Topic 1 – Existence of waste policy

- Is there a waste policy that covers all stages of the waste stream?
- Does the policy address waste prevention?
- Does the policy consider different types of waste?
- Are there any gaps or inconsistencies in the waste policy?

Topic 2 – Compliance with national environmental policy

- Have the policy been reflected, specified, and put into concrete terms in instruments such as legislation, plans, budgets and financial tools?
- Is the waste policy at different stages consistent with the general environmental policy?
- What is the extent of compliance with the policy? How does the government know?

Topic 3 – Risk management

- Has the government identified the risks in the waste-management system, and are there measures in place to manage them?
- Are the risks to environment and health being effectively and sufficiently managed?
    - ✓ Are there procedures in place to prevent negative incidents?
    - ✓ Are the emergency response measures effective?
    - ✓ Are there procedures to reduce long-term risks?

Topic 4 – Quality of the implementation process

- Have policies, regulations, etc., been implemented efficiently and effectively?
    - ✓ Have there been delays in their implementation?
    - ✓ Have resource needs been identified and made available?
    - ✓ Were the resources well spent (cost/ benefit), and did they achieve their objectives?
- Did the government require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) before implementing a new waste initiative?

Topic 5 – Performance of the waste management system

- Is the structure of the waste-management system appropriate for solving the challenges that the waste entails?

- Is there a distribution of responsibility, and if so, does this influence accountability?
- Do the responsible agencies have the necessary instruments (legislation, plans, budgets, fees, fines) for fulfilling their obligations?
- Do the chosen instruments ensure the achievement of the policy objectives?

Topic 6 – Compliance with national law and regulations

- Are the actions of various private and public actors in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations?
- Are all waste activities and liabilities accurately accounted for?
- Are there any illegal practices in connection with the waste handling?
- Has the government assessed the extent of illegal practices?

Topic 7 – Compliance with international obligations

- Are the policies, legislation and practices in compliance with international obligations and commitments to which the country has agreed (e.g., Basel Convention)?
- Are required measurement and reporting systems in place and providing correct and timely information
- This is an area where different SAIs could cooperate

Topic 8 – Monitoring

- Are emissions, leachates, groundwater contamination, pollutants, etc., being monitored
- Are there adequate systems for monitoring waste handling?
    - ✓ Is relevant information being gathered and is that information of good quality?
    - ✓ Are there control and inspection procedures to ensure compliance with requirements, and do these procedures work well?
    - ✓ Have necessary sanctions been established, and are they adequately used?

Topic 9 – Effects of other government activities

- Is the waste from government environmental or non-environmental activities or programmes properly managed?
- Do the public ministries, departments and agencies manage the waste created by activities under their authority?
- Are clean-up costs acknowledged and visible in accounting documents?