

Developing roadmaps on the GHS: Recent experience from Ecuador and El Salvador

Sofia Schlezak – 18 April 2024

CWM UNITAR, Webinar “Introduction to the GHS”



About the projects (Nov '22 - Mar '23)

Beneficiaries



Ecuador

Ministry of the Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition



El Salvador

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

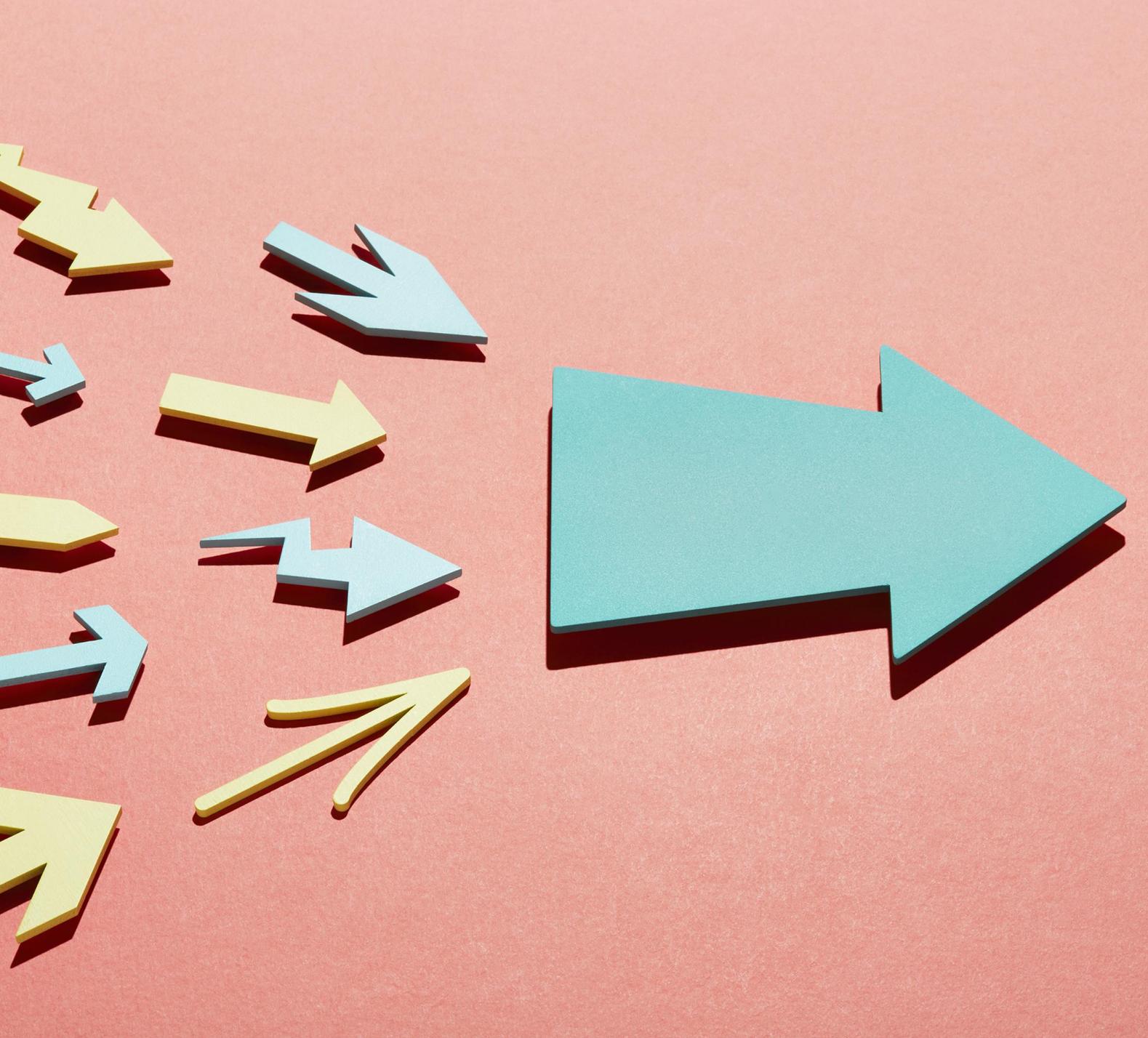


Partners

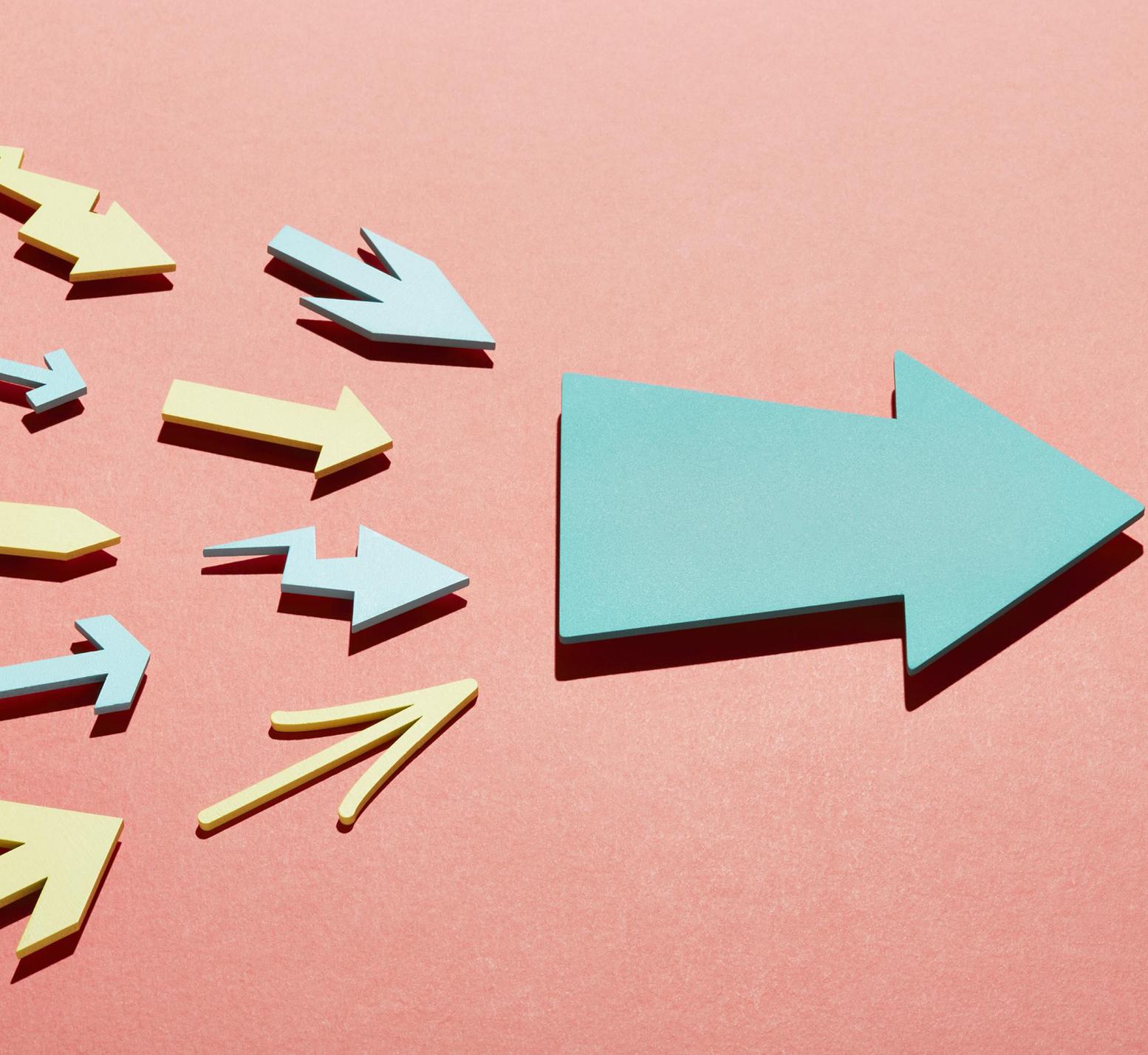


UNITAR team

- Mr. Fabián Benzo (Senior Expert)
- Mr. Oliver Wootton & Ms. Sofia Schlezak (Coordination)



Turn a
concept
into
action



Turn a
concept

Harmonized
and
accessible
information
on chemicals

into
action

Chemicals are
classified and
labelled
Information is
accessible and
understood

General approach

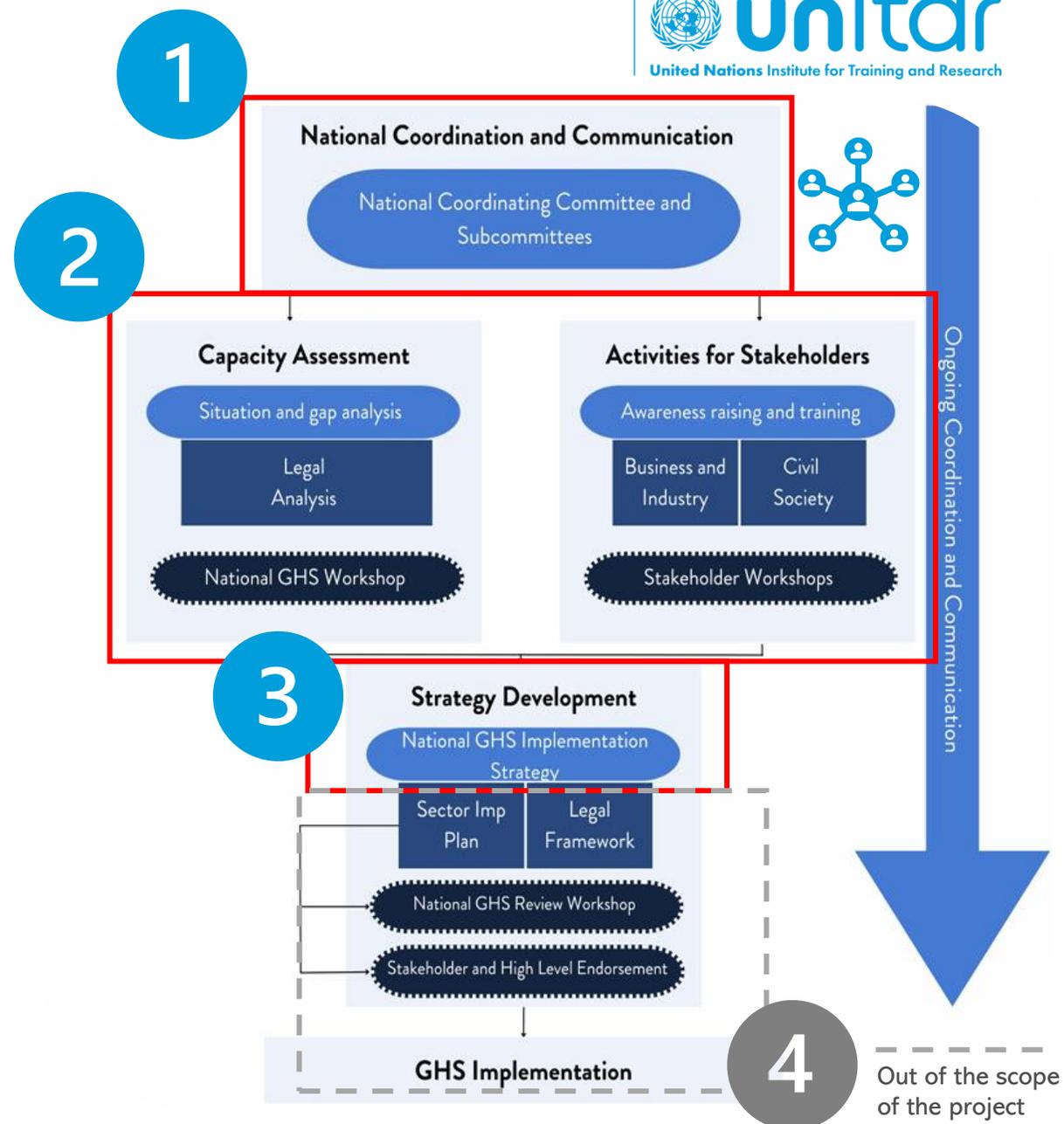
GHS implementation is a multi-year and on-going journey, therefore long-term commitment is crucial

Countries will begin the GHS implementation process from **different starting points**

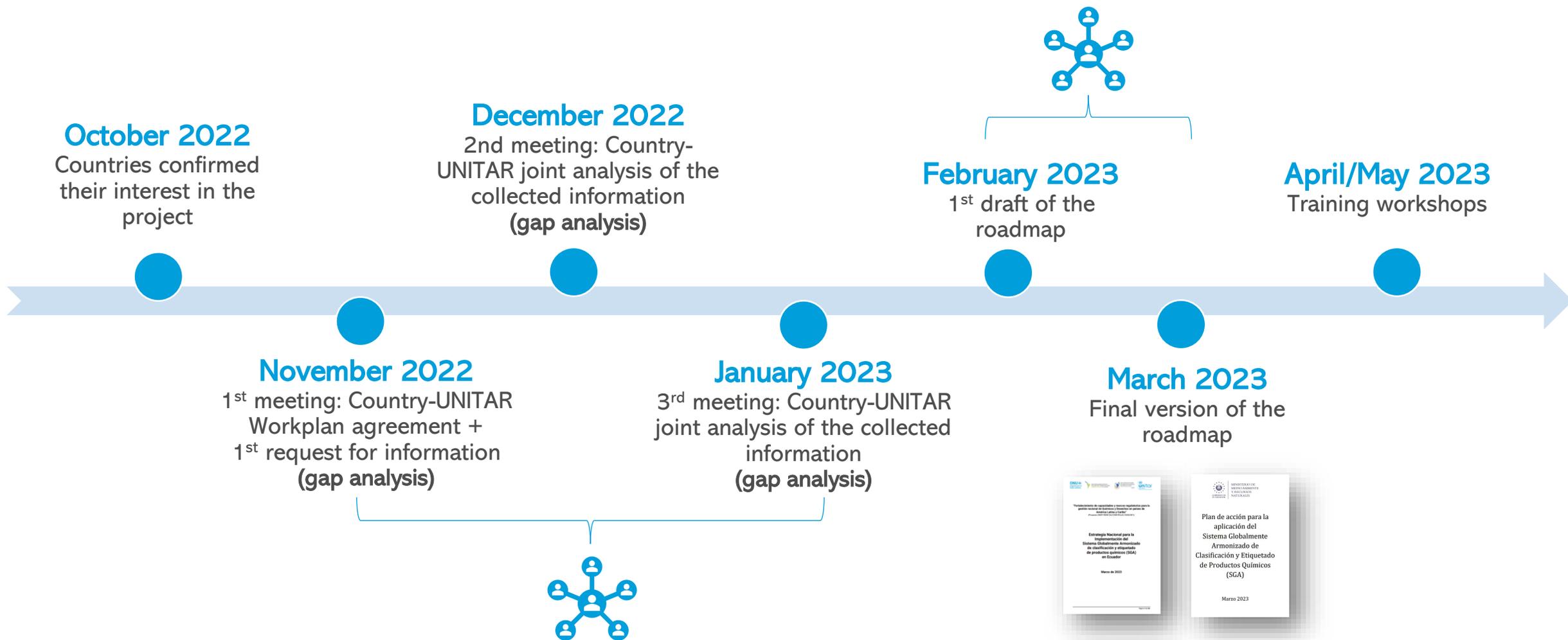
The implementation steps should be adapted accordingly

Main guidance documents:

1. UNITAR/ILO (2022). Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy. A Guidance Document to Support the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).
2. UNITAR (2021). Options for legislation and standard setting to implement the GHS
3. UNITAR (2021). GHS Implementation – Experiences and lessons learned.
4. UNITAR (2020). Key Elements of a National GHS Adoption and Implementation Roadmap.



General approach



How to start?

1. National coordination and communication



1. National coordination and communication

- **Identify key stakeholders in government** (all relevant ministries and organizations) + **civil society, labour organizations, and industry** (including producers and downstream users)
- **Form a national GHS coordinating committee** or create a **GHS subcommittee** within a larger national committee + any necessary **sectoral or cross-sectoral working groups** (e.g., for industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products, civil society).
- **Important: the role of the leading organization and a workplan**



Ecuador

Ministry of the
Environment, Water,
and Ecological
Transition



El Salvador

Ministry of
Environment and
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What is your situation?

2. Capacity assessment



2. Capacity assessment

Situation and gap analysis

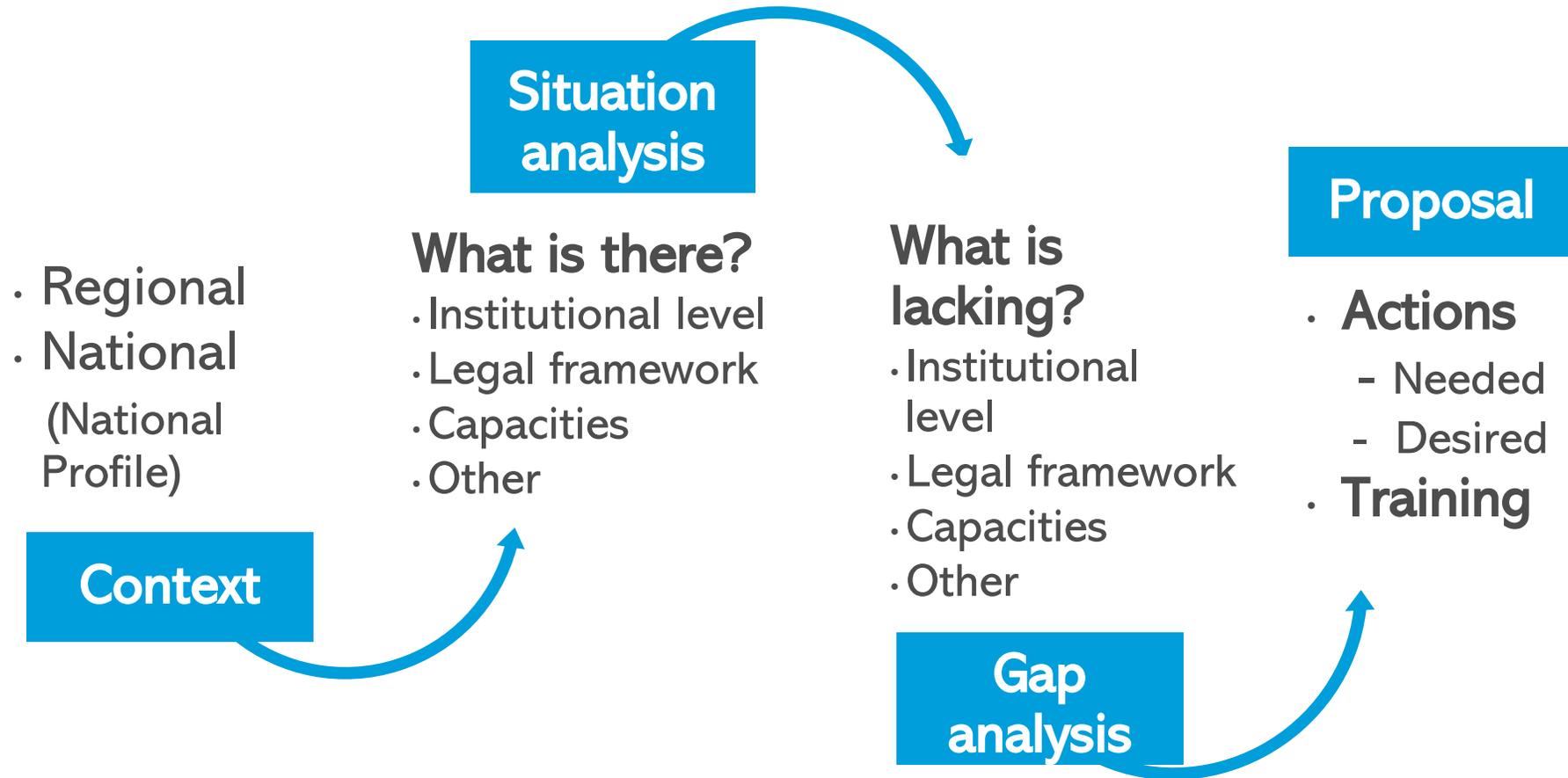
- **Assess existing capacity** for GHS implementation (across all sectors and stakeholder groups)
- **Identify gaps** related to GHS implementation (across all sectors and stakeholder groups)
- **Understand national, regional, and/or international policy and frameworks.** Regional economic bodies, International agreements and frameworks (ILO Convention 170, International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management -Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides, the Global Framework on Chemicals - GFC), International funding mechanisms, such as the Special Programme and the GFC fund
- **Undertake a policy and legal analysis of the existing regulatory and administrative frameworks** related to classification/labelling of chemicals and hazard communication.



Sector	Organismo(s) competente(s)				Reglamentación vigente (favor adjuntar o enviar link)
	Explosivos	Inflamables	Otros peligros físicos	Peligros para la salud/Peligros para el medio ambiente	
(re)exportador					Recuperación y emisión de Gases Refrigerantes a la atmósfera. Resolución Comex 023-2017 Resolución Comex 031-2019 Acuerdos Ministeriales asignación cupo anual
Sustancias químicas					
Sustancias químicas					
Sustancias químicas					Destrucción ambientalmente adecuada de Sustancias Agotadoras de la Capa de Ozono Informe sobre Tecnologías de Destrucción (2002) Protocolo de Montreal
Observaciones:					

PARTE B - RECURSOS				
Aspecto	Estado actual	Información adicional	Prioridad (1 bajo - 8 alto)	
Ámbito de coordinación entre todos los actores identificados arriba	Insuficiente		8	
Reglamentación	Insuficiente		8	
Supervisión de cumplimiento	Insuficiente		8	
Información (por ejemplo, Perfil nacional)	Insuficiente		8	
Capacitación	Insuficiente		8	
Laboratorios de ensayos	Insuficiente		8	
Recursos económicos	Insuficiente		8	
Otros (especificar en información adicional)	Insuficiente		8	
Observaciones:				

2. Capacity assessment



2. Capacity assessment

Project results



Area	Country 1	Country 2
Institutional framework		
• Formal multi-institutional working groups	✓	X (informal)
• Active participation of key stakeholders	X	X
• Engagement of specific governmental areas	X	X
• Coordination	X	X
Legal framework		
• National Policy that acknowledges the GHS	X	✓
• GHS regulation for the workplace	✓	X
• GHS regulation for the transport sector	✓ (regional)	X
• GHS regulation for agricultural chemicals	X	X
• GHS regulation for consumer products	X	X
• Coherence	X	X
• Agreed on one GHS revision and define competencies	X	X
• Compliance monitoring and surveillance	X	X
Capacities		
• Mandatory course for ground transportation of hazardous chemicals	✓	✓
• Training	X	X
• Information	X	X
• Laboratories	X	X
• Economic resources	X	X

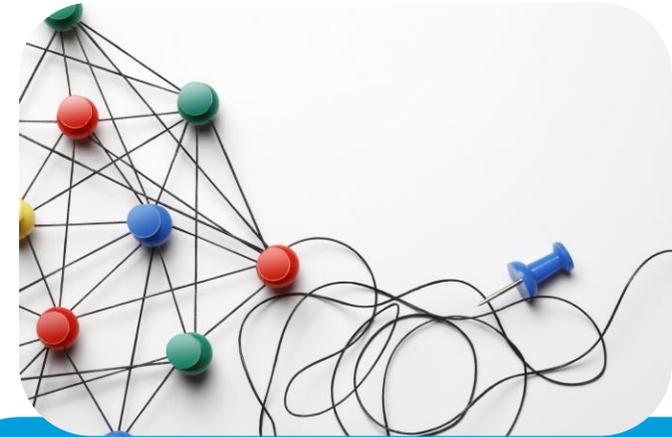
What next?

3. Strategy development



3. Strategy development

- **Develop and assess options for the development of GHS-based legislation, regulations, policies or standards** (including monitoring, enforcement, and review):
 1. Integrating the GHS into an overarching regulatory framework
 2. Having a standalone approach
 3. Ensuring coordination of activities on GHS implementation with other updates to national chemicals, labour, health and environment-related legislation



QUESTIONS

Is there any legal instrument in place for all the key sectors and all life cycle stages?

Is it possible to use the existing legal framework as a baseline?

Is it possible and/or feasible to promote regional legislation?

3. Strategy development

Project results



	Country 1	Country 2
Actions needed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the institutional framework. 2. Update national regulations for the workplace and transport sectors. 3. Develop legislation for consumer products (ideally at a regional level). 4. Organize awareness-raising workshops, with all stakeholders. 5. Develop educational material for consumers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a multi-sectoral working group with the participation of all relevant government agencies. 2. Organize awareness-raising workshops with the participation of all stakeholders. 3. Use the National Policy on chemical substances, residues and hazardous waste as a general framework. 4. Develop national legislation for the workplace. 5. Develop regulations for the transport sector, pesticides and consumer products (ideally at a regional level). 6. Develop educational material for consumers.
Regulatory strategy (proposed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations per sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture: On-going • Workplace & transport: 2024 • Consumer products: 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umbrella” legislation + sectoral regulations. All sectors: 2025

In parallel: Activities for stakeholders

- Organise awareness-raising sessions to engage different stakeholder groups



Government staff, products suppliers, workers, drivers, emergency services staff, educators.



Target audiences: Who will need to implement, use, or be aware of the new national GHS-based legal framework?

Thanks

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Unitar.org

unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/our-portfolio/globally-harmonized-system-classification-and-labelling-chemicals

