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**Open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators**  
**First meeting – Segment 2\***  
13 May 2024, Online

## **Report of the first meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators – Segment 2**

### **Introduction**

At its fifth session held from 25 to 29 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) adopted the “Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste”. In order to facilitate the reporting and monitoring of progress and impact in its implementation and contribute to assessing progress towards the vision, the Framework includes a measurability structure described in its section XI and to be included in its annex III. Through its Resolution V/9 on Measurability Structure, the Conference decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators that will work by electronic means with the aim of preparing recommendations for finalizing the measurability structure and a proposal for a set of indicators for annex III to the Framework, to be considered at the next session of the International Conference.

The first meeting of the group was held in two segments on 16 April and 13 May 2024. The first segment focused on organizational matters and elected Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) and Ms. Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago) as co-chairs of the group.

### **1. Opening and welcome**

The Co-chairs, Ms. Kuroda and Ms. Gardiner opened the meeting at 14h00 CEST on 13 May 2024 and welcomed participants, encouraging active engagement and fruitful discussions of the open-ended ad hoc group.

### **2. Organizational matters**

#### **a) Adoption of the agenda**

The Co-chair presented the provisional agenda for the meeting (GFC/OEAHGMI.1/Seg.2/1) that was posted on the website [www.chemicalsframework.org](http://www.chemicalsframework.org). She reminded participants that segment 2 of the first meeting of the group will be discussing substantial matters, including its main deliverables and areas of work, workplan and timetable for subsequent meetings.

The Co-chair invited participants to raise additional points under agenda item 6, any other business. With no other items raised, the provisional agenda was adopted.

#### **b) Organization of work**

The Co-chair informed participants that the working documents for the meeting were available on the [webpage dedicated to the meeting](#). With respect to the frequency of meetings, she indicated that

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\* The first meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators was held in two segments. The first segment of the meeting was held online on 16 April 2024, and the second segment was held online on 13 May 2024.

the group was anticipated to convene every quarter for two to three hours to advance its work, and that meetings will be held in an online setting. Finally, she noted that meetings will be conducted in English only.

### 3. Presentation and discussion on the concept note by the Co-chairs

The Co-chair presented the concept note (GFC/OEAHGMI.1/Seg.2/2) prepared by the co-chairs with the support of the secretariat, and which sets out their proposal with respect to the work of the group.

She stressed that the group had been formally established by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth meeting (ICCM5) under resolution V/9 on the measurability structure of the Framework. Acknowledging the difficulties in conducting meetings virtually, she invited participants to actively participate in the discussions and feel free to raise any question any time.

The Co-chair indicated that the expected outcomes of the work that will be conducted by the group are to develop:

1. A proposal for a set of indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Framework and in evaluating overall impact on achieving sound chemicals and waste management. In doing so, the group may wish to consider both existing indicators, such as those identified by the IOMC, among others, as well as additional ones that may be required, either already existing, under development or yet to be developed;
2. Recommendations to facilitate reporting and monitoring of progress and impact in the implementation of, as well as to contribute to assessing progress towards the vision of the Framework.

The Co-Chair recalled that during the time that SAICM was operational, the rate of reporting and monitoring of progress was low, and their intent was to improve on that aspect, building on lessons learned.

The Co-Chair explained the approach suggested for the development of a set of indicators. She proposed that the group consider the criteria, outlined in Annex III of the Framework, to be met by the indicators. She added that the group may want to consider the need to discuss the practicalities of applying those criteria, as well as the need for any additional aspects of relevance to the selection of indicators, such as approaches for their prioritization and selection, or availability of key information, including cost aspects. She stressed the need to have indicators that could be measured and feasible. The group agreed to such an approach.

A participant stressed the importance of the relevance and meaningfulness of indicators, the cost factor for indicators, and the need for a standardized factsheet for each indicator. It was also suggested not to add any criteria to the list already existing in the annex III to the Framework, unless necessary. A participant added that the indicators should reflect the different sectors.

On another point, the Co-chair proposed that each indicator should be accompanied by a comprehensive factsheet setting out the rationale for its selection, along other information. This would allow standardization of the presentation of information, hence facilitating evaluation and comparison of different indicators and providing a robust methodology to assess their relevance and pertinence.

Following a proposal by the Co-chair, the group agreed that the secretariat, in coordination with the Co-Chairs, should develop two thought starters: one for the criteria to be met by the indicators and one for the indicators' factsheets and that those be presented at the next meeting of the group in August 2024.

The Co-chair proposed to divide the work into 3 workstreams:

**Workstream 1: Assessment of existing indicators identified in document SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1**

She introduced the first suggested workstream which could work on existing indicators already

identified in the report *Inventory and analysis report: Existing indicators on chemicals and waste management*<sup>1</sup> prepared by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and presented to ICCM5.

Upon invitation by the Co-chair, the IOMC shared with the group the progress made since ICCM 5, which included a review of the 63 indicators against the actual targets of the Framework as well as efforts to reduce the number of indicators. The Co-chair stressed that of the 63 pre-identified indicators, the usefulness and applicability to the Framework needed to be assessed and that the work should aim at reducing the number so that this workstream comes with a proposal of a small number of strong and meaningful indicators.

It was agreed that the IOMC will lead the Task team on workstream 1.

This group's mandate will be to assess the pertinence of existing indicators identified in the updated report prepared by the IOMC. The work may require: (a) Revisiting the screened list of 63 indicators that were selected in the report against the targets under the Framework; (b) Revisiting the "long list" of 279 existing indicators that were identified in the report as relevant and/or meaningful to the chemicals and waste agenda with the aim of identifying any additional indicators that could be relevant to the Framework; and (c) Performing a gap analysis based on the findings from the first two steps above to inform the development of new indicators under Workstream 2. This analysis would allow the identification in particular of the targets which are not or only partially covered by existing indicators.

The Co-chair requested that the work start immediately and be finalized by the third meeting of the group in November 2024. She added that reporting on progress should also be made at the second meeting of the group in August 2024.

#### **Workstream 2: Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure.**

The Co-chair then introduced the second proposed workstream that would focus on the development of indicators that are not currently available but are needed in order to complete the Framework's measurability structure, with two parts: i) work on high-level indicators; and ii) work on headline, process and impact, as well as other indicators to support the development of a comprehensive set of additional indicators to bridge gaps, identified in workstream 1 and 3.

Regarding the high-level indicator on "global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste", she proposed to consider the need for any adjustment in the context of the Framework, considering amongst others Target B7 as well as Resolution V/10 on Health surveillance systems for the Framework.

The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) provided some background on the calculation of the "global burden of disease" with respect to chemicals and referred to the WHO report "The public health impact of chemicals: knowns and unknowns", which tried to make a composite estimate of health impacts for a selection of chemicals with sufficient evidence for global quantification. She noted that since the publication of the report a few years back, more evidence was likely to be available and that there were links with other targets where there is hope that governments will be generating more data in future. She also recalled the work carried out by other groups on this indicator and proposed that a workshop or a series of webinars could be organized to start the work, and these could allow sharing of information on the methodologies and current approaches on the indicator. The WHO also proposed to develop a concept note on its proposal for the group to comment ahead of the next meeting of the group, which could be a launching pad for further work. Following the request of the Co-chair, WHO would lead the work on global burden of disease and would prepare a concept note as the basis for consideration of the group.

One participant suggested the need to assess alignment rather than ensure alignment with Target B7 and Resolution V/10 for the "global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste" as it may be difficult to be fully encompassing. Another participant also enquired about gender aspects in the work, which may be of relevance for instance to hormone disruption.

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<sup>1</sup> [SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1](#)

Regarding the high-level indicator on the “global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste” the Co-chair proposed to consider the applicability of existing information, data sets and assessments and monitoring systems (e.g., Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), global monitoring plans under the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements) in defining the elements constituting this high-level indicator. The group may consider, amongst others, Targets D6 and B7.

Following the request of the Co-chair it was agreed that UNEP would lead the Task team on the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste under Workstream 2.

She emphasized that the Workstreams are open to any stakeholder willing to contribute to the work of the Task teams. A participant asked if impact on gender and health would be considered in the work on indicators. The Co-chair said that there would be no need to create new indicators if adequate ones have already been established.

One participant enquired about linkages in conducting this work with other existing MEAs, including on climate change and biodiversity as well as from the chemicals and waste cluster. The Co-chair noted that indeed where relevant one should consider indicators developed under other mechanisms, which may also in turn consider the usefulness of indicators developed under the Framework. UNEP indicated work was already ongoing with a number of MEAs secretariats to identify such linkages.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) confirmed its willingness to actively support the work on this high-level indicator, including expanding their global PRTR inventory and considering how it can best feed into a composite indicator with other data. The OECD also indicated that it had conducted work on linking the PRTR information with impact and would be happy to share this information in the context of the work.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) confirmed its interest in cooperating with UNEP and OECD on the applicability assessment and sharing its Protocol on PRTRs. A participant confirmed the interest of Japan in supporting the work of the Task team led by UNEP.

The Co-chair suggested to start the work on high-level indicators immediately and that interested stakeholders take a pro-active role in this work, for its outcome to be presented to the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for consideration at its next meeting in June 2025.

With regard to other indicators (including headline, process, and impact indicators), the Co-chair said that these were very important, and that the group should identify those that will need to be developed based on the findings and gaps identified by Workstreams 1 and 3. Process indicators capable of tracking progress across multiple targets should also be identified by the group. She stressed the need to discuss how to integrate elements of the Framework relating to Issues of Concern, implementation programmes and capacity building in the measurability structure and consider establishing cross-cutting indicators, such as those related to gender and finance. Progress on this work should be discussed at the next OEWG meeting in June 2025.

The representative of UNEP highlighted that more work might be needed on cross cutting issues such as gender and finance, building also on the lessons learned in the context of the climate change and biodiversity MEAs.

### **Workstream 3: Identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific work**

Finally, the Co-chair introduced a third proposed workstream on the identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific indicators. She explained that under this workstream an additional analysis would be undertaken by the Secretariat to identify and assess targets and indicators (either existing or under development) covering different sectors and themes of relevance to the Framework. These may be in relation to linkages with climate change, biodiversity loss, labour, health, waste management, finance, trade, gender, innovation, and sustainable chemistry as well as relevant economic sectors. She noted the need to collaborate with other relevant MEAs and instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity which has already developed indicators.

Following the proposal of the Co-chair, it was decided that the work would start immediately and that the secretariat would lead the work with the development of a scoping exercise, a preliminary

analysis of results and a proposal for a way forward. The secretariat will report on progress at the second meeting of the group scheduled for August 2024 to ensure transparency and gather feedback and present the findings from its work at the third meeting of the group scheduled for November 2024. The Co-chair also requested the Secretariat to invite submissions from relevant stakeholders.

The representative from IOMC indicated that the report submitted by IOMC (SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1) could be useful in the development of the scoping exercise, particularly regarding the analysis of cross sectors and other agreements. He further indicated that IOMC organizations would certainly be willing to collaborate with the secretariat in undertaking this work. The secretariat pointed out that the work done by certain governments (e.g. Germany on Green and Sustainable Chemistry) or economic sectors (e.g. set of indicators developed in the textile sector related to innovation, chemicals of concern, supply chains, financial aspects) could be relevant to the Framework and added that there is a need under this workstream to first identify those areas of work that could be relevant but are not recognized yet. Such areas of work may indeed inform how stakeholders may implement the Framework and hence be useful in measuring progress.

The Co-chair added that the work under this workstream may need to be considered as an iterative and evolving process, including pending decision by the International Conference related to the implementation programmes and issues of concern under the Framework. She proposed a submission period from relevant stakeholders to help the secretariat in scoping and designing the work.

A participant proposed to prepare a flowchart of the different task teams established, their leads, schedules and timelines, the process for joining the groups, as well as any calls for submissions.

Finally, the Co-chair said that additional work would be required to operationalize the measurability structure to enhance the effectiveness of the Framework. This would relate to facilitating the reporting and monitoring of progress and impact in the implementation, to assessing progress towards the Vision of the Framework, to conducting and presenting the analysis of collected information; and to ensuring the interoperability with other systems and undertaking updates in the future. In doing so, the group may wish to consider how to leverage technology such as Artificial Intelligence for data harvesting, mainstreaming, and enhancing measurability as well as other advanced techniques to support data collection and analysis. The group may also wish to make recommendations or suggestions on any further work and elements that may be required for the measurability of the Framework.

She emphasized the importance of identifying a set of indicators that would facilitate robust reporting and monitoring of progress and impacts during the implementation of the Framework, building on experience in other areas such as Aichi targets.

#### 4. Workplan and timetable for subsequent meetings

The Co-chair noted that as agreed during the first segment of the meeting, the group will meet on a quarterly basis until the International Conference in Q4 2026. She proposed a timeline outlining the tentative schedule for the meetings, noting dates were still tentative at this stage and would be confirmed prior to each meeting. She suggested that the next meeting of the group be held on 14 August 2024, and that date was agreed upon by the group.

The Co-chair also provided a summary of the agreed timelines for the proposed workstreams as follows:

- Workstream 1 (*Assessment of existing indicators identified in document SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1*): work will start immediately under IOMC's leadership and conclude by the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the group in November 2024, with a report on progress at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in August 2024;
- Workstream 2 (*Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure*): work on high level indicators will start immediately under WHO's and UNEP's leadership, with the outcomes presented at the OEWG in June 2025; work on headline, process and impact indicators will start being developed based on the findings from Workstreams 1 and

3, with progress presented at the OEWG in June 2025; and

- Workstream 3 (*Identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific work*): work will start immediately with the development by the secretariat of a scoping exercise and path forward to be presented to the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the group in November 2024, with a report on progress at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in August 2024;
- Proposals for additional work will be made once work under workstream 1 and/or 3 has been further advanced.

In response to a question regarding any foreseen review process of the work results, the Co-chair indicated that the working modalities will be further clarified at the 2nd meeting of the group, including in terms of further feedback from the wider group. As agreed, an update on progress of work under workstreams 1 and 3 will also be made at that meeting.

## **5. Next steps**

Written submissions from Task team leads are to be sent to the secretariat two weeks in advance of the next meeting and will be uploaded to the website. The work of the teams will be supported by the secretariat, upon request. Any other submission from relevant stakeholders can be sent to the secretariat via email to [unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org](mailto:unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org). All meeting reports and relevant documentation will be uploaded on the webpages dedicated to the work of the group.

The Co-chair informed participants that the Secretariat will provide further details on the submission process, the organization of work for the different workstreams as well as the registration process to participate in the work of the task teams.

Participants thanked the Co-chairs for leading the group through the process in an open and transparent manner.

## **6. Any other business**

No items were raised under any other business.

## **7. Closure of the meeting**

The Co-chairs thanked the participants for their enthusiastic participation and the colleagues for their availability to lead the groups. The meeting was closed at 16:10 CEST.