

Distr.: General
15 October 2025
English only

**Eighth meeting of the Bureau of the
Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste**
Tuesday, 28 October, 14:00 – 16:30 (CET, Geneva time) (ONLINE)

Strengthening the Focal Point network for the Global Framework on Chemicals

Bureau Action: For discussion and decision

Issue:

1. The focal points of the Global Framework on Chemicals do not represent fully the diverse stakeholder and multisectoral communities required to implement the Framework. Some countries are not represented, and most national focal points are from the environment sector. There is a lack of representation at the national level from health and labor officials in addition to weak participation from the economic, industry, and finance sectors.
2. Processes to nominate, approve and engage focal points including the selection and funding of attendance at international meetings are weak.

Purpose:

3. This paper outlines two proposals to improve the diversity of focal point representation under the Global Framework on Chemicals. It also suggests approaches to strengthen processes to ensure the correct representation at the national level, improve engagement especially with new stakeholders to enhance the implementation of the Framework.

Proposal 1:

4. The following outlines a new process for nominating focal points with an example of an amended nomination form for national focal points and alternates (Annex 1):

A. Nomination of national and alternate focal points

- The nomination process should follow consultation with relevant Ministries such as agriculture, environment, health, labor and industry in addition to other chemicals and waste conventions as appropriate.

- Up to three alternates are encouraged to be nominated in addition to a national focal point thereby providing an opportunity for representation from different Ministries at the national level.
- The national focal point should co-ordinate with counterparts across relevant sectors.
- Where possible, the incumbent should not be in a temporary position.
- All national focal points and alternate focal point nominations should be submitted through the government entity in charge of Foreign Affairs.

B. Nomination of Non-Governmental Organization focal points (public interest NGOs, health NGOs, trade unions)

- The non-governmental organization should be relevant, active, and officially registered at the national level.
- The nomination should be submitted through the director, president or senior representative of the organization.

C. Nomination of Private Sector Focal Points

- The private entity, company or institution should be relevant and registered with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) or equivalent.
- The nomination should be submitted through a senior executive within the entity.

D. Nomination of Intergovernmental Focal Points

- The nomination should be submitted through a director or senior representative of the organization.
5. The secretariat will accept nominations for focal points on a continuing basis. Any changes to focal points should be notified to the secretariat as soon as possible. If the secretariat is not informed of changes, the incumbent will remain until a revised official nomination is received. Additionally, whilst personal emails may be included for ease of communication, **an official institutional email** will now be required for **all** focal points.
 6. For all new focal points, the secretariat plans to develop and implement an induction programme to support their role.

Proposal 2:

7. The following outlines new measures to be taken when identifying and approving participants to attend international meetings.

A. Enhanced screening of funded participants attending international meetings

- The secretariat will only fund participants if nominations for travel support have been received through the official channels outlined for the nomination of focal points.
- The secretariat will keep note of any participants that have previously withdrawn at short notice from attending meetings with no verified and compelling reason, and this may affect their consideration for future funding.
- The number of participants funded for meetings will vary according to the financial resources available, with the aim of ensuring representation from all developing countries, SIDS and countries with economies in transition.

- While multiple delegates from a country may be invited to attend Open-ended Working Groups (OEWGs), or the International Conference (IC), only a limited number are eligible for financial support: normally one delegate for OEWGs, and two for International Conferences.
- All Bureau members are automatically invited, and their participation is financed. If a country has an official serving as a Bureau member, the country becomes eligible for the financing of an additional delegate.
- Co-chairs, facilitators and other individuals, not representing governments, but supporting the meeting may be financed on an exceptional basis.
- Ministers may be financed exceptionally.
- The number of funded non-governmental participants – excluding for-profit institutions – will depend on the financial resources available, and the Bureau will be asked for advice on suitable candidates.
- Intergovernmental Organizations and private sector participants will **not** be funded.
- Any requests for funding that are not received by the deadlines specified during the registration process in Indico will **not** be considered.

Immediate steps to implement the proposals:

8. The secretariat will contact, via their Permanent Missions, those countries which currently have no nominated government focal point for the Global Framework on Chemicals and implement the new approach including encouraging the nomination of alternates.
9. Where there is no official nomination letter for an existing focal point through the government entity in charge of Foreign Affairs and/or the existing focal point was nominated before the Global Framework on Chemicals was adopted and/ or there is no official email address, the secretariat will reach out to confirm and/or request additional information to conform to the new requirements.
10. The secretariat will encourage finance and private sector companies, associations and organizations to be focal points to the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Questions for the Bureau

- (i) Are there further improvements to be made on these proposals, and do you agree with the approach for implementation?
- (ii) Do you support the secretariat in improving and sustaining focal point networks through reviewing lists in your region and constituencies regularly (circa every 6 months)?
- (iii) How can the secretariat support the enhancement of effectiveness and communication among focal points?

Annex A

FORM FOR NOMINATION OF THE GFC NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND ALTERNATES

The Global Framework on Chemicals requests that:

“Each Government should designate a national focal point to facilitate communication and coordination at the national, regional and international levels with respect to the Framework. The national focal point should, among other duties, disseminate information, develop a network or a mechanism for coordinating national views that includes consultations with all relevant sectors and stakeholders, attend meetings, and be representative of the country’s interministerial and/or inter-institutional arrangements, where such arrangements exist.”

The nomination of a national focal point should be officially communicated by a government entity in charge of Foreign Affairs. The national focal point may be from any relevant Ministry or Department. Governments may also nominate alternate focal points from other Ministries.

Alternate focal points may be nominated to assist national co-ordination, support coherent engagement and implement the Framework.

COUNTRY	
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NOMINATION OF GFC NATIONAL FOCAL POINT and/or ALTERNATE	
Type of focal point (check one box)	☐ National (official) ☐ Alternate
Ministry/Department	☐ Foreign Affairs ☐ Health ☐ Labour ☐ Environment ☐ Other
Address	
Name of contact person (if any)	
Position of contact person	
Telephone	
Official e-mail address	
Additional e-mail address (optional)	

THIS NOMINATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY	
Name of government entity in charge of Foreign Affairs (i.e. Permanent Mission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of External Relations, or equivalent)	
Address	
Name of authorized official (if any)	
Position of authorized official	
Telephone	
Official e-mail address	
Additional e-mail address (optional)	
Date, signature and official seal:	
PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:	
GFC Secretariat c/o Chemicals and Health Branch Industry and Economy Division International Environment House 1 11-13 Chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châtelaine Postal Address 8-14 Avenue de la Paix CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland	Email: unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org