Electronic Industry Sector

Date: Thursday 26th June, 2025
Time: 15:00 - 18:15
Modality: Hybrid
Convened by: UNEP and UNIDO in collaboration with Responsible Business Alliance (RBA), Clean Production Action (CPA), Clean Electronics Production Network (CEPN), BRS Secretariat and the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)

Context and Background

The electronics industry is one of the fastest-growing global sectors, with the market projected to exceed $5 trillion by 2028. It also generates significant environmental risks and liabilities, including over 70 million tons of e-waste annually, with hazardous chemicals such as PFAS, brominated flame retardants, and heavy metals posing risks to health and the environment. Although the electronics industry is a key driver of economic growth, it also faces challenges related to e-waste generation, resource inefficiency, and supply chain risks. Transitioning towards circular business models therefore presents a huge economic opportunity, by aligning with GFC's goals for sustainable industry transformation.

In line with Objective D—and in particular, Target D6—the sector is called upon to develop and implement sustainable chemical and waste management strategies by 2030. These strategies must include the identification of priority chemicals of concern, especially those posing significant risks to human health and the environment, and the adoption of standards and measures such as the chemical footprint approach to systematically reduce the use and impact of hazardous chemicals across the entire value chain.

Target D6 further emphasizes the importance of addressing all stages of the product lifecycle, from design and manufacturing through to end-of-life, ensuring that chemical risks are managed at every step. This includes the identification and substitution of harmful substances with safer alternatives, the promotion of innovation in green and sustainable chemistry, and the enhancement of transparent reporting, data availability, and continuous performance improvement in chemical management.

Session Objectives

The primary objective is to introduce and explain the draft phased workplan for the Electronics Sector Implementation Programme under the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC). By initiating this conversation, the session sets the stage for collaborative input, refinement, and future adoption of the workplan—ensuring the electronics sector can meaningfully contribute to the overarching goals of the GFC. This session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) marks the beginning of discussions on presenting an Implementation Programme (IP) for the electronics sector.

Building on the introduction of the phased workplan, the session also seeks to foster practical engagement by highlighting a range of tools, pilot initiatives, and business cases that address current implementation gaps in the electronics sector. Through interactive breakout discussions, participants will have the opportunity to identify early contributors, strengthen alignment across the electronics value chain, and lay the groundwork for collaborative action.

Agenda

Time	Contents
15:00 - 15:10	**Introduction** Frame the GFC context, electronics sector relevance, and introduce the draft ToR and phased workplan. **Speakers:** Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP
15:10 - 15:50	**Panel: Tools, Case studies & Implementation Enablers** **Purpose:** Showcase practical tools, pilot models, and business cases already supporting transparency, safer chemicals, and voluntary action. **Panel 1 (10 min)** Business case **Panel 2 (10 min)** Practical tools (Joint CEPN and CPA) **Panel 3 (10 min)**

Time	Contents
	BRS Convention list of Chemicals, new POPs listed and new challenges in the electronics sector, **Panel 4 (10 min)** Safer chemicals and voluntary action
50-80min (30 min)	**Breakout Discussion** Enable interactive engagement on Phase 1 priority, identify implementation gaps, and collect ideas **Group A** Identification of chemicals of concern + Safer alternatives **Group B:** Transparency and disclosure tools **Group C:** Worker exposure and chemical safety in supply chain production **Group D:** Enabling condition (related to policy, finance, and innovation)
80-90min (10 min)	**Summary and Wrap-up** **Purpose:** Summarize key input, outline the next steps, and invite expression of interest