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

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International Conference
Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste
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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Global Framework on Chemicals – tracking progress: overview of progress towards the strategic objectives and targets and of gaps in progress

Tracking progress: indicative overview of progress under the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Three years have passed since the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, with most of the 28 targets due to be met by 2030. With only four years remaining until that deadline, the present assessment is intended to provide a snapshot of where additional support and focus may be required for targets to be met.

2. The measurability structure of the Global Framework on Chemicals, including its indicators, has not yet been finalized; therefore, the present assessment is indicative only. The overview is not intended to contain comprehensive analysis; it is aimed at providing an initial indication based on information available ahead of the first session of the International Conference. It does not pre-empt any decision by the International Conference in relation to finalizing the measurability structure.

3. The overview draws on three main sources of information: (a) existing indicators developed and maintained by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and its participating organizations; (b) a baseline survey conducted by the secretariat;[1] and (c) online sources of information. Further details, in particular on the underlying methodology and sources of information, can be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/3.

II. Overview of progress against strategic objectives

4. An indicative overview of progress for each target under strategic objectives A, B, D and E is presented below and in the annex to the present note, with draft indicators drawn mostly from expert

* UNEP/GFC/IC.1/1.

[1] The global survey was conducted in March and April 2026. Responses were received from 212 respondents: 68 from national Governments, 55 from private sector entities, 43 from non-governmental organizations, 30 from respondents identifying as "other" and smaller numbers from industry associations, intergovernmental organizations, trade unions, research or academic institutions and health-focused non-governmental organizations.

group discussions[2] used as the analytical basis. Following a general review, areas for priority action are proposed. The implementation of strategic objective C (Issues of concern are identified, prioritized and addressed) is not considered, as the future of these issues under the Framework has not yet been determined.

A. Strategic objective A: legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms

5. In general, chemical governance remains uneven around the world, with discernible gaps in national chemicals management systems, including the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and regulatory frameworks governing chemicals, including for new chemicals and pesticides. Evidence indicates that countries are making efforts to adopt and implement legal frameworks, including for chemicals used in consumer products. However, the adoption and implementation of legislation on preventing and punishing the illegal traffic of hazardous waste remain incomplete. Stronger coordinated international action, national laws and regulation, compliance and enforcement, as well as improved data collection, are required to address both inadequate domestic management of chemicals and the illegal traffic of chemicals.[3] Only a minority of countries appear to have measures in place to phase out highly hazardous pesticides, even where feasible alternatives exist globally. However, an increasing number of Governments are working towards notifying, regulating or prohibiting the export of chemicals that they have prohibited nationally.

6. Progress by companies to implement and identify measures to prevent or minimize adverse effects from chemicals across the life cycle is addressed under strategic objective D.

Proposed areas for priority action

7. The adoption, implementation and enforcement of legal and regulatory frameworks and the strengthening of institutions to manage chemicals remain critical. This includes not only developing, implementing and enforcing national chemicals management systems but also considering "leapfrogging" approaches that allow countries to benefit from existing scientific evidence and risk information, as well as knowledge on alternatives, as a way of accelerating progress.

B. Strategic objective B: comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information

8. An assessment of the availability and accessibility of data and information on the properties of chemicals indicates that global information systems remain fragmented across several platforms and sectors, are implemented inconsistently and are concentrated in a limited number of countries and regions. While national and regional inventories exist, not all chemicals in commercial use are publicly identified due to either ambiguous descriptions or confidentiality claims.

9. Data are available on chemical emissions, releases and hazardous wastes, although systems mostly exist only in developed countries and emerging economies. Practices are emerging to provide information on chemicals in products and materials but there is still a lack of effective systems and mechanisms to collect and share this information along the value chain.

10. Guidance and tools exist for countries to conduct their own hazard and risk assessments for managing chemicals and waste, although there is increasing interest in applying existing assessments of internationally reputable regulators. Monitoring and surveillance of chemicals and waste exist, but coverage remains geographically uneven, human health surveillance data are scarce and there are significant gaps in monitoring across different environmental media.

Proposed areas for priority action

11. Improved global awareness and transparency with regard to the properties of chemicals and traceability along the value chain remain vital for effective management. Stronger efforts are needed to reduce the fragmentation of platforms and systems that will improve the consistency and quality of data and support better availability and accessibility of information. Greater investment to develop the infrastructure for the digital tracking of chemicals in products and materials is essential to standardize transparency, traceability and information-sharing along the value chain and among businesses.

[2] Established under the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators.

[3] United Nations Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal, *The Illegal Trade in Chemicals* (2020).

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C. Strategic objective D: safer alternatives, innovation and sustainable solutions

12. Indications exist that countries are advancing sustainability through sustainable consumption and production policies and sustainable public procurement approaches. However, the extent to which these initiatives address chemicals and waste is not clear. Findings suggest that some companies and sectors are starting to prioritize sustainable strategies, policies and solutions that include introducing safer alternatives to improve chemical and waste management, although evidence remains uneven across regions and sectors. There is some evidence of the implementation of safer and more sustainable agricultural policies and practices.

13. The extent to which business and industry mainstream and prioritize green and sustainable chemistry practices, approaches and alternatives when innovating is unclear, despite more than 90 per cent of the world's top 100 petrochemical and chemical manufacturers having committed to upholding the Responsible Care Global Charter. Around half of countries have national occupational safety and health profiles in place to support worker protection. While sustainability reporting and related policy frameworks are expanding, quantified investment by companies in sustainable chemistry and resource efficiency, formal substitution of harmful substances, financial-sector engagement and systematic company-level implementation remain limited. The green and sustainable chemistry market is poised for growth, driven in part by investments in the research and development of safer and more sustainable chemicals. However, policy incentives to support large-scale commercialization and market uptake remain limited in many countries.

Proposed areas for priority action

14. Corporate responsibility measures are applied inconsistently, with few companies yet to focus on their chemical footprint. Workers in high-impact sectors such as agriculture, construction, electronics, healthcare and textiles often face elevated risks of exposure to hazardous chemicals. Investment in green and sustainable chemistry is increasing, but more comprehensive and systematic reporting from companies on chemicals and waste-related practices and investment is imperative for transparency.

D. Strategic objective E: resource mobilization, partnerships, cooperation and capacity-building

15. Some countries are beginning to mainstream and integrate chemicals and waste management into national policies, as well as to internalize the costs associated with chemical pollution. Financial resources are being mobilized by countries and non-governmental stakeholders to support the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste, although the scale, granularity, predictability and sustainability of those resources is not evident. Some countries have implemented fiscal policies, such as extended producer responsibility schemes, to promote a more financially sustainable approach to managing pollution across industrial sectors. Private, innovative and blended finance schemes exist across a range of institutions but have not been compiled or assessed at the sectoral, regional or global levels. Furthermore, the extent to which public policies, fiscal incentives and private sector engagement are intentionally aligned to mobilize and scale up financing remains unclear. Strengthening such coordination could be critical to unlocking investment beyond individual projects and achieving financing at scale. Work on the benefits of action and financial investment flows is expected to inform the extent of the financial needs to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals.

16. Capacity-building on chemicals and waste management continues, with an estimated value of $379 million invested since 2016 through dedicated and multilateral environment funds such as the Global Environment Facility. There are indications that chemicals and waste considerations are being integrated into key environment, health and labour policies, although there is room for improvement; and, while partnerships and networks to support implementation are known to exist, their number and effectiveness are difficult to determine.

Proposed areas for priority action

17. Mobilizing finance at the scale required to address chemicals and waste management remains a critical priority. Greater mainstreaming into national budgets, together with increased use of policies, such as extended producer responsibility, that internalize the associated costs of managing pollution and waste, will support a more sustainable flow of finances. Significantly increasing financial support through a mix of appropriate fiscal policy and public and private finance, including innovative financing mechanisms, development banks, foundations, philanthropic organizations and private

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sector investment, alongside broadening the donor base and strengthening national contributions, is essential for the full implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

III. Overarching areas for suggested action by the International Conference

18. Under agenda items 5 and 6, the International Conference may wish to focus on, and consider accelerating action on, the following three overarching areas.

19. ***Legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms.*** To address fragmented legislation and slow and uneven progress in regulatory controls, compliance and enforcement mechanisms and incentives for the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste, stakeholders may wish to prioritize the development of more comprehensive legal frameworks, drawing on the wealth of scientific knowledge and practical experience available across jurisdictions. This could include introducing extended producer responsibility schemes and other economic instruments with revenues earmarked for Governments to address chemical pollution and waste management. These efforts could be prioritized for funding under the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, among others.

20. ***Increase transparency and advance safer alternatives.*** To enhance transparency and traceability along the value chain, stakeholders may wish to promote policies and tools such as chemical footprinting and digital tracking systems to improve access to information on the chemical composition of products. Stakeholders may also wish to engage and invest – both financially and in kind – in activities that foster innovation, promote safer alternatives and advance implementation of sustainable chemicals and waste management strategies in major economic and industry sectors, including green and sustainable chemistry under the implementation programmes as established under the Global Framework on Chemicals.

21. ***Mobilize finance and scale up investment.*** To scale up investment, there is a need to advance the implementation of a range of measures. These include providing clear investment signals and reducing investor uncertainty, de-risking investments to attract private capital, increasing public-private partnerships for pollution prevention, promoting investment in innovation, including green and sustainable chemistry, and integrating chemicals and waste into broader environment finance agendas, including climate, biodiversity and circular economy initiatives. Such private sector engagement should be supported by Governments through appropriate policy signals, incentives and public budget allocations that help mobilize and scale up private investment.

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Annex

[English only]

Data scorecard for strategic objective 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

58
countries have achieved International Health Regulations core capacities for chemical events

100
countries have full or partial regulatory schemes for new pesticides and/or industrial chemicals

91
countries have poison centres

Target			Available evidence	Signal	Key messages
	A1	**Legal frameworks and institutional capacity**	• 94 countries have legal controls for lead in paint[1] (a) • 58 countries have achieved International Health Regulations core capacities for chemical events[2] (a) • 76 countries have partially or fully implemented the GHS (a) • 50 countries have legislation on industrial and consumer chemicals, while 18 countries have such legislation under development (a) • 82 countries have regulatory schemes for new pesticides and/or industrial chemicals, while 18 countries have such schemes under development (a) • 150 countries have legislation controlling the transboundary movements of hazardous waste (a)	🟡	• Legal and institutional measures for chemicals remain uneven across countries. • Legislation on hazardous and other waste is more common than legislation on chemicals management. • Significant gaps remain in chemicals management, GHS implementation and regulatory schemes for new pesticides and chemicals.
	A2	**Chemicals and waste management guidance**	• 12,655 users accessed the IOMC Toolbox during 16,762 sessions, averaging 1.7 views per session (2022–2026) (a) • No consolidated data are available to capture new or updated international guidelines issued by intergovernmental organizations	🟡	• Stakeholders are accessing guidelines to support chemicals and waste management through the IOMC Toolbox. • Available data do not reflect the actual development of new or updated guidelines by intergovernmental stakeholders.
	A3	**Corporate chemicals life cycle management**	• Around 9,000 companies have publicly reported on sustainability and/or chemical- and nature-related risks, dependencies and impacts (b) (c) • No reported data for financial institutions on chemicals and waste in decision-making, policies, practices or disclosures	🔴	• Companies report implementing some measures on sustainability in their operations. It remains unclear how many of these measures specifically identify, prevent or minimize adverse effects from chemicals throughout their life cycle. • The lack of data from financial institutions further limits assessment of progress.
	A4	**Illegal chemicals and waste trade prevention**	• 150 of 177 reporting Parties indicated adoption of legislation under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. Of these, 73% reported legislative provisions on preventing illegal traffic of hazardous waste and other wastes; 67% have provisions that criminalize illegal traffic (a) • On average, 30 Parties report cases of illegal traffic each year. More than 90% of all cases concern waste electrical and electronic equipment and their parts, end-of-life vehicles and their parts, and plastic waste (a) • Illegal trade in chemicals is through treaty-specific reporting and international enforcement operations; no consolidated reporting mechanism allows for a comprehensive global assessment across all chemical groups	🟡	• Legislative implementation on preventing the illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and other wastes and making this practice a criminal offence through national legislation remain incomplete. • An imbalance in reporting among regions and a lack of consolidated reporting on the illegal trade in chemicals impair the assessment of progress.
	A5	**Hazardous chemical export controls**	• 33 Parties responded to voluntary questions under the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and stated that they either sent or received export notifications for chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted in the territory of the exporting Party (a) • At least 40 countries prohibit the export of certain chemicals that are prohibited or severely restricted domestically. No consolidated data are available to support a comprehensive global assessment (c) • At least 30 countries regulate the export of chemicals that are prohibited or severely restricted for domestic use (c)	🔴	• Based on the 2026 Rotterdam Convention questionnaire, all Parties that exported or imported chemicals banned or severely restricted in the territory of the exporting Party confirmed provision or receipt, respectively, of export notifications.[3] • Some countries are regulating or prohibiting the export of chemicals that they have prohibited nationally.
	A6	**Poison centres and toxicology capacity**	• 91 countries have been identified as having poison centres (a) • No data on access to poison centres are available	🟡	• Nearly half of all countries have poison centres; however, data gaps remain regarding access to these centres, capabilities to prevent and respond to poisonings and access to training in chemical risk prevention and clinical toxicology.
	A7	**Highly hazardous pesticide phase-out**	• 28 out of 66 reporting countries have a publicly available list of HHPs identified by national regulatory authorities. Of these, 13 countries reported disclosing use and exposure information (b) • 31 countries reported that safer and affordable alternatives to HHPs are accessible; 18 indicated actively promoting them (b) • 8 countries reported having a regulation and a risk reduction plan to phase out HHPs; 12 have regulation only and 2 have a risk reduction plan only (b) • No consolidated data are available for the use of and trade in biopesticides, industry sales and volumes of HHPs, their total applied toxicity or country-level measures to phase them out where safer and affordable alternatives are available	🔴	• Measures to support the phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides[4] are in place in a limited number of countries.[5] • A very low number of countries reported regulations and risk reduction plans, public availability of information and access to and promotion of safer alternatives.

Sources of information: (a) existing indicator already measured by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and/or its participating organizations; (b) baseline survey conducted by the Secretariat; and (c) online data.

Abbreviations: GHS – Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals; HHP – highly hazardous pesticide; IOMC – Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.

Signal (implementation level): 🟢 More advanced | 🟡 Partially advanced | 🔴 Less advanced

[1] As at 16 January 2024.

[2] The International Health Regulations (2005) are a set of legal instruments designed to ensure and improve the capacity of all signatories and States Parties to prevent, detect, assess, notify and respond to public health risks and acute events. The chemical events (C14) capacity assesses countries' resources for the detection and alerting of chemical events. Status is based on the latest available 2025 data, counting countries with an International Health Regulations chemical events core capacity score (C14) of 80 or 100.

[3] No comprehensive data are available and there is no obligation to inform the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions of export notifications.

[4] Countries may use different terminology, classifications or definitions for highly hazardous pesticides, which may influence how such pesticides are identified and reported.

[5] Data from baseline survey only.

Data scorecard for strategic objective B

Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions

More than 350,000 industrial chemicals are registered for production and use

48
countries have measures on information systems for chemicals in materials and products

116
countries provide information on levels and trends of persistent organic pollutants in humans and the environment

Target		Available evidence	Signal	Key messages
B1	**Chemical properties data and information**	• > 350,000 industrial chemicals and mixtures are listed across 22 chemical inventories from 19 countries and regions[1] (c) • > 50 recognized public platforms have publicly accessible chemical information (c) • The eChemPortal provides access to > 1.6 million substance records from 34 public sources. Portal includes > 1.3 million endpoints from the European Chemicals Agency database of 26,500 registered substances (c) • The US EPA Computational Toxicology (CompTox) Chemicals Dashboard records 1.38 million substances, of which 258,000 are mapped to the chemical information repository PubChem, enabling access to information on properties (c)	🔴	• Various systems exist but publicly available information on chemical properties and their hazards remains incomplete and fragmented. • Some chemicals in use remain publicly unidentified due to confidentiality claims or ambiguous descriptions. • Chemical inventories have been established in a limited number of countries and regions. • Currently available information does not allow a comprehensive assessment of the availability and accessibility of data on chemicals' properties.
B2	**Chemical information throughout value chains**	• 48 countries have measures on harmonized digital products and materials information systems across sectors (b) (c) • 38 countries and 211 companies use a globally harmonized standard, tool or platform (e.g. SCIP and GHS) for sharing information about chemicals in materials and products along the value chain (b) (c) • Since 2012, adoption of the HPD Open Standard[2] has increased, with > 11,000 published reports; more than 800 manufacturers use HPDs for material transparency data on > 40,000 products (c)	🔴	• Harmonized digital tracking of chemicals in products and materials is emerging but is not standard practice, with most countries and companies appearing to lack the infrastructure to share information along the value chain. • Available data do not enable a robust assessment of the reliability of the information shared.
B3	**Chemical production, use and emissions data**	• 77 countries report PRTR international commitments, although the PRTR system may not yet be in place (a) • Combined reported per capita values of hazardous waste generated averaged 84 tons per year, based on data from 54 Member States[3] (a). On average, 78% of reported hazardous waste was treated or disposed, based on data from 37 Member States[4] (a) • 48 out of 56 eligible countries are Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, and 19 out of 33 eligible countries are Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (a) • 30 EU and EEA countries report publicly on substances of very high concern in materials and products (c)	🟡	• Information on chemical emissions, release and hazardous waste production and treatment exists from some countries through PRTR systems and hazardous waste reporting. • Publicly accessible, disaggregated data remain limited, preventing a comprehensive assessment of chemical production, use and release. • Data considered do not capture non-governmental stakeholder data or information on the production of chemicals.
B4	**Hazard assessment and risk management tools**	• 45 countries adhere to the OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data system (c) • Between 2024 and 2025, the Chemical Review Committee determined that 8 notifications of final regulatory action for 8 chemicals had been supported by a risk evaluation; 34 notifications for 21 different chemicals had not been supported by a risk evaluation (a) • No consolidated data are available to capture new or updated international guidelines by IGOs	🔴	• While guidelines, best practices and standardized tools for risk and hazard assessment to manage chemicals and waste are available, identifying suitable data to assess whether these approaches and tools are used is still required.
B5	**Chemical safety education and awareness**	• The UNITAR Chemicals and Waste Management Programme delivered 81 training events, including online meetings, webinars, workshops and online courses, with a combined attendance of 6,913 participants	🟡	• Educational, training and public awareness programmes have been developed by intergovernmental organizations, including under multilateral environmental agreements, but there is no suitable mechanism for obtaining data to track these globally.
B6	**GHS implementation**	• 76 countries have partially or fully implemented GHS (a)	🟡	• GHS implementation remains uneven across the world, with full implementation concentrated in the Western European and other States and Central and Eastern Europe regions, partial implementation in the Latin America and Caribbean and Asia-Pacific regions and very limited implementation in the Africa region.
B7	**Chemical monitoring and surveillance data**	• 116 countries provide information on levels and trends of persistent organic pollutants in humans and the environment[5](a) • 12 countries reported active national human biomonitoring and/or surveillance systems and accessible and disaggregated data to health partners and stakeholders (b) • 161 countries monitor or report chemical pollutants and waste releases in at least one environmental medium (air, water or land), although only a limited range of chemicals is covered (a), (b), (c) • 130 countries show a reduction in the mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (2021 compared with 2016)[6] (a) • Between 2016 and 2024, 116 Parties to the Basel Convention reported having compiled statistics on the effects of hazardous and other wastes on human health and the environment (a)	🟡	• Despite evidence of monitoring, significant gaps remain in coverage across environmental media, human biomonitoring, pollutants and locations. Fragmented monitoring data limit a comprehensive understanding of concentrations, trends and potential exposure sources across media.

Sources of information: (a) existing indicator already measured by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and/or its participating organizations; (b) baseline survey conducted by the Secretariat; and (c) online data.

Abbreviations: EEA – European Economic Area; EU – European Union; GHS – Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals; HPD – health product declaration; IGO – intergovernmental organization; OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; PRTR – pollutant release and transfer register; SCIP – Substances of Concern In articles as such or in complex objects (Products); UNITAR – United Nations Institute for Training and Research; US EPA – Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America.

Signal (implementation level): 🟢 More advanced | 🟡 Partially advanced | 🔴 Less advanced

[1] Zhanyun Wang and others, "Toward a global understanding of chemical pollution: a first comprehensive analysis of national and regional chemical inventories", *Environmental Science & Technology*, vol. 54, no. 5 (March 2020).

[2] Disclosure of contents is not the same as reduction: a health product declaration can disclose a hazardous product. Uptake is heavily concentrated in the United States, driven by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification requirements.

[3] Analysis from the period 2015–2023 for Member States (excluding Brunei Darussalam and Suriname).

[4] Analysis from the period 2015–2023.

[5] Data are analysed against the total number of countries.

[6] 130 of 185 countries and territories with data for both 2016 and 2021 reported a lower mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning in 2021 than in 2016.

Data scorecard for strategic objective 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

83
countries have policies supporting safer and sustainable agricultural practices

61
countries report sustainable consumption and production policies

77
countries prioritize safer and sustainable chemical alternatives in their public procurement decisions

Target		Available evidence	Signal	Key messages
D1	**Innovation towards sustainable chemistry**	• 16 companies[1] reported full or partial investment to advance sustainable chemistry (b) • Of those, only 4 quantified their investment in green and sustainable chemistry, for a total of $185.7 million (b)	🔴	• Available data are too limited to assess the global level of company investment in sustainable chemistry. • More comprehensive and systematic reporting from companies is required.
D2	**Policies promoting safer alternatives and sustainable approaches**	• 61 countries have policy instruments for sustainable consumption and production (c) • 53 countries are implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans (c) • No consolidated data are available to capture taxonomies for activities recognized under the GFC	🔴	• One third of countries report having instruments, policies and action plans that support sustainable approaches, including sustainable public procurement. • It remains unclear how many of these instruments, policies and action plans include chemicals.
D3	**Private sector and finance sector integration**	• Nearly 9,000 companies[1] disclosed information through sustainability reporting, nature-related reporting commitments and public reporting on chemical-related risks, dependencies and impacts[2] (b) (c) • No data were reported for financial institutions incorporating chemical and waste risks	🔴	• Some companies report on chemical-related risks, dependencies and impacts. • It remains unclear how these disclosures reflect the implementation of practices to address chemicals and waste across financial approaches and business models. • The lack of data from financial institutions limits the assessment of progress.
D4	**Sustainable solutions and safer alternatives**	• 718 companies were identified as having formal methods to identify, assess and introduce safer alternatives (b) (c) • Only 16 companies reported formally committing to or substituting at least one priority harmful substance and/or group of substances in a major product line or high-volume use with a safer and more sustainable alternative (b) • 77 countries implement public procurement standards in their procurement decisions that explicitly prioritize safer and more sustainable chemical alternatives in products (b) (c) • 37 non-government stakeholders reported actively implementing a procurement policy or programme that explicitly prioritizes safer and more sustainable chemical alternatives in products (b)	🟡	• Some companies are starting to prioritize sustainable solutions and safer alternatives. • More than one third of countries are implementing policies to support sustainable solutions.
D5	**Sustainable agriculture and non-chemical alternatives**	• 83 countries were identified as having relevant policies and programmes to increase support for safer and more sustainable agricultural practices[3] (c) • 4% of total farmland is under organic agriculture[4] (c) • 2.47 million organic producers existed globally as of 2024 (c) • 58 countries reported integrating support for one or more sustainable agricultural practices into their current national biodiversity strategies and action plans (b)	🟡	• Some support exists for more sustainable agricultural policies and practices, with variable approaches to agroecology, integrated pest management and the use of non-chemical alternatives.
D6	**Sustainable chemical and waste management strategies for major economic and industry sectors**	• 13,000 supplier facilities and > 350 signatories participate in the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals textiles programme (c) • Companies representing $1.2 trillion in annual sales under the Chemical Footprint Project report reducing hazardous chemical use across their products, factories and packaging by 132.9 million pounds (60.3 million kilograms) in one year[5] (c) • More than 90% of the world's top 100 petrochemical and chemical manufacturers have committed to the Responsible Care Global Charter[6] (c) • More than 20 chemical companies apply World Business Council for Sustainable Development-based portfolio sustainability assessment or aligned in-house methods (c) • The 2025 ChemScore ranking[7] shows that the world's 40 largest chemical producers rely on producing chemicals known to be hazardous to health or the environment (c)	🔴	• Sustainable chemical management strategies have been developed and implemented in high-impact sectors such as textiles. • The chemical industry has adopted a voluntary management code covering most global production, but its impact is not clear. • No comparable data are available that account for chemical inputs across value chains or for the waste management dimension of the target for many high-impact sectors, thereby limiting the assessment of progress. • Evidence remains uneven across regions and sectors and rests largely on voluntary disclosure.
D7	**Occupational health, safety and environmental protection**	• 87 countries have national occupational safety and health profiles[8] (a) • 24 countries have ratified the ILO Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), which promotes the safe use of chemicals at work (a) • 19 countries have ratified the ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174), which aims to prevent major industrial accidents and limit their consequences (a)	🟡	• Progress has been made in strengthening worker protection, but important gaps remain in chemical safety and major industrial accident prevention. • The data offer no insight into the availability of environmental protection measures and do not identify the sectors or value chains covered by such measures.

Sources of information: (a) existing indicator already measured by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and/or its participating organizations; (b) baseline survey conducted by the Secretariat; and (c) online data.

Abbreviations: GFC – Global Framework on Chemicals; ILO – International Labour Organization.

Signal (implementation level): 🟢 More advanced | 🟡 Partially advanced | 🔴 Less advanced

[1] "Companies" covers both parent companies and subsidiaries and franchises, depending on how they report. If both the parent and the subsidiary publish separate sustainability reports, they are counted separately.

[2] The data combine the number of companies publishing sustainability reports under Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1, companies committed to reporting on nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities under the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), and survey responses. Five duplicate companies between the survey and the TNFD data were removed. Potential double counting with Goal 12.6.1 cannot be excluded, as company-level data has not been disclosed.

[3] Data derived from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Agri-Environmental Policies Database (Zenodo). A proxy approach was applied using keyword-based text analysis of policy metadata (keywords, policy type, descriptors, title and abstract) to identify policies related to the themes of agroecology, integrated pest management and non-chemical alternatives. Policies relating primarily to forestry, fisheries, marine issues, air pollution or water quality were excluded. Countries were classified according to the highest level of support identified across their policies: tier 1 (financial and programme support), tier 2 (explicit policy and/or programme support) and tier 3 (relevant policy identified, but no explicit evidence of policy or programme or financial support to enable further classification). The overall status represents the percentage of Member States with at least one policy identified under any of the three support tiers, relative to the total number of Member States.

[4] For 2024, the latest year for which data are available.

[5] These are real reductions, but they come only from companies that volunteered to be measured, and there is no way to tell what share of any industry they represent.

[6] Signing commits a company to managing health, safety and environmental risks in general; it does not commit it to reducing or replacing any specific hazardous chemical, and performance is self-reported rather than independently checked.

[7] The ranking covers listed companies only, excluding Chinese State-owned producers, and relies on European Union and United States public records. The methodology changed in 2025, so scores are not comparable with earlier editions. See https://chemsec.org/reports/chemscore-2025-key-findings/.

[8] National profiles summarize the existing situation on occupational safety and health and the progress made towards achieving a safe and healthy working environment. The profiles should be used as a basis for formulating and reviewing national programmes.

Data scorecard for strategic objective E

Enhanced implementation occurs through increased and effective resource mobilization, partnerships, cooperation, capacity-building, and integration into all relevant decision-making processes

38
countries have operational institutional coordination mechanisms

30
countries integrate chemicals risk prevention into health strategies

31
countries have dedicated budgets for chemicals and waste management

Target		Available evidence	Signal	Key messages
E1	**Mainstreaming chemicals and waste management**	• 31 countries reported having a dedicated annual budget for programmes, projects and/or activities related to the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste (b) • 38 countries reported having operational mechanisms in place to facilitate coordination for the development of interministerial, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral development assistance policies and programmes (b)	🔴	• There is some indication of the mainstreaming of chemicals and waste management nationally, with nearly half of responding countries reporting dedicated budget allocations, policies and programmes.
E2	**Multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks**	• 58 countries demonstrate national multisectoral coordination arrangements within national chemicals management systems (WHO e-SPAR)[1] (c) • No consolidated data are available to capture partnerships and networks across IGOs	🟡	• Partnerships and networks supporting the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste exist. • The broad and undefined scope of "partnerships and networks" limits a comprehensive assessment of their number, membership, outcomes and strengthening.
E3	**Sustainable financing for chemicals and waste management**	• 13 countries reported national budgets allocated to chemicals-related international assistance (b) • 65 non-government stakeholders reported having mobilized financial resources in support of the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste. Of those, 34 shared the value of how much had been mobilized, with a total of $638.8 million (b)	🔴	• Financial resources are being mobilized by both countries and non-government stakeholders, although they are unlikely to be sufficient. • Limited reporting on the scale, granularity, predictability and sustainability of resources, as well as on private, innovative and blended finance, constrains the assessment of progress towards the target.
E4	**Capacity-building funding gaps**	• The Global Framework on Chemicals Fund has approved four regional or multi-country projects across 11 countries (c) • The Special Programme[2] has successfully completed eight rounds of applications, resulting in 91 approved projects in 75 countries (c) • 34 approved projects were funded through the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-building and Technical Assistance under the Minamata Convention on Mercury (c) • The Global Environment Facility is supporting 92 active projects under the chemicals and waste focal area (c)	🟡	• Capacity-building projects on chemicals and waste are funded through different mechanisms and funds across all regions. • Data identifying the funding gaps are not available.
E5	**Internalizing the costs of chemical and waste management**	• 21 countries have reported having systems, approaches and/or instruments in place that require the private sector to bear the health, remediation and/or other costs associated with chemicals throughout their life cycles (b) • 19 of these countries reported extended producer responsibility schemes as preferred approaches and/or instruments (b)	🔴	• Early indications suggest that countries are starting to put systems in place to internalize the costs associated with chemical pollution.
E6	**Policy synergies and linkages**	• 30 countries reported integrating chemicals risk prevention into health strategies (b) • 28 countries reported chemical and waste management frameworks that explicitly reference or align with human rights obligations (b) • 118 countries demonstrate broader policy integration for chemicals management through the development of UNITAR national profiles[3] (c)	🟡	• Countries indicate elements of integrated chemicals and waste management considerations into national policies and are seeing synergies, although significant opportunities for improvement remain.

Sources of information: (a) existing indicator already measured by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and/or its participating organizations; (b) baseline survey conducted by the Secretariat; and (c) online data.

Abbreviations: e-SPAR – electronic State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool; IGO – intergovernmental organization; WHO – World Health Organization; UNITAR – United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

Signal (implementation level): 🟢 More advanced | 🟡 Partially advanced | 🔴 Less advanced

[1] Data have been derived from the WHO electronic State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool, which is the annual reporting mechanism used by States Parties to assess capacities under the International Health Regulations (2005). Under indicator C14, countries scoring 80 or 100 demonstrate advanced national capacities for managing chemical events, including laboratory capacity and integrated public health surveillance linked with environmental monitoring. These countries are used as a proxy under this indicator, as achieving these capacities generally requires established coordination across multiple sectors and institutions, although the indicator does not directly assess formal multi-stakeholder partnerships or networks.

[2] Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

[3] The UNITAR national profile programme documents national institutional arrangements, legal frameworks and multisectoral coordination for chemicals management, providing evidence of the integration of chemicals and waste management into environmental, health and labour policy systems. It is considered partial evidence because it measures country-level policy integration rather than the number of stakeholders integrating chemicals and waste management into these policies.