Distr.: Limited
3 June 2026
English only

Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals –
For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste
Wednesday, 20 May 2026, 14:00 – 16:00 (CET, Geneva time) (ONLINE)
Tenth meeting

DRAFT REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU

1. Opening and welcome

1. In the absence of the President of the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), Ms. Aisha Humera Chaudhry, who sent her apologies, Ms. Magdalena Frydrych chaired the tenth meeting of the Bureau and welcomed the Bureau members.

2. Adoption of the agenda

2. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting (GFC/IC.1/Bureau.10/1) that was circulated on 5 May 2026. Bureau members were invited to raise any additional points under agenda item 6, Any other business.

3. An additional point was proposed on updating Bureau members on the reflection group.

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

3. Adoption of the report of the 9th meeting of the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals

5. The Chair invited comments on the draft report of the ninth meeting of the Bureau held on 5 March 2026 (GFC/IC.1/Bureau.9/Report), which was circulated by the secretariat on 8 April 2026.

6. The secretariat took note of an amendment request to reflect Ms. Vanessa Aliaga in the Annex as Bureau member instead of as Regional Focal Point.

7. With no additional comments, the report was adopted and will be posted on the GFC's website.

4. International Conference Preparations

8. The Chair invited the secretariat to introduce the updated draft agenda of the International Conference (GFC/IC.1/Bureau.10/2), which was circulated to Bureau members on 5 May, and outline the strategic considerations.

- **Balanced International Conference Agenda and strategic direction of the Conference**

9. The secretariat explained that the draft agenda is organised around the three overarching themes of the conference: tracking progress, accelerating action, and investing for impact. Rather than reviewing each ICCM5 resolution individually, the conference will receive a high-level update on all the resolutions, with a detailed focus on specific resolutions, as appropriate.

10. Under tracking progress, the conference will review progress towards the strategic objectives and targets and identify potential gaps, drawing on existing IOMC indicators, the indicative global baseline survey, and additional data mining. This section will also address the measurability structure and draft indicators recommended from the intersessional Open-ended ad-hoc group on measurability and indicators for adoption.

11. The accelerating action item will provide a consolidated overview of existing and new emerging policy issues and issues of concern, including recommendations from IOMC participating organisations for the continuation of existing ones, and an analysis of any new issues of concern. The Terms of Reference and Workplans of two global Implementation Programmes will be considered for adoption and the sectoral programmes will be showcased during plenary, improving visibility and coherence of implementation efforts. Progress on focal point guidance, capacity-building, and the draft gender action plan will be presented under this item.

12. The final theme, investing for impact, will highlight ongoing work on financial considerations including activities led by IOMC organisations. The terms of reference for the GFC Fund and opportunities to leverage GEF financing will also be covered, while exploring options for ensuring a sustainably financed secretariat within a sustainably financed Framework and concluding with the adoption of resolutions. There will be an opportunity to cover domestic sustainable financing.

13. The Chair invited Bureau members to comment on the proposed agenda for the International Conference and raise questions on the content and order of its items.

14. Clarification was sought on the status of the Gender Action Plan and whether it would be circulated again for comments prior to the conference. The secretariat explained that it had already undergone extensive consultation, and no further review is foreseen, while additional efforts to socialize the plan could be undertaken.

15. On the resolutions, a question was raised about which ones would be adopted, since some agenda items were described as high-level discussions. Particular attention was given to Resolution 10, concerning a proposal for a global network for health surveillance and biomonitoring. The secretariat noted that WHO is its primary owner and further updates would be sought from them.

16. Questions were raised on indicators, custodianship, and the baseline survey. Concerns were shared about the lack of custodians, survey complexity and timing. Suggestions included prioritizing a smaller set of key indicators and improving accessibility for civil society. The secretariat clarified the distinction between custodians and data contributors and explained that the survey was based on draft indicators to guide input. It reported on responses received and noted ongoing efforts to identify custodians and improve the approach.

17. Bureau members asked about new and emerging issues of concern. The secretariat indicated that one on lead is expected, while a potential one on pharmaceuticals remains uncertain. It also noted ongoing UNEP consultations on environmentally persistent pollutants and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

18. Strong emphasis was placed on meaningful participation, particularly for civil society and stakeholders from low- and middle-income countries. The secretariat confirmed that additional opportunities for engagement will be presented later on in this same presentation.

19. Further clarifications were provided by the secretariat on the draft agenda and schedule: the proposed IOMC session remains reserved but without defined content and the GFC Fund Terms of Reference will be submitted as a working document for decision. It was confirmed that the conference is likely to be asked to decide on the timing of a possible second session of the International Conference and a second open-ended working group meeting, noting that financial constraints remain an important consideration.

20. The Chair invited the secretariat to proceed with its presentation on the schedule, side events, and related preparations.

21. The secretariat briefed the Bureau on recent adjustments to the conference schedule. These include holding the Fashion and Construction Forum back-to-back with the conference instead of concurrently and organising a Youth Forum in parallel with the opening plenary. The IOMC will retain a dedicated session, and a Health Forum is being developed in collaboration with relevant partners. The plenary may extend over two days to accommodate additional implementation updates, with Tuesday evening and Wednesday-morning slots available if needed.

22. The programme will feature multiple 90-minute lunchtime side events aligned with the three main themes, complemented by shorter spotlight sessions highlighting innovation and partnerships, and tentative topics were mentioned. Engagement with finance and investment actors is envisaged for the investment theme, and stakeholders have expressed interest in activities linked to International

Children's Day. Bureau members stressed the need for transparent criteria, early communication, and equitable access for stakeholders applying to side events.

23. A closed high-level segment was proposed for Wednesday afternoon, focusing on priorities, scalable actions, and collaboration opportunities across the three themes. An open session on Thursday morning would include a keynote address and discussions on various relevant topics.

24. The high-level segment generated differing views among Bureau members. Main concerns focused on cost, timing, and limited added value. Many Bureau members expressed support for postponing the high-level segment, with some suggesting framing it as a deferral and potentially separating its budget from the main conference, whereas others highlighted its importance for political visibility and future engagement. While it was agreed that further guidance from the Bureau is needed before a decision is taken, clarification was requested on the cost implications and potential savings associated with a postponement. The secretariat noted that feasibility of holding the segment remains dependent on securing additional funding for the whole International Conference.

25. In response to questions from Bureau members, the secretariat outlined the criteria for selecting side events, including relevance, implementation focus, multi-stakeholder participation, added value, quality, impact, clarity, engagement, diversity and balance. Specific spaces at the conference centre are under consideration, for Lead, the Special Programme and GFC Fund, and Green and Sustainable chemistry. The importance of clarifying the full financial implications of the high-level segment was acknowledged.

- **Financial aspects of the International Conference**

26. The Chair noted that due to time constraints it would not be possible to address the sub-items on "Defining list of working documents" and "Draft schedule and contract groups", and invited the secretariat to present the financial outlook.

27. The secretariat explained that the conference budget shows available and confirmed funds of approximately USD 1.7 million, against projected costs of around USD 2.6 million, resulting in a shortfall of about USD 1 million. This gap could be reduced to roughly USD 402,000 if an additional USD 640,000 contribution currently under discussion is secured. Expenditures include ring fencing of one year of secretariat salaries (per UN rules) and core conference costs.

28. Proposed cost-reduction measures were highlighted focusing primarily on reducing funded participation, lowering the number of funded delegates from 176 to 120, which would save about USD 382,000 while maintaining regional balance. Additional savings could be achieved by arranging hotel bookings directly. These reductions could be adjusted if additional funding is secured.

29. The Chair opened the floor for questions. Bureau members emphasized prioritizing travel support for low-income countries and one Bureau member cautioned against using OECD membership as a determining criterion. Concerns were raised as well about maintaining equitable participation, particularly for civil

society delegates. Regarding a strict deadline measure for registration, it was also noted that that national administrative delays can affect registration timings.

30. Some Bureau members underlined the importance of domestic, national and sustainable financing for chemicals and waste management, alongside external investment. Suggestions included showcasing national experiences and existing guidance on domestic resource mobilisation.

31. Clarifications were requested on financing approaches and secretariat sustainability. The secretariat noted ongoing analytical work on investment flows and financing strategies, as well as preparation of a paper on options to ensure a stable and adequately resourced secretariat.

32. To conclude, the Chair observed that most constituencies favoured postponing the high-level segment and invited Bureau members to provide their views on this matter within two weeks. She encouraged all members to submit further suggestions on cost-reduction and/or resource mobilisation. She requested the secretariat to circulate the presentations and provide additional information to support final decision-making, particularly on financial implications of the high-level segment.

5. Next meeting of the Bureau

33. The Chair invited the secretariat to present proposed dates for the upcoming Bureau meetings. It was recalled that a doodle poll had been circulated following the previous meeting. Based on the results, the eleventh Bureau meeting will take place on Thursday 2nd July, and the twelfth one on Tuesday 29th September.

34. The secretariat noted that the next meetings will be held at 14:00 Geneva time, consistent with the usual scheduling and to accommodate different time zones.

35. With no objections raised, the proposed dates were agreed upon.

6. Any other business

36. The Chair invited Bureau members and the secretariat to introduce any other requests under this item.

37. The secretariat updated Bureau members about the establishment of an informal “reflection group” under the auspices of the IOMC, which intends to provide a holistic, informal overview of draft terms of reference and workplans for the global implementation programmes, with no formal reporting.

38. No further issues were raised.

7. Closure of the meeting

39. The Chair thanked all Bureau members for their active engagement at the tenth Bureau meeting and the secretariat for its extensive preparatory work. The meeting was closed at 16:00 CET.

Annex

Participants

Bureau Members: Ms. Magdalena Frydrych (Poland, Central and Eastern Europe), and Mr. Sverre-Thomas Jahre (Norway, Western Europe and Others).

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

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 (Trade Union, labour), and Hilda Van der Veen (UNDP, intergovernmental organisation).

Regrets: Ms. Aisha Humera Chaudhry (Pakistan, Asia-Pacific, President), Ms. Vanessa Aliaga (Peru, Latin America and the Caribbean) and Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola, Africa).