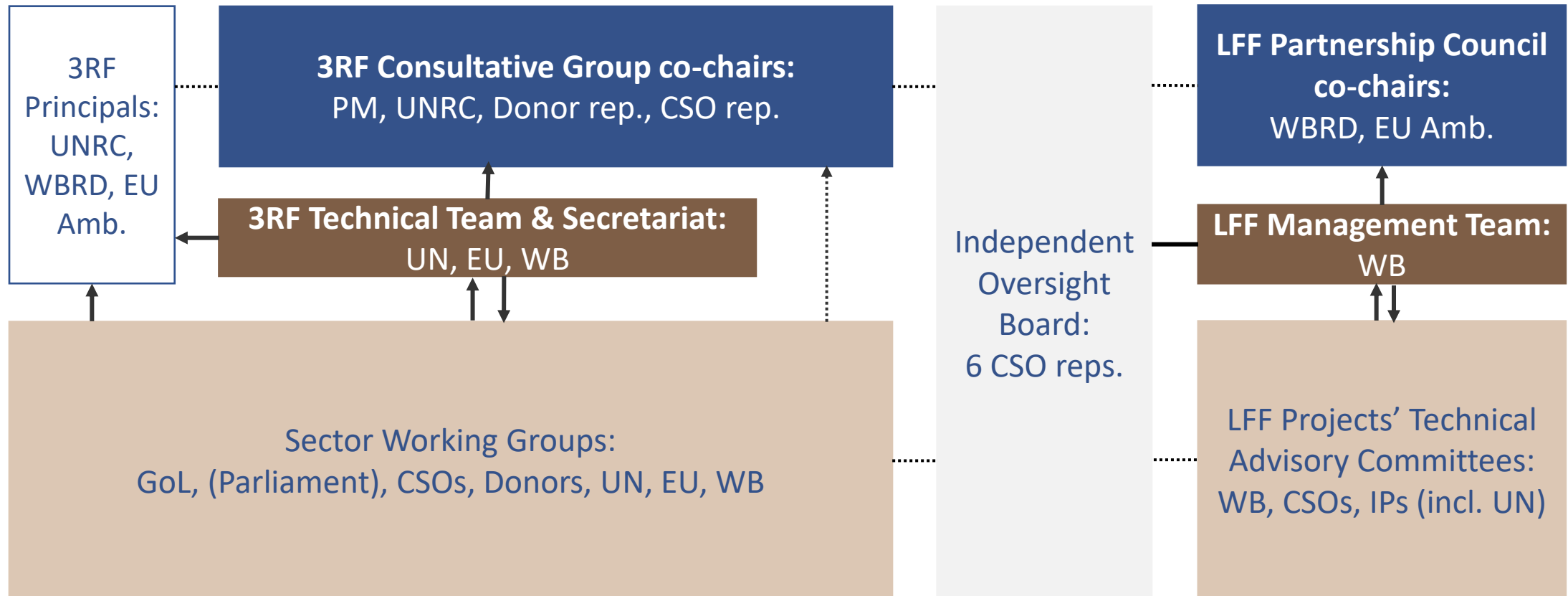
Improving  
governance &  
accountability

Jobs &  
economic  
opportunities

Social  
protection,  
inclusion &  
culture

Improving  
services &  
infrastructure

# 3RF Governance



# 3RF as of April 2023

Following extensive stakeholder consultations on the strategic way forward for 3RF a joint statement of Consultative Group co-chairs confirmed:

1. 3RF to be continued as a unique platform for **inclusive policy dialogue & to make progress on implementing reforms** to unlock investments in reconstruction

2. **Lebanon Financing Facility** will reflect focus to reforms & continue channeling funds to support implementation of 3RF priorities incl. those defined by the WGs

3. Inclusive technical discussions in **empowered WGs**: state institutions present policy plans & challenges, int. orgs. & donors can prioritize interventions, civil society provides their expertise & monitor progress

4. A 3RF **website** was launched: overview of updated sector priorities, key results & outcomes of discussions, will also include a reform tracker



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# National Chemical Management Programme for the Republic of Lebanon

Miraq Al-Jubouri

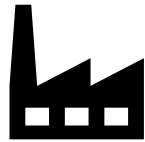
# I. Background

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Chemicals play a significant role in our daily life:



Used in various sectors from medicine to agriculture, ultimately benefiting public health, food security...



In 2017, the size of the chemicals industry exceeded USD 5 trillion, and this number is projected to double by 2030.



The Middle East has witnessed a growth rate of 8.5 percent in chemical production between 2000 and 2017.

However, if not handled and regulated properly, harmful chemicals and their byproducts can **pose risks to human health and the environment.**

# I. Background

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Safe management of chemicals is vital for protecting human health, preserving the environment and achieving sustainable development, it involves:

1. Proper handling and control of chemicals to minimize their potential negative health effects and environmental damage.
2. Emergency preparedness and response.
3. Compliance with regulations governing chemicals use, transportation, and disposal.

# I. Background

Lebanon has taken steps to address the challenges of chemical management by establishing a department for chemical safety within the Ministry of Environment as per Decree 2275/2009 and implementing various policies and programmes. Lebanon is also a party to major chemical-related conventions.

<b>Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)</b>	<b>Date of Ratification/Accession</b>
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	21 December 1994
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	13 November 2006
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	3 January 2003
Minamata Convention on Mercury	13 October 2017

# I. Background

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- Lebanon faces challenges in managing chemicals in an environmentally sound way due to the lack of coordination among different stakeholders and in silo programmes.
- To address this, the country needs to **review its current chemical management system** and **develop a programme** that focuses on chemical safety and the implementation of the chemical-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that Lebanon has ratified.

# I. Background

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- The Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) was launched in December 2020:
  - As a **response plan** to address the urgent needs of the Lebanese after the explosion of 4 August 2020.
  - To **implement reforms** to support reconstruction and to help restore people's trust in governmental institutions through **enhanced governance**.
- This project falls under the 3RF since it provides a coordinated and integrated approach to chemical management for Lebanon.
- It also provides an opportunity to **regain the trust** of investors and the international community.

## II. Project Objective, Approach and Output

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**Objective:** Support Lebanese authorities to develop a *national chemical management programme* that ensures the sound management of chemicals in a *coordinated and integrated manner*.

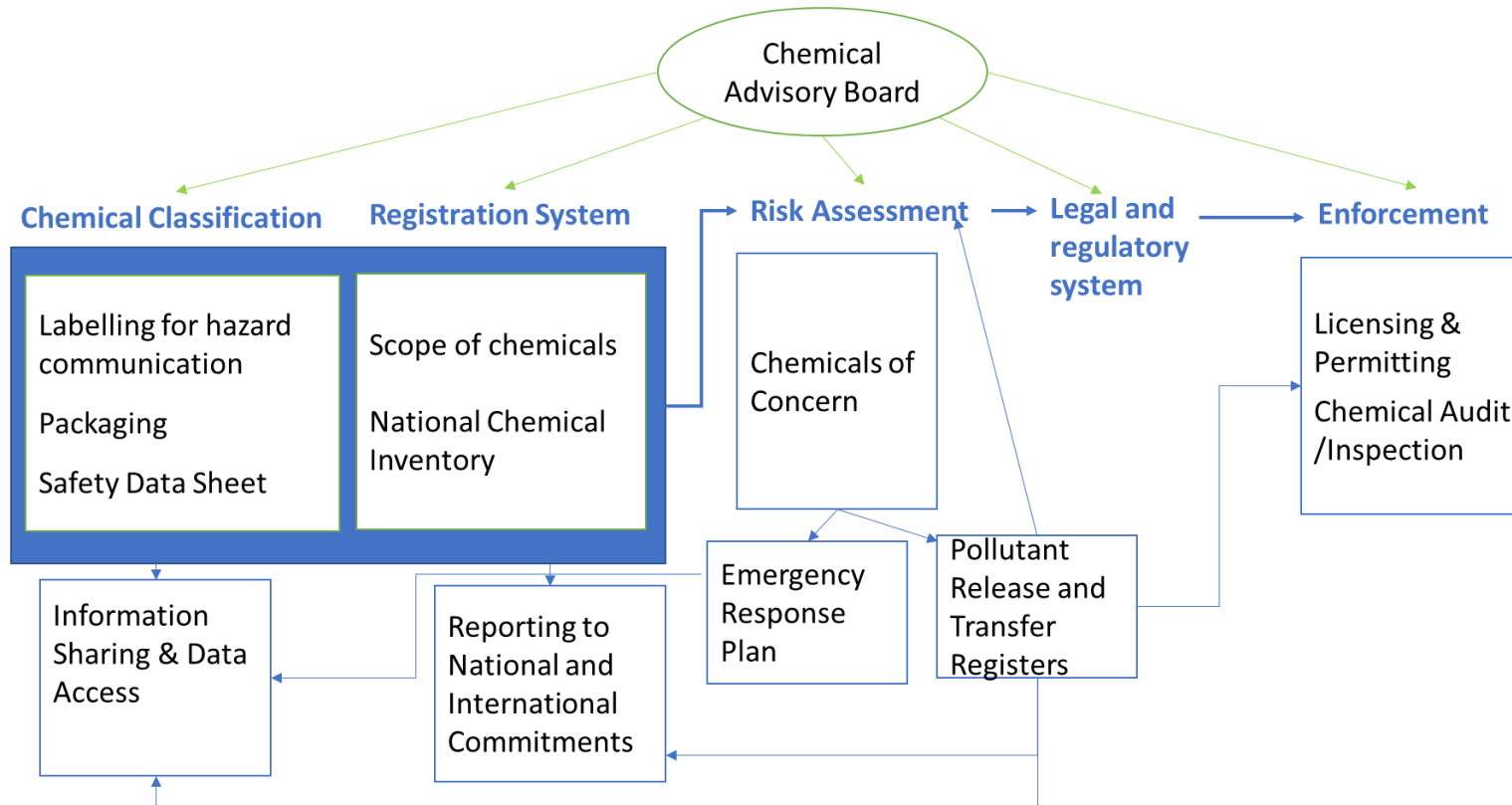
**Approach:** The objective will be achieved through:

1. *Conducting a situation analysis* on the current chemicals management practices/system in the country.
2. *Developing a national programme* for environmentally sound chemical management.

**Output:** A national chemical management programme, including a chemical emergency preparedness and response plan.

# III. Overall Goal of the Project

The overall goal of a chemical management programme is to **address the whole lifecycle of chemicals**, including import/purchasing, identification, labelling, inventory, use, storage, record-keeping and disposal.





## IV. Project Activities

The project can be divided into two main phases: **(1) an assessment phase** and **(2) a development phase** that will take place over a period of **18-24 months**.

1. Assessment Phase	
<i>Activity 1: Establish a team of stakeholders involved in chemicals management</i>	
Aim	Output
Establish a team of stakeholders comprised of government agencies, academia, as well as non-governmental organizations concerned with chemicals management to serve as a forum for consultation.	A network of stakeholders involved in chemicals management.

## IV. Project Activities

1. Assessment Phase	
<i>Activity 2: Conduct a situation analysis on the current chemicals management practices/system</i>	
Aims	Outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Conduct a situation analysis on the current chemical management practices/system in Lebanon.</li><li>2. Convene a consultation workshop to review the first draft of the situation analysis report and amend the report according to stakeholders' recommendations.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. First draft of the situation analysis report examining the current chemicals management practices/system in Lebanon.</li><li>2. Consultation workshop with relevant stakeholders to review the draft situation analysis report.</li><li>3. Final situation analysis report examining the current chemicals management practices/system in Lebanon amended based on stakeholders' recommendations.</li></ol>

## IV. Project Activities

2. Development Phase	
<i>Activity 3: Develop a national chemical management programme for Lebanon</i>	
Aims	Outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Develop a national chemical management programme based on the needs and gaps identified in the situation analysis report (Activity 2).</li><li>2. Convene a consultation workshop to review the first draft of the national chemical management programme and amend the programme according to stakeholders' recommendations.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. First draft of national chemical management programme for Lebanon.</li><li>2. Consultation workshop with relevant stakeholders to review the first draft of the programme.</li><li>3. Final national chemical management programme for Lebanon amended based on stakeholders' recommendations.</li></ol>

## VI. Proposed Budget Plan

Activity	Estimated Budget (USD)
Activity 1: Establish a team of stakeholders involved in chemicals management	10,000
Activity 2: Conduct a situation analysis on the current chemicals management practices/system	90,000
Activity 3: Develop a national chemical management programme for Lebanon	104,450
Project Support Cost (13%)	30,550
<b>Total (inclusive of Project Support Cost)</b>	<b>235,000</b>





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# Thank you

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