UNITED NATIONS

UNEP

UNEP/GFC/IC.1/2

Distr.: General
22 August 2026

Original: English

Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste

International Conference
Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste
First session
Geneva, 16–20 November 2026
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Global Framework on Chemicals – tracking progress: update on implementation of the resolutions adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session

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Tracking progress: update on implementation of the resolutions adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste was adopted at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in one of 12 resolutions adopted by the Conference, of which 10 contained requests for specific actions. The present note provides a summary of the progress made in implementing those resolutions as of July 2026. Further details are provided in additional documents prepared for the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

II. Activities to implement resolutions V/3–V/12

A Resolution V/3: Financial considerations

2. The secretariat, together with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and other stakeholders, prepared an assessment of investment and financial flows for the cotton textile value chain. As part of that work, a fully documented financial needs model was developed to assist in identifying hotspots and quantifying the costs of transitioning the value chain away from hazardous chemicals. A scoping study on the methodology for analysing the benefits of action for sustainable chemicals management was also completed for consideration by the International Conference.

3. In June 2026, the Global Environment Facility endorsed its ninth replenishment, in the amount of $3.9 billion, with 15.5 per cent ($603 million) allocated to the chemicals and waste focal area. The Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous

* UNEP/GFC/IC.1/1.

Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Global Framework on Chemicals, which supports the strategic objectives of the Framework, launched a ninth round of applications from May to July 2026[1] and revised the terms of reference as amended in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 6/9. The Special Programme has approved a total of $23.9 million in funding for 91 projects in 75 countries. The Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for the Global Framework on Chemicals is operational and, as of June 2026, had received voluntary contributions totalling some $27.8 million. The Fund has held two funding rounds. In the first round, the Fund approved four projects across 11 countries in Africa and Latin America, awarding a total of approximately $2.9 million in funding. Decisions on the second round of applications are expected in September 2026.

4. Further details on the implementation of resolution V/3 can be found in documents UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8 and UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/7.

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

5. The secretariat has integrated gender equality considerations into a wide range of activities, working closely with other multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations entities. It has developed a draft gender action plan, set out in the annex to document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/7, through a consultative process that has laid the groundwork for a more gender-responsive implementation approach. Gender-related questions were incorporated into the baseline data-collection survey for the Framework with a view to capturing information on the integration of gender considerations by stakeholders. In parallel, work continues to determine how gender dimensions are reflected in indicators and available data sources.

C. Resolution V/5: Emerging policy issues and issues of concern

6. An update on progress achieved in relation to previously recognized emerging policy issues and issues of concern, in addition to how those issues might contribute to the Framework, has been prepared by the responsible IOMC participating organizations.[2] A summary can be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/5, which includes an analysis of opportunities identified to address the issues and recommendations on their future as issues of concern under the Framework. In cooperation with the secretariat, a series of webinars was held by IOMC participating organizations in order to contribute to the implementation of the Framework, including with regard to existing emerging policy issues and issues of concern.[3]

D. Resolution V/6: International cooperation and coordination

7. Achieving the targets of the Framework will require close collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and agencies, including relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as was recognized by the Environment Assembly in resolution 7/8 on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Coordination through IOMC, as an inter-agency partnership, has been critical to progress in implementation programmes. The secretariat has continued to work closely with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the recently established Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution. In cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions, the secretariat developed a document highlighting the contributions of the international chemicals and waste agreements and frameworks to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and made it available to the Open-ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals at its first meeting.[4]

[1] Subject to the availability of resources.

[2] The report can be found on the website of the Global Framework on Chemicals at https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals/international-conference-1.

[3] See https://iomcwebinars.org/gfc-implementation/gfc-implementation-webinar-6/.

[4] UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/9.

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

8. To support implementation at the national level, it is essential to establish an effective and skilled network of focal points. The secretariat has developed draft guidelines[5] to define the roles and responsibilities of national focal points and is committed to building their capacity, in addition to assisting all stakeholder focal points in fulfilling their roles effectively. In cooperation with the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre, early pilot tests of the guidelines were carried out through an induction programme for newly nominated national focal points. Between February and April 2026, four webinars and a two-day hybrid meeting were held with a view to upskilling 26 national focal points. Further information can be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/6.

F. Resolution V/8: Implementation arrangements

9. Implementation activities have been a key priority since the adoption of the Framework. The secretariat, together with IOMC participating organizations, has supported the development of two global implementation programmes: implementation programme 1, on strengthening legal frameworks and institutional capacities for the sound management of chemicals and waste; and implementation programme 2, on strengthening economic and industry sector engagement along the value chain. A global workshop on implementation programme 2 was held in Paris from 24 to 26 February 2025 to discuss the draft terms of reference and workplan. A global workshop to discuss the draft terms of reference and workplans of implementation programme 1 was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay on 22 and 23 June 2025, immediately prior to the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Framework. Under implementation programme 1, a labour component is included in order to support the integration of considerations relating to labour and occupational safety and health into national chemicals legislation, institutional capacities and implementation activities. In addition, under implementation programme 2, four sectoral programmes (on textiles, electronics, construction and healthcare) have been established. Several cross-cutting workstreams span the different programmes and include transparency, traceability and disclosure; priority chemicals of concern; chemical footprint approaches; green and sustainable chemistry innovation; and private sector financing and investment. Further information can be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/6.

G. Resolution V/9: Measurability structure

10. The secretariat supported nine online meetings of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators.[6] The group was tasked with populating the measurability structure of the Framework with a proposal for a set of indicators to measure actions taken and results achieved against the targets and vision of the Framework. The group recommended a total of 66 target-level indicators for further consideration by the International Conference. In addition, the experts have established a way forward for measuring the two high-level indicators adopted on the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste (led by the United Nations Environment Programme – UNEP) and on the global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste (led by the World Health Organization – WHO) and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation). Further information can be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/4.

H. Resolution V/10: Health surveillance systems to prevent and protect human health from chemical exposure

11. WHO continued its work to highlight the need for national and regional biomonitoring programmes, capacity-building and the involvement of health ministries. That work has been reinforced by resolution WHA78.27, in which the World Health Assembly emphasized the role of surveillance and environmental exposure monitoring in tackling upstream determinants of health. A draft global action plan for lead mitigation,[7] to be considered at the eightieth World Health Assembly, in 2027, highlights national surveillance of high-risk populations as crucial for generating timely, disaggregated data on exposure and health impacts to inform prevention and policy action. In the accompanying PREVENT technical package on lead poisoning prevention,[8] to be released in 2027, it is noted that integrated surveillance – combining biomonitoring, environmental and source data, and health system reporting – enables the early detection of exposure, guides rapid investigation and

[5] https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/api/core/bitstreams/4d83835e-3831-42dc-b735-016205b8c0d7/content.

[6] See https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals/open-ended-ad-hoc-group-measurability-and-indicators.

[7] https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-draft-global-action-plan-on-lead-mitigation.

[8] See https://www.who.int/news/item/18-05-2026-who-introduces-prevent-technical-package-to-address-lead-poisoning.

response, and supports the tracking of progress and the evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions over time. WHO is also supporting the strengthening of global, regional and national poison centres and toxicovigilance networks, supporting national guidelines for the clinical management of lead exposure, leading work on health-related indicators for the Framework, and reviewing evidence to support a potential human biomonitoring reference value for mercury. Further information can be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/2.

I. Resolution V/11: Highly hazardous pesticides

12. Following a process led by a United Nations task force consisting of focal points from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, UNEP and WHO, together with relevant stakeholders, the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides has been established. An interim steering committee was set up for the Alliance, and a call for members was issued on 7 May 2026.[9] Further information can be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/5.

J. Resolution V/12: Programme of work and budget

13. The secretariat has now been established to support the governance and implementation activities of the Framework, including those relating to the Fund. A report on the activities, staff and budget, in addition to a new proposed budget for the period 2027–2029, can be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/9.

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[9] https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals/call-members-global-alliance-highly-hazardous-pesticides.