

Distr.: Limited
22 November 2024
English only

**Fifth meeting of the Bureau of the Global Framework on
Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and
Waste**

Tuesday, 12 November 2024, 12:30 – 15:00 (CET, Geneva time) **(Hybrid)**

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU

1. Opening and welcome

As the President of the Global Framework on Chemicals (Mr. Hammad Shamimi, Pakistan) was unable to attend and preside over the present meeting, Vice-President, Ms. Vanessa Agila (Peru), welcomed the Bureau members to the Fifth meeting of the Bureau.

She further informed the Bureau that, for this meeting, Mr. Audun Heggelund (Norway) would be replaced by Ms Jenny Skytte and Ms Susan Wilburn (Health Sector) by Ms Andrea Rother.

The Vice-President said the main purpose of the meeting was to inform Bureau members of the progress of the activities to implement the Framework and prepare for the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), scheduled for June 2025.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Vice-President introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting (GFC/IC.1/Bureau.5/1) that was circulated on 11 October 2024 as well as the provisional annotated agenda (GFC/IC.1/Bureau.5/1/Add.1) that was circulated on 30 October 2024. She invited the Bureau members to raise any additional points under agenda item 8, Any other business.

At the request of Sara Brosché (public interest group), two sub-items were added to the agenda under agenda item 4: to report on the status of the Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and to report on the status of Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and Issues of Concern (IOCs). The Vice-President said that, accordingly, Mr. Finbarr Horgan from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) would inform on HHPs and the Global Alliance, and the Chair of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) would report on EPIs and IOCs. The sub-items would be taken up following sub-item 4(f).

With no further items raised, the provisional agenda was adopted.

3. Adoption of the report of the fourth meeting of the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals, held on 15 June 2024

The Vice-President invited comments on the draft report of the fourth meeting of the Bureau (GFC/GFC1/Bureau.4/Report) which was held on 15 June 2024 and the report of which was circulated by the secretariat on 14 August 2024.

The secretariat informed the meeting that no comments were received following its circulation. With no additional comments, the report was adopted and will be posted on the Framework website at <https://www.chemicalsframework.org/events/gfcic1bureau5-fifth-meeting-bureau-global-framework-chemicals/documents>

4. Implementation of the Framework and ICCM5 Resolutions

a. Resolution V/3: Financial considerations

Global Framework of Chemicals Fund. Report and feedback on the first and second meetings of the Executive Board respectively.

The Vice-President informed the meeting that important progress has been achieved in the effective operationalization of the GFC Fund, noting that the launch of the first round of applications took place in October 2024. She invited Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola), co-chair of the Executive Board, to provide an oral report to the meeting on behalf of himself and his Co-chair, Mr. Ivo de Zwaan (Netherlands).

Mr. Virgilio said that following the last Executive Board meeting in June 2024, the secretariat had prepared the launch of the first round of applications. This involved the development of application guidelines and the translation of the scoping document and application guidelines into French and Spanish. He reiterated that the Fund launched its first round of applications successfully on 1 October 2024 and that applications will be received until 31 January 2025. Following the deadline, the secretariat will screen the applications and prepare a high-level review.

The launch was complemented by a press release on the UNEP webpage and a set of social media cards in seven languages that was shared among all stakeholders. The secretariat organized three webinars to support the call for applications. Webinar One was an interactive session that took place on 4 October 2024 and focused on general information about the Fund and its scope. The participants discussed what makes an impactful project. Many attendees highlighted the need for projects that focus on strengthening regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms. This would include developing or updating national legislation related to chemicals management, as well as building the capacity of regulatory bodies to implement and enforce those laws effectively. Another topic identified was supply chain transformation. Participants recognized the potential for projects that promote sustainable practices throughout the lifecycle of chemicals including initiatives focused on green chemistry, safer alternatives, and circular economy approaches in the chemical industry.

Webinars Two and Three took place on 29 and 30 October respectively. While the first webinar reiterated the scope of the Fund, the second provided in-depth information for developing an application. The morning sessions were held in English with support from the Geneva Environment Network, and the afternoon sessions were interpreted into Spanish and French. The sessions were recorded and the slides were made available online for future reference. Approximately 200 people joined for each day of the webinars.

As a result of these webinars, and noting that the secretariat had been approached to help shape the applications and provide a technical steer, the secretariat has developed a Frequently Asked Questions document to cover questions raised. The Executive Board will meet from 19 to 21 March 2025 to review the applications.

The Vice-President thanked the Executive Board Co-chairs for guiding the work of the Executive Board and opened the floor for comments.

Mr. Diderich, current Chair of the IOMC noted the disappointment of intergovernmental organizations that they could not lead project proposals under the GFC Fund. He said that whilst they could assist countries to submit proposals, they were still uncertain on the role of intergovernmental organizations including access to funding and were, therefore, hesitant to help countries to submit proposals. He asked whether there could be a budget line in the proposal for an implementing agency, such that a participating organization^s of the IOMC could assist countries. That would determine whether the IOMC participating organizations could proceed or not with assistance.

The secretariat responded that the issue was covered in the FAQ document, which would be available through the website along with the webinar recordings shortly after the meeting¹, and that it was the purview of the applicant to designate the implementing agency for their project.

Mr. O'Neill (labour sector) voiced his concern over access to funding and projects from the different sectors and to the composition of the Executive Board, stating that it was not open to multi-stakeholder participation as had been expected.

The secretariat reiterated that the Executive Board was a subsidiary body of the International Conference and that issues related to its functioning would be brought to the attention of and addressed at the OEWG and decided at the International Conference. She said that any concerns raised would therefore be forwarded to the International Conference. She recalled that the Executive Board had initiated its work based on terms of reference adopted at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Bonn in September 2023. Subsequently, the Executive Board agreed that observers could participate at their meetings and the composition of the Executive Board was decided on an interim basis. The terms of references, she added, were expected to be revised at the International Conference.

She concluded that non-governmental organizations were welcome and invited, on an exceptional basis, to submit project proposals, and confirmed that the evaluation of all project proposals submitted by January 31 2025 will take place at the Executive Board meeting in March 2025.

Mr. de Zwaan complimented the secretariat for its work on the preparations for the first round of applications and said that the Executive Board was in a phase of learning and would address the remarks made at the Bureau at its future meetings.

The meeting took note of the comments made and agreed that the comments would be brought to the attention of the Executive Board at its next meeting.

Assessing the existing financial and investment flows as well as financial needs associated with the implementation of the Framework

¹ Both the webinars and the FAQ document were uploaded in the week of November 11: <https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals/gfc-fund/tools-and-resources>

Under this sub-item, the secretariat said the work was progressing and some deliverables were expected in the coming year. She reported that the secretariat has been engaging with UNEP to develop a concept note and workplan to undertake research into financial flows and needs assessment in the chemical and waste value chains to be completed by October 2025. The work will be split into three phases to include deliverables for the OEWG in June 2025 with completion by June 2026. There will be an expert workshop on financing the sustainable chemicals transition in the first quarter of 2025 in addition to a second workshop specifically with banks, insurers and investors to be convened back-to-back with an existing meeting such as the UNEP Financial Initiative Sustainable Investment Forum in May 2025.

There will be an additional study on the materiality of pollution costs to investors. This research will inform and benefit from the results of the cost of inaction study. Understanding the materiality of information is important for disclosing information in financial accounts.

There is also work planned from October 2026 to 2027 to raise awareness of existing and planned disclosure and reporting frameworks under relevant global and regional voluntary and mandatory regimes and concluded by noting that UNEP has representation on the Global Reporting Initiative expert group on Pollution.

The meeting took note of the report.

- Costs of Inaction report

The Vice-President informed the meeting that, by its resolution V/3, ICCM5 invited relevant organizations of the IOMC to update the UNEP Costs of Inaction report. She invited Mr. Diderich to report on progress.

Mr. Diderich said that work on the costs of inaction report had been initiated with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNEP, the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO) contributing. There was now a need to identify resources to undertake the work. So far there had been no success in that domain, however the Global Environment Fund (GEF) would be approached for funding.

The meeting took note of the report.

b. Resolution V/9: Measurability structure

Report on the second meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators, report on the workstream webinars, and planning for the third meeting

The Vice-President invited Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan), Co-chair of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators to make an oral report on the status of the issue.

Reporting on behalf of herself and her Co-chair Ms. Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), Ms. Kuroda said that the second meeting was held on 14 August 2024. At that meeting, the secretariat introduced a draft thought starter on criteria (document GFC/OEAHGMI.2/2) and a draft thought starter on a factsheet for indicators (GFC/OEAHGMI.2/3). These were prepared in consultation with the Co-chairs. After receiving feedback from stakeholders, revised versions (document GFC/OEAHGMI.3/2 and document GFC/OEAHGMI.3/3) will be introduced at the third meeting of the ad hoc group, to be held on 13 November 2024.

Regarding workstream 1, IOMC introduced a concept note delineating the workplan on indicators, proposed a priority list of indicators and requested feedback from the task team. Progress will be reported at the third meeting of the ad hoc group. With regard to workstream 2, UNEP introduced a concept note delineating the workplan and timeline for the work on the

development of a high-level indicator on global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste, and the WHO presented background information useful to develop a high level indicator on the global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste. Regarding workstream 3, the secretariat shared with the task team a questionnaire on thematic and sector-specific indicators relevant to the GFC. Results and an analysis of the responses will be presented at the third meeting of the ad hoc group.

Ms. Kuroda also indicated that there was a need for experts' inputs, if appropriate, in the development of additional indicators to complete the measurability structure, once gaps are identified and priority is discussed in the ad hoc group.

Ms Brosché requested clarification on whether the fact sheets would be discussed at the meeting on 13 November. Ms. Kuroda responded that the group was aware that more discussion was needed as many comments were received and they would address at the meeting on 13 November and include a way to improve on the existing fact sheets. She added that if it was not possible to agree to finalize them it would still be useful to use them on an interim basis to progress work on the indicators themselves.

The meeting took note of the report.

c. Resolution V/7: Development of guidelines for national focal points

Update on Guidelines on Focal Points of the Global Framework on Chemicals

The secretariat informed the meeting that the first GFC informal group of Focal Points took place online on 4 September 2024. He noted the objectives of the informal group were to: a) identify the best ways to make the guidelines on National Focal Points operational, b) share best practice, c) consider the development of a roadmap for the transition period and d) determine how to secure more human, technical and financial resources to address efficiently the new GFC priorities. He added that increased engagement of national focal points, training needs, and national focal point identification and nomination were discussed.

On next steps the secretariat explained that an external partner will assist the secretariat to contact more national focal point experts for the informal group, revise the guidelines for a possible OEWG working document, prepare 5 interactive on-line meetings, and create an annotated plan of activities in order to test the guidelines.

Ms Rother recognized the importance of having guidance but also stressed the need to build the capacity of the focal points, in particular in Africa. She suggested that in addition to the guidance there should be methodology on how the guidance can be implemented and that there is opportunity to test the guidance so that the focal points can support the GFC work and be interactive.

The meeting took note of the report.

d. Resolution V/8: Implementation arrangements

• Update on GFC implementation programmes

The Vice-President invited the IOMC to provide an oral report on IOMC activities and outputs to support the development of implementation programmes.

Mr. Diderich said IOMC had been active on developing integrated national chemicals and waste management systems and capacities at the national and regional levels and integrating

sound chemicals and waste management in economic and industrial sectors along value chains. He said some webinars had been held with stakeholders to know what was requested in implementation programmes. The suggestions included: awareness raising and stakeholder mobilization; identifying good practices, knowledge-sharing, and identifying needs; collaboration, coordination, and partnerships; review, dissemination and use of guidance; finance and technical support; and analysis and feedback. Work had also begun on the common features of the implementation programme that could be operationalized as common elements in a draft terms of reference. The following were suggested as a starting point: proposing stakeholders; programme rationale; programme focus and objectives; participants; activities under the programme; awareness-raising, knowledge sharing and collaboration; governance and implementing arrangements; financial matters and resources considerations; and monitoring and analysis and reporting.

Referring to Objective A and target A1 – legal frameworks and institutional capacity, he said that a concept paper was being developed on defining the modules that constitute a functioning chemicals management system. There would then be a deep dive into some aspects of industrial and consumer product chemicals management. Several topics had been proposed for consideration. Work was underway on a survey to identify what countries are already doing, what are the gaps and where countries want to focus the further development of their chemicals legislation.

On Objective D, targets D6 and D3 – sustainable chemical and waste management strategies in major economic and industry sectors, and private and finance sector strategies he said there were 4 initial activities. These were: IOMC industry sector outreach survey in July 2024; Fostering early engagement with selected industry sectors (i.e. Health Care, Textiles, Electronics, Construction, Pharmaceuticals, Finance and Investment); Overall guidance to support development of chemicals and waste strategies in economic and industry sectors (D 6); and Identification of possible additional topics for guidance development (e.g. chemical footprint assessment, transparency on chemical information in the value chain, other topics proposed by stakeholders).

Mr. Diderich said that not much was initiated on Objective E and for the present the focus would remain with the previously mentioned objectives and targets. Concluding with the milestones to the International Conference he said there would be further webinars on the proposed implementation programmes in 2024 / early 2025 (planned); as well as Global multi-stakeholder workshops (draft mandates, terms of reference, and workplans). One was being planned on Economic and industry sector engagement and action (including institutional investors/finance sector), for the first quarter of 2025 with a second tentatively considered for the second quarter of 2025 on Integrated national chemicals management legislation and institutional capacities. Relevant meeting and information documents on implementation programmes would be developed for the OEWG.

In response to a question from Ms Rother on the way programmes were ordered and structured i.e. “siloed” or building on each other, Mr. Diderich said the programmes were “siloed” and independent to some extent but will influence each other. The first programme on legislation would be independent as to what the industry can do but legislation (when in place) would influence value chains and would help clean them up. Nothing prevents thinking already on where chemicals of concern are in the value chains or where there are possibilities for substitution.

In response to a question from Ms Brosché, Mr. Diderich confirmed that all comments were posted on the specific webinar pages and would be taken on board and addressed going forward. He noted that there was a misconception that only the IOMC could undertake implementation programmes creating a big burden on the participating organizations. Ms. Chrysanthi Sofokleous (International Council of Chemical Associations), suggested that more

information should be provided on how the comments submitted by stakeholders would be used, whether they would be updated in a discussion mode, whether they would be addressed in future webinars, whether the global multi-stakeholders workshops planned for 2025 would be physical and whether there would be draft work plans and terms of reference tabled at the OEWG. Mr. Diderich responded in the affirmative to those questions.

The meeting took note of the report.

e. Resolution V/4: Mainstreaming a gender perspective and promoting gender equality and empowerment of all woman and girls in chemicals and waste management.

Update on the development of the Gender Action Plan

The secretariat provided an oral report on the status of planning for the Gender Action Plan and said that its aim was to advance towards full, equal and meaningful participation by all women in decision-making, and to promote gender-responsive policies and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of the Framework. Gender equality is included as a principle of the GFC, in addition, target B5 calls for the consideration of a gender-responsive approach to development and implementation of educational, training and public awareness programmes on chemical safety.

The secretariat, in cooperation with the MSP (Multi-stakeholder Processes for Sustainable Development) Institute, is developing a Gender Action Plan with the objective of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of the GFC. The secretariat invited interested stakeholders to submit by 25 October 2024, with an extended deadline of 5 November 2024, information on the integration of a gender perspective into policies, plans and actions within the framework of their activities, in the context of chemicals and waste management. As of 6 November 2024 the secretariat received a total of 21 submissions: seven Governments, three intergovernmental organizations, eight non-governmental organizations and three others.

The secretariat and the MSP Institute will continue to work towards the stocktaking and gap analysis and consultation process for the drafting of the Gender Action Plan during the end of 2024 and the first trimester of 2025. A document with the elements for the draft Gender Action Plan is expected to be available in January 2025. The secretariat will reach out to all GFC stakeholders concerning a consultation process, well in advance of the OEWG in June.

The meeting took note of the report.

f. Resolution V/6: International cooperation and coordination

Update on work related to interlinkages between the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The secretariat provided an oral report on the status on interlinkages between the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global framework on Chemicals. She noted that there were two parallel paths and the secretariat was working with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions who has been requested to develop a similar report. The secretariat is engaging with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in consultation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the UNEP Law division to build capacity and understanding in developing countries, with workshops in Rwanda and Senegal.

The secretariat is also exploring opportunities and best options to maximize the complementarity of ongoing efforts and avoidance of duplication in addressing this issue. In this regard the secretariat is cooperating with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to develop a single report that examines the potential contributions of the chemicals and waste frameworks and other legal agreements towards the Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

Mr. Baogen Gu (FAO) commented that FAO has facilitated the CBD secretariat to develop a methodology and headline indicator for target 7.2 on pesticide risk reduction under the Global Biodiversity Framework. The monitoring framework was not yet adopted but discussions were ongoing. As FAO has facilitated the development of several headline indicators, including those for targets 2, 7 and 22, and is the custodian of other targets, he said it would be prudent for FAO to join the GFC secretariat and UNEP colleagues in reaching out to the CBD secretariat on the interlinkages between programmes.

Ms. Kuroda added that, at the CBD 16th Conference of the Parties in October 2024, the monitoring framework and the process to identify indicators was very informative and many lessons learned. She suggested that once the report was developed, specific reference to interlinkages between the monitoring framework and the GFC measurability indicators could be made. Ms Brosché and Mr. O'Neill reaffirmed that other possible interlinkages could be looked at during the OEWG.

The meeting took note of the report.

Highly Hazardous Pesticides

The Vice-President invited Mr. Horgan to provide an oral report on the status of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) and the Global Alliance.

Mr. Horgan said that in November 2023, an Alliance task force was established consisting of experts from FAO, UNEP, WHO, UNDP and ILO. The task force reviewed current modalities (i.e., governance structures and operationalization) of similar alliances that had/have UN agencies as participants - with an emphasis on those alliances with UN agencies in leading roles and where secretariates or facilitation units had been established. There was a desire to have a light organizational structure, similar to the Lead in Paint Alliance, and the task force had informal consultations with key members of that Alliance.

A draft modality was prepared in May 2024 and distributed to senior management for comments and guidance. UNEP had some concerns regarding the relative roles of UN agencies in implementation and facilitation, and FAO Legal had concerns regarding responsibilities and consequent liabilities of the UN agencies and of FAO in particular leading to a redrafting and the further development of an operational framework in order to map responsibilities and protections. The new modality placed the five UN agencies outside of the Alliance as a facilitation body with a clear role in aligning the actions of technical working groups with the mandates of the individual UN organizations.

The revised draft modality has been resubmitted to management of the agencies who are asked to focus on possible legal and financial concerns. Currently FAO is working to align the Global Alliance on HHPs with activities under the GFC and IOMC. Next steps will include broader communication with GFC focal points and interested stakeholders on current progress most likely through a webinar under the current IOMC webinar series between December 2024 and January 2025.

A wider consultation with interested stakeholders is expected on the proposed modality and on some key operational considerations, which will align with the OEWG in June 2025 and is proposed to include a side-event at the OEWG. The results of this consultation will need to be returned to the UN agencies for final endorsement. There is a proposal to make the call for interest in alliance membership at the OEWG. Currently it is expected to establish the Alliance in 2025 and officially launch it in 2026.

The meeting took note of the report.

Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern

The Vice-President invited Mr. Diderich to provide an oral report on the status of emerging policy issues (EPI) and issues of concern (IoC).

Mr. Diderich reported on each of the EPIs and IoC as follows.

- On nanotechnology there would be proposal to not pursue it as a separate EPI under the International Conference but rather to mainstream the issue within the Implementation Programme on legal frameworks and institutional capacity.
- On endocrine disrupting chemicals, given the development of criteria in the GHS and an update of the UNEP State of the Science report, UNEP will propose to continue an IoC under the GFC.
- On per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), given the growth in importance on the issue there will be a proposal to continue an IoC under the GFC. There was some concern on the overhead as there already exists a global PFAS group hence no new structure should be built; maintaining the existing group was the optimal choice to keep overheads to a minimum.
- On Chemicals in Products there will be a proposal not to continue under the GFC, as this topic will be central to the proposed Implementation Programme on integrating sound chemicals and waste management in economic and industrial sectors along value chains.
- On Lead in paint the decision is to continue the issue and to expand it to other lead-containing products. WHO will lead on the issue and will develop a proposal.
- On Pharmaceuticals – it will be proposed that the issue will be continued as an IoC and UNEP will develop the proposal.
- On Electronics there has been no conclusion as yet – previously the issue was led by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization but there has been no proposal as yet.
- On HHPs there will be no separate IOC as a Global Alliance has been proposed.

Mr Diderich said the next step would entail stakeholder consultation and how that will be organized is still to be determined.

Ms Brosché welcomed the stakeholder consultation and requested clarification on whether there was any report on the way forward for each IOC and whether there was a timeline for the evaluation report mentioned in the resolution. Mr Diderich said there was no report at present other than in the current meeting report and an OECD report but a report would be prepared for each issue. He reiterated that, while there was no specific plan for stakeholder engagement, broader stakeholder consultation would take place.

The meeting took note of the report.

5. OEWG offers and preparation

The secretariat provided an oral report on the status of preparations for the OEWG. He confirmed that the OEWG would be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 to 27 June 2025, in person with some livestreamed sessions. It is proposed that the OEWG would be preceded by a two-day meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June, with Monday 23 June devoted to Bureau, regional and sectoral meetings. The secretariat noted that the length of time of the OEWG might be determined in function of the costs of convening the OEWG and informed the Bureau that there is currently a shortfall of US\$ 600,000.

The secretariat also provided a draft provisional agenda for the OEWG as well as a possible workflow for the meeting. She said the workflow was provisional and some comments had already been received from the Central and Eastern European regional group. The secretariat stressed the GFC was about implementation and attracting new stakeholders and communities and looking at different ways of governance. The first OEWG of the GFC would be an opportunity for hands on interactive work and focusing on specific sectors such as textiles or finance.

In the ensuing discussion several questions and requests for clarification were raised. These included on affording a space for contact groups to discuss text that would move forward to the International Conference; how to move forward with developing those recommendations for the International Conference in the limited time available given that in the current proposal, three plenary sessions were devoted to round tables on implementation programmes in action, multistakeholder activities and a finance discussion; a question for clarification on why textiles was selected as a sector on which to focus and to look at options for electronics and construction as well; appreciation for the new format that allowed for a deep dive into issues on which countries needed to work and for looking at an innovative approach to the OEWG; and clarification on how the multistakeholder activities would function.

It was emphasized that to attract the right participants for the multistakeholder activities the invitation letter had to be carefully crafted and a promotional system put in place to attract financial organizations to participate.

Ms Kuroda said it was not necessarily optimal to have the measurability meeting over the weekend. She added that a face-to-face meeting back-to-back with a chemicals management systems meeting that IOMC might convene was a possibility. Ms Rother requested the secretariat to provide feedback on where contact groups might be needed at the OEWG. She also proposed having more space for the health sector. Mr. O'Neill recalled the relevant International Labour Organization standards and conventions and to not forget them when doing deep dives in different sectors. Ms Brosché welcomed the ideas but asked whether the OEWG was the right time and place for such proposals given the costs of hosting an OEWG.

The Bureau agreed to review the draft meeting flow and submit any proposed changes or additions to the secretariat by 3 December 2024.

6. Staffing

The secretariat informed the Bureau that recruitment was on-going but had been a slower process than expected given the numerous excellent candidates that had applied and to the procedures for recruitment. One staffer had already been selected and it was expected that further new staff would be on board in the first quarter of 2025. She asked for the indulgence of the Bureau during the time that the secretariat was somewhat understaffed, especially with regard to written documents for Bureau meetings.

7. Next meetings of the Bureau

The secretariat proposed to hold the sixth meeting of the Bureau, online, at the end of January and would send out a save the date notice shortly.

8. Any other business

No other business was raised.

9. Closure of the meeting

The Vice-President thanked all Bureau members for their participation at the fifth Bureau meeting and closed the meeting at 15:00 CET.

—

Annex

Participants

Bureau Members: Ms. Magdalena Frydrych (Poland, Central and Eastern Europe), Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola, Africa), Ms Vanessa Aliaga (Peru, Latin American and the Caribbean) and Ms. Jenny Skytte (Norway, Western Europe and Others).

Regional Focal Points: Mr. Lamin Jaiteh (the Gambia for Africa), Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan for Asia - Pacific), Ms. Suzana Andonova (North Macedonia for Central and Eastern Europe), Mr. Napoleon Garcia (El Salvador for Latin America and the Caribbean), and Mr. Ivo de Zwaan (The Netherlands for Western Europe and Other Groups)

Representatives of non-governmental participants and the IOMC: Ms. Chrysanthi Sofokleous (International Council of Chemical Associations, industry), Ms. Sara Brosché (International Pollutants Elimination Network, public interest group), Ms. Andrea Rother (School of Public Health, University of Cape Town, health), Mr. Rory O'Neill (International Trade Union Confederation, labour), Mr. Bob Diderich (OECD, IOMC).

Regrets: Mr. Hammad Shamimi (Pakistan, Asia-Pacific, President), Auden Heggelund (Norway Western Europe and Other Groups), Susan Wilburn (Health Care Without Harm).