

Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 14 May 2026
9:00 – 12:00 and 13:00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda item 6: Briefing on the Global Framework on Chemicals

This background document has been developed by the Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to brief the Committee of the Permanent Representatives on the Framework's activities, upcoming milestones and opportunities for engagement.

Following the presentation, the Committee will be invited to take note of the briefing and engage in an exchange of views with its members and the Secretariat.

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

I. Introduction

1. Chemicals are ubiquitous and play an integral part of our everyday lives in materials, articles, and products. Their management is crucial for preventing and minimizing adverse impacts on human health and the environment. The economic,¹ environmental and social benefits of action are indisputable to achieve the good health and well-being of all populations. Occupying a pivotal position, the global chemicals industry supplies essential inputs to end market sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, textiles construction and electronics. It remains a growing industry with its size exceeding USD 5 trillion in 2017 and projected to double by 2030².
2. The Global Framework on Chemicals³ was adopted at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5). It provides the essential building blocks for a future in which humanity benefits from chemicals in a safe and sustainable manner, while avoiding their negative impacts. The Framework seeks to protect both the planet and human health, advocating strong governance mechanisms and promoting international standards. Its five strategic objectives and 28 internationally agreed targets⁴ promote systemic change through robust governance, cross-sector collaboration, and measurable outcomes (Annex 1).
3. As a unique, multi-stakeholder platform the Global Framework on Chemicals convenes representatives from governments, the private sector, civil society and intergovernmental organizations. Its focus on chemicals management and safety issues spans across health, labour and agriculture whilst also addressing the product value chain, and the finance sector. Successful implementation of the Framework concentrates on strengthening foundational capacities for developing, adopting and enforcing legislation, advocating greater data transparency and traceability, promoting strategies to include innovative approaches and mobilising finance and investment.

II. Governance and secretariat services

4. The work of the Global Framework on Chemicals is guided by a Bureau which consists of a President and four Vice Presidents elected by and from governmental participants. To reflect the multistakeholder character of the Framework, the President invites four representatives of non-governmental participants including a representative from health, industry, trade unions, and public interest groups in addition to a member of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)⁵. Since the Framework has been adopted there have been nine meetings of the Bureau from October 2023 to March 2026.
5. The Secretariat organised the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in Punta del Este, Uruguay in June 2025. The meeting considered progress against all the resolutions adopted at ICCM 5 and the outcomes of the discussions may be found in the meeting report⁶. The meeting focused on the strategic objectives of the Framework and a multistakeholder event advanced implementation activities specifically for Strategic Objective D with hybrid sessions allowing for an increase and diversification of the stakeholder community.

¹ According to the Global Chemicals Outlook II: From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (United Nations Environment Programme, 2019), “the benefits of action to minimize adverse impacts have been estimated in the high tens of billions of United States dollars annually” (p. vi).

² Ibid., p. vi.

³ Global Framework on Chemicals | UNEP - UN Environment Programme

⁴ Brochure detailing the Framework’s objectives and targets

⁵ The IOMC participating organisations are: FAO, ILO, OECD, BRS, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank

⁶ Meeting report of OEWG 1 of the Global Framework on Chemicals

III. Implementation activities

6. Early implementation of the Framework has been a key priority since its adoption. Through resolution V/9, the Secretariat has supported a virtual Open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators⁷ that was tasked to populate the Framework's measurability structure with indicators to measure actions taken and results achieved against the targets. Two High-Level Indicators are being developed: one for the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste and one the global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste. There have been eight intersessional meetings of the Open-ended group and recommendations for a suite of indicators to be forwarded to the first session of the International Conference will be decided at the 9th meeting on the 8 June 2026.
7. Working with the IOMC participating organisations, the Secretariat is supporting the development of two global Implementation Programmes, one of the key mechanisms for implementing the Framework, (Resolution V/8⁸). The two programmes are: Implementation Programme 1 (IP1) on Strengthening Legal Frameworks and Institutional Capacities, and Implementation Programme 2 (IP2) on Strengthening Economic and Industry Sector Engagement along value chain. A global workshop to discuss the draft Terms of Reference and workplans of IP1 was held immediately preceding the Open-ended Working Group in Uruguay from 22-23 June 2026. A global workshop for IP2 to discuss draft Terms of Reference and workplan was held on 24-26 February 2025 in Paris, France. Both Implementation Programmes will be considered for adoption at the first International Conference. Additionally, under IP2, four sector programmes are being established for textiles, electronics, construction and healthcare. Several cross-cutting themes exist that work across the different programmes including transparency, traceability and disclosure; occupational health and safety; priority chemicals of concern; chemical footprint approaches; green and sustainable chemistry innovation; and private sector financing and investment.
8. National implementation is crucial to meet the strategic objectives and targets of the Framework. To support implementation at the national level the establishment of an effective and skilled network of focal points is essential. In line with a request of resolution V/7, the Secretariat has developed draft guidelines⁹ to define the roles and responsibilities of the focal points and committed to build capacity for focal points to fulfil this role. Early piloting of the guidelines through an induction programme for "new" national focal points has been developed in conjunction with the ISC 3 (International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre). Four webinars plus a two-day hybrid meeting were held between February 2026 and April 2026.
9. The Secretariat has strengthened its efforts on gender mainstreaming by integrating gender equality considerations into a wide range of activities. A draft gender action plan¹⁰ has been developed and consulted upon to reflect Resolution V/4, laying the groundwork for a more gender responsive implementation approach. The draft Gender Action Plan will be considered at the International Conference. The Secretariat incorporated gender-related questions into the 2026 Global Framework on Chemicals Baseline Data Collection Survey to help capture, where feasible, information on procurement, expenditure and data through a gender lens. In parallel, the Secretariat reviewed indicators not covered through the survey to assess whether and how gender dimensions were reflected in available data sources, and to identify remaining data gaps and limitations.

IV. Global Framework Chemicals Fund

10. The ICCM5 established a Fund to support implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals in developing countries, least developed countries, Small Island Developing States, and countries with economies in transition. The Fund aims to finance projects that deliver transformative change to prevent, or where not feasible, minimize harm from chemicals and waste—particularly for vulnerable groups and workers.
11. The Fund is governed by an Executive Board composed of representatives from regions, donor countries, and other contributors. It operates with a transparent application and selection process, guided by a set of eligibility and assessment criteria. Funding is allocated to projects that demonstrate strong potential for

⁷ Open-Ended Ad Hoc Group on measurability and indicators | UNEP - UN Environment Programme

⁸ Resolutions | UNEP - UN Environment Programme

⁹ Draft focal point guidelines

¹⁰ Draft Gender Action Plan

sustainability, replication, and contribution to the objectives of the Framework. The Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals has provided administrative services and other support to the Fund, including facilitating meetings of the Executive Board, launching two application rounds, screening applications for eligibility and completeness and conducting a high-level review of each application.

12. Following the first round of applications, the Executive Board approved 4 regional projects, providing support to 11 countries, and marking a major milestone in making operational financial support for national and regional implementation efforts. Further information on these activities is provided in documents UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/3 and UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/4.¹¹
13. The Executive Board launched a second call for funding from 30 September to 15 December 2025. It decided to restructure the application process into two phases: (i) submission and selection of concept notes; and (ii) development and appraisal of full applications. Only shortlisted concept notes are invited to submit full proposals and become eligible for funding. Following the Fund's second call, a total of 138 eligible applications were received, covering government and non-government applicants as well as single- and multi-country applications across all regions. The Board shortlisted 16 concept notes for the second phase of the application process. These applicants have been invited to submit a full proposal by 15 June 2026. Final funding decisions are expected to be taken at the Executive Board's next meeting in September 2026.

V. Collaboration with International Organisations, Agencies and Funds

14. The Global Framework on Chemicals is very broad in its scope. The achievement of many of its targets by 2030 and 2035 requires close collaboration amongst many intergovernmental organisations and agencies, including the MEAs (Multilateral Environmental Agreements) as recognised by UNEA in its resolution 7/8¹². Co-ordination through the IOMC has been critical to successful progress on implementation. In addition to supporting the development of Implementation Programmes, the IOMC participating organisations are currently analysing the opportunities to address the emerging policy issues and issues of concern that were recognised before ICCM 5 to provide a recommendation on the future of these issues for consideration at the first International Conference. A series of webinars¹³ has been developed by the IOMC, collaboratively with the Secretariat, to contribute to the implementation of the Framework including on existing emerging policy issues and issues of concern.¹⁴
15. The Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals works closely with the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention, and the recently established Intergovernmental Science Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP). A joint event on Investing for Impact was held on the 5 November at the Palais des Nations offering an opportunity for governments, industry, and foundations to discuss partnering and investing in activities to transform value chains. An information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/9) was developed together with the BRS Secretariat on highlighting the contributions of the international chemicals and waste framework to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The BRS Secretariat, the Specific International Programme of the Minamata Convention and the Special Programme have also been closely involved in the development of indicators for the Measurability Structure offering to be custodians of key global indicators. The exchange of information and advice on capacity building projects has helped improve the operation of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, enhancing processes and reducing duplication.
16. The ISP-CWP, once operational, will play a pivotal role in supporting the evidence base for the Global Framework on Chemicals. Strong synergies already exist between the Secretariats as evidenced by the back-to-back organization of the first meeting of the OEWG of the Global Framework on Chemicals in June 2025 in Uruguay with the resumed third session of the ad hoc Open-ended Working Group and Intergovernmental Meeting to establish the ISP-CWP

¹¹ Documents are available at: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/k25/005/56/pdf/k2500556.pdf> and <https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/api/core/bitstreams/3eb61f8f-e620-4f25-8ca3-b17bd1f1b162/content>

¹² UNEA/EA.7/Res.8 Sound management of chemicals and waste

¹³ IOMC Webinars

¹⁴ GFC Implementation Webinar #6 | IOMC Webinars

VI Contribution to UNEP strategy and programme of work

17. The implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals is at the core of the UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2026-2029 (para. 50) and efforts under the Framework play a key role in promoting the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste, strengthen international environmental governance, and support countries in achieving a pollution-free planet, in alignment with the MTS 2026-29 expected impact reduced exposures of people and the planet to hazardous chemicals, waste and pollution.
18. In particular, the activities of the Global Framework on Chemicals Secretariat and Fund contribute directly to UNEP's strategic priorities on advancing multilateral cooperation, enhancing science-based decision-making, mobilizing financial resources, and supporting inclusive and equitable environmental outcomes.

VII. Next Steps

19. The first International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 16 to 20 November 2026. The Secretariat is preparing actively on logistical arrangements to host the event at the International Conference Centre (CICG) in addition to creating engaging activities to meet the needs of a diverse stakeholder community. There are three themes to the Conference: Tracking Progress; Accelerating Action; and Investing for Impact. An indicative dashboard on the status of implementation of the 28 targets will be presented drawing information from existing global indicators, a baseline survey to participants circulated from 11 March to 24 April 2026, and from publicly available sources online. Any gaps in progress to meet the targets will be identified to allow participants and High-Level delegates to determine where to prioritise. Preliminary reports on financial and investment flows, in addition to a scoping study on the Benefits of Action, will contribute to identifying those areas which require more investment to increase the transformational impact required to meet the strategic objectives of the Framework

VII. Guiding questions for the CPR

20. The CPR Subcommittee may wish to consider:
 - (i) How the Secretariat can ensure that the first International Conference in November 2026 is adequately resourced and inclusive, particularly for developing countries and civil society since all contributions are voluntary and there is currently a deficit in the budget?

Global Framework on Chemicals Strategic Objectives and Targets

Strategic Objectives

- A.** Legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities are in place to support and achieve the safe and sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.
- B.** Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions.
- C.** Issues of concern are identified, prioritized and addressed.
- D.** Safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions in product value chains are in place so that benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where prevention is not feasible, minimized.
- E.** Enhanced implementation occurs through increased and effective resource mobilization, partnerships, cooperation, capacity-building, and integration into all relevant decision-making

Targets

Target A1 – By 2030, Governments have adopted and are implementing and enforcing legal frameworks, and have established appropriate institutional capacity to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste as appropriate for their national circumstances.

Target A2 – By 2030, intergovernmental stakeholders develop guidelines to support the needs of interested Governments and relevant stakeholders to implement effective chemicals and waste management strategies, building on, among other things, updates of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management.

Target A3 – By 2030, companies implement measures identified to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals throughout their life cycle.

Target A4 – By 2030, stakeholders have effectively prevented all illegal trade and traffic of chemicals and waste.

Target A5 – By 2030, Governments work towards notifying, regulating or prohibiting the export of chemicals they have prohibited nationally, in line with their international obligations.

Target A6 – By 2030, all countries have access to poison centres equipped with essential capabilities to prevent and respond to poisonings, as well as access to training in chemical risk prevention and clinical toxicology.

Target A7 – By 2035, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available, and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives.

Target B1 – By 2035, comprehensive data and information on the properties of chemicals are generated and made available and accessible.

Target B2 – By 2030, stakeholders make available, to the extent possible, reliable information on chemicals in materials and products throughout the value chain.

Target B3 – By 2035, stakeholders generate data on the production of chemicals, including the use of chemicals in materials and products, in addition to data on emissions and releases of chemicals and waste to the environment, making these data available and publicly accessible.

Target B4 – By 2035, stakeholders apply appropriate guidelines, best available practices and standardized tools for hazard and risk assessment and chemical and waste management.

Target B5 – By 2030, educational, training and public awareness programmes on chemical safety, sustainability, safer alternatives and the benefits of reducing chemicals and waste risks have been

developed and implemented, taking into consideration a gender-responsive approach.

Target B6 – By 2030, all Governments have implemented the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in all relevant sectors as appropriate for their national circumstances.

Target B7 – By 2030, stakeholders generate, to the extent possible, and make available comprehensive and accessible monitoring and surveillance data and information on concentrations and potential exposure sources of chemicals in humans (disaggregated by sex, age, region, other demographic factors, and other relevant health determinants as feasible), other biota and environmental media.

Target C1 – Processes and programmes of work including timelines are established, adopted and implemented for identified issues of concern.

Target D1 – By 2030, companies consistently invest in and achieve innovations towards advancing sustainable chemistry and resource efficiency throughout the life cycle of chemicals.

Target D2 – By 2035, Governments implement policies that encourage production using safer alternatives and sustainable approaches throughout the life cycle, including best available techniques, green procurement and circular economy approaches.

Target D3 – By 2030, the private sector, including the finance sector, incorporates strategies and policies to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste in its finance approaches and business models and applies internationally recognized or equivalent reporting standards.

Target D4 – By 2030, relevant stakeholders give priority to sustainable solutions and safer alternatives to harmful substances in products and mixtures, including in consumer products, in their research and innovation programmes.

Target D5 – By 2030, Governments implement policies and programmes to increase support to safer and more sustainable agricultural practices, including agroecology, integrated pest management and the use of non-chemical alternatives, as appropriate.

Target D6 – By 2030, sustainable chemical and waste management strategies have been developed and implemented for major economic and industry sectors that identify priority chemicals of concern and standards and measures, such as the chemical footprint approach, to reduce their impact and, where feasible, their input along the value chain.

Target D7 – By 2030, stakeholders implement measures and strive to ensure effective occupational health and safety practices as well as environmental protection measures in all relevant sectors and throughout the supply chain.

Target E1 – By 2035, Governments have mainstreamed the sound management of chemicals and waste through implementation in all relevant sectoral plans, budgets and development plans and development assistance policies and programmes.

Target E2 – By 2030, partnerships and networks among sectors and stakeholders are strengthened to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Target E3 – Adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources from all sources needed to support achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste are identified and mobilized in alignment with the vision, strategic objectives and targets of the Framework in all sectors by and for all stakeholders, including by leveraging private finance and promoting innovative and blended-finance schemes.

Target E4 – Funding gaps for the implementation of sound management of chemicals and waste are identified and considered for capacity-building, including through the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.

Target E5 – By 2030, Governments have taken measures to put in place policies to internalize the costs of the sound management of chemicals and waste through different approaches.

Target E6 – By 2030, stakeholders identify and strengthen, as appropriate, synergies and linkages between chemicals and waste management and other key environmental, health and labour policies, such as those related to climate change solutions, biodiversity conservation, human rights protection, universal health coverage or primary health care.