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

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**Open-ended Working Group of the
Global Framework on Chemicals – for a
Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste
First meeting**
Punta del Este, Uruguay, 24–27 June 2025
Agenda item 3(c) of the provisional agenda*
Global framework on chemicals fund

Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a detailed overview of the first round of applications to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund as well as the current composition and terms of reference of the Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund. It is submitted by the secretariat of the Framework in consultation with the Executive Board of the Framework Fund.

The present note, including its annexes, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1

Annex 1: Update on the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

A - INTRODUCTION

1. At its fifth session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) decided, through resolution (V/3)¹ on financial considerations, to establish the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund to support the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.
2. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) remains the largest multilateral funding mechanism for chemicals and waste. ICCM5 invited the GEF to consider how it could support the objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals through its programming. The GFC Fund is therefore not intended to duplicate the role of the GEF, but rather to complement it by filling critical gaps—particularly by supporting enabling conditions, piloting innovative approaches, and engaging non-governmental actors and sectors that are less commonly reached by larger funding streams.
3. With an initial capitalization of under USD 30 million, the GFC Fund occupies a strategic niche. It offers an agile, accessible, and targeted funding modality for countries and stakeholders needing rapid or catalytic support to advance specific elements of the Framework. This includes institutional strengthening, cross-sectoral collaboration, and action at national or regional levels that aligns with the five strategic objectives of the Framework.
4. The Executive Board of the GFC Fund has convened three meetings, with summaries of discussions available in the working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/3.
5. The GFC Fund launched the first round of applications on 1 October 2024, closing on 31 January 2025. A detailed overview of the process and received applications is provided below.

B – OVERVIEW OF THE FIRST ROUND OF APPLICATIONS

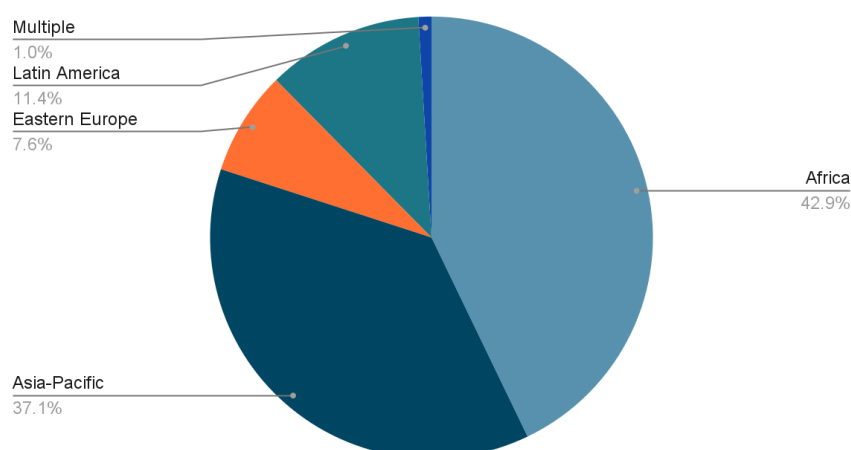
6. The first round of applications was launched on 1 October 2024 through a press release on UNEP's website, dedicated social media content, and direct outreach via e-mail to Global Framework on Chemicals stakeholders. To support applicants, the secretariat organized three webinars:
 - **4 October 2024:** Launch event via the Global Framework on Chemicals Community of Practice ([event page](#))
 - **29 October 2024:** Guidance on the scope of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund ([event page](#))
 - **30 October 2024:** Application walkthrough for the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund ([event page](#))
7. Each webinar attracted approximately 200 participants. Webinars 2 and 3 were held in English, with interpretation into French and Spanish, and with support from the Geneva Environment Network, leveraging their networks.
8. The Fund was also promoted through regional and sectoral events across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe, including:

¹ [Resolution V/3: Financial considerations](#)

- presentation and discussion with a delegation from Central Asian countries (23 October 2024, 6 participants, in-person)
 - presentation at the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Regulatory Cooperation Platform (ARCP) Workshop 2024 (28-29 October 2024, 25 participants)
 - presentation at the Regulatory Summit Asia 2024 (4-5 November 2024, 25 participants)
 - workshop at the Fifth Latin American Meeting on Regulatory Cooperation on Chemical Substances (5-6 November 2024, in-person)
 - presentation at the Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention and Stockholm Convention Resource Mobilization Clinic (19-20 November 2024, approx. 25 participants)
 - presentation and project discussions with focal points of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute's CBRN Academy (20-22 November 2024, approx. 80 participants, in-person)
 - presentation at the Regional meeting on Collaborative Approaches to Environmental Pollution and One Health in the Western Balkans (4-5 December 2024, approx. 60 participants)
9. In parallel, the secretariat provided an [FAQ document](#)², operated a helpdesk and conducted one-on-one consultations.
10. A total of 105 applications from 77 countries were received by the closing of the application period on 31 January 2025, reflecting broad global interest. Of these, 80 applications met eligibility and completeness requirements and proceeded to the next stage of assessment by the Global Framework on Chemicals Executive Board. The applications included:
- **59** from government entities
 - **46** from non-government entities
 - **Africa:** 45 applications from 32 countries
 - **Asia-Pacific:** 39 applications from 20 countries
 - **Eastern Europe:** 8 applications from 8 countries
 - **Latin America and the Caribbean:** 12 applications from 17 countries
 - **Multi-country:** 1 cross-regional application

² [Global_framework_chemicals_fund_FAQs.pdf](#)

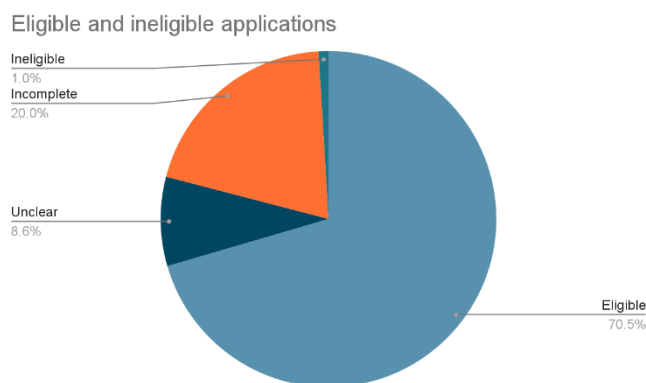
Regional breakdown (105 applications)



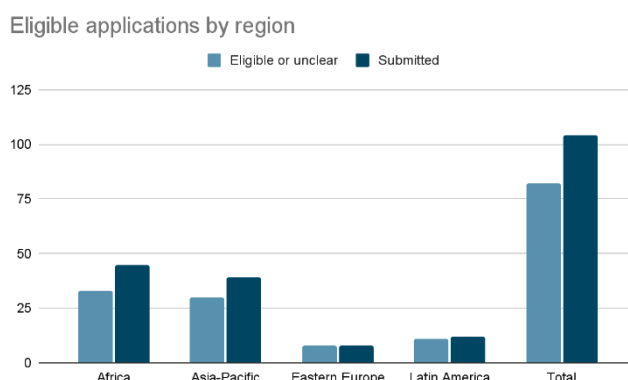
11. The countries represented various types of country classification. Over 30 applications were received from least-developed countries (LDCs), among which 24 were eligible and complete. 16 applications were received from countries with economies in transition (CEITs), with 11 eligible and complete and 4 applications from small island developing states (SIDS), among which 3 were eligible and complete.
12. There were 11 regional applications: five in Africa, three in Latin America, one in Asia-Pacific, and one in Eastern Europe, plus one multi-country application from three countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America, respectively.
13. There was high engagement from countries that previously applied to the Special Programme. Of the 105 applications, 78 had Special Programme experience, highlighting complementarity and reinforcing the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund as an additional, not duplicative mechanism.

C – REVIEW, APPRAISALS AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

14. In preparation for the third meeting of the Global Framework on Chemicals Executive Board, and in line with the terms of reference of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, the secretariat conducted a high-level review of all 80 eligible and complete applications. The secretariat gratefully acknowledges the support received from the Secretariat of the Special Programme in conducting this review process.



15. Of the 80 eligible or unclear applications, a total of 51 applications were selected for appraisal in Phase 1 of the first round and 29 applications in Phase 2.
16. Regionally, 33 applications are in Africa (including five regional), 28 in Asia-Pacific (including one regional), 8 in Eastern Europe (including one regional), and 10 in Latin America (including three regional). One multi-country application across different regions is also included.



17. The following applications were screened out and not forwarded to the Executive Board for appraisal: one application was deemed ineligible because it was submitted by a single individual, and 24 applications were excluded for being incomplete, i.e. missing critical documents, despite the secretariat's attempts to request them.
18. The high-level reviews consist of qualitative assessments based on six key criteria: completeness, project design, budget, sustainability of results, timeframe feasibility, and overlaps with previous projects, including those under the Special Programme and the Specific International Programme of the Minamata Convention.
19. Ahead of the third meeting of the Global Framework on Chemicals Executive Board (19-21 March 2025), Executive Board members completed an appraisal for each application. To facilitate the appraisal process, the secretariat prepared an appraisal template in accordance with the minimum and desirable criteria established for the first round of applications. The secretariat also prepared a briefing for Executive Board members to introduce them to the template and process.
20. To manage the large volume of applications, the Global Framework on Chemicals Executive Board agreed—via silence procedure—to split applications into two phases: phase 1 included all government and regional applications, of which some

were submitted by civil society networks; and phase 2 included all other applications. At its March 2025 meeting, the Executive Board reviewed 51 applications from Phase 1. Final decisions will be taken only after reviewing Phase 2 applications, scheduled to take place from 26 to 28 May 2025. The secretariat has informed all applicants of the expected delays.

21. The outcomes and decisions on project applications from the first round will be presented at the technical briefing on the Fund at the first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group in June in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

D- CURRENT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION OF THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK ON CHEMICALS EXECUTIVE BOARD

22. As outlined in para 11 of the ICCM5 resolution V/3³, ICCM5 adopted the provisional terms of reference of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund. To operationalize the work of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, the Executive Board agreed on composition of the Executive Board at its second meeting (Annex 2).

23. The current members of the Executive Board are:

National representatives:

- Santos Virgilio (Angola, Africa)
- Lamin Jaiteh (The Gambia, Africa)
- Itsuki Kuroda (Japan, Asia-Pacific)
- Hammad Shamimi (Pakistan, Asia-Pacific)
- Suzana Andonova (North Macedonia, Central and Eastern Europe)
- Magdalena Frydrych (Poland, Central and Eastern Europe)
- Napoleon Garcia (El Salvador, Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Vanessa Aliaga Araujo (Peru, Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Ivo de Zwaan (The Netherlands, Western Europe and other States)
- Audun Heggelund (Norway, Western Europe and other States)

Donors and contributors:

- Sandrine Jouan (Belgium)
- Juergen Helbig (European Union)
- Laura Niskanen (Finland)
- Matthias Wolf (Germany)
- Chrysanthi Sofokleous (International Council of Chemical Associations)
- Angeles Jimenez Redondo (Spain)
- Océane Dayer (Switzerland)
- Matthew Lovatt-Wood (United Kingdom)
- Emilie Winch (United States of America)

E – FUTURE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

24. The future composition and terms of reference of the Executive Board will be adopted at the first session of the International Conference. In preparation, the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group will serve as a platform for informal

³ Resolution V/3: Financial considerations

consultations to gather views from stakeholders and inform the proposal to be submitted for adoption.

25. Resolution ICCM5 V/3 (para. 17) also calls for a broader review of the provisional terms of reference. While the Executive Board has not discussed any specific amendments beyond its composition, stakeholders are invited to reflect on other aspects of the provisional terms of reference adopted at ICCM5, including the linkages between paragraphs 1 and 13 of the annex to resolution ICCM5 V/3.
26. In particular, the Open-ended Working Group may wish to explore the following issues related to the future structure and functioning of the Executive Board, including:
 - Balance of donors/contributors and recipients
 - Balance between donors and contributors
 - Duration of membership of donors and contributors
 - Minimum contribution of donors/contributors to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund
 - Representation of non-governmental stakeholders at the Executive Board
 - The role of sectoral/thematic expertise within the Executive Board
27. Additionally, stakeholders are also encouraged to share lessons from the first application round and suggest approaches for applicant support and capacity-building going forward.
28. The high number of applications demonstrates strong global interest in the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and validates its creation.
29. There is strong complementarity with the GEF, the Special Programme and other existing financial mechanisms. The Global Framework on Chemicals Fund adds value by engaging stakeholders and initiatives that often fall outside the scope of larger funding channels, including from non-governmental stakeholders, which are considered under the GFC Fund on an exceptional basis.
30. A number of applications, while eligible, lacked sufficiently strong project design or clear demonstration of impact. In response, the Fund Board may consider assigning a portion of future resources to seed funding or project preparation support, particularly for applicants with promising ideas but limited institutional capacity.
31. Feedback also suggests the importance of narrowing priorities in future rounds to guide applicants more effectively and enhance overall impact. A more refined focus would reduce inefficiencies linked to high volumes of proposals and help ensure that limited resources are targeted where they can make the greatest difference.
32. In conclusion, the analysis of lessons indicates that project proponents invest significant time and resources to develop proposals, of which only a small percentage can be supported due to the size of the Fund. A clearer scope and targeted thematic windows may help improve efficiency, attract stronger applications, and deliver more measurable impact aligned with the objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Annex 2: Ad-interim composition of the Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund (as agreed by the Executive Board in its second meeting)

Background

1. The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session (ICCM5) decided, in its resolution V/3 on financial considerations, to establish a Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for supporting the Global Framework on Chemicals.
2. ICCM5 adopted the terms of reference of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, as contained in the annex⁴ to ICCM5 resolution V/3, on a provisional basis. ICCM5 also decided to review those terms of reference, taking into account the assessment of existing financial and investment flows as well as financial needs associated with implementing the Framework called for in paragraph 2 of resolution V/3.
3. ICCM5 further decided to establish the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund Executive Board, consisting of two national Government representatives of each United Nations region and representatives of all the bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.
4. ICCM5 decided that at each session of the International Conference, two national Government representatives of each United Nations region will be appointed to the Executive Board for the following intersessional period.

Governance

5. All members participate in the Executive Board on an equal basis.
6. Only one representative from a national government may sit on the Executive Board at any given time. A national government representative may sit on the Executive Board either as a representative from their region or as a donor.
7. No financial support is envisaged for the participation of donors, contributors or observers at meetings of the Executive Board.

Donors

8. A donor is a national government that has made a financial contribution to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.

Contributors

9. A contributor is any entity that is not a government that has made a financial contribution.

Observers

10. Observers are not directly mentioned in Resolution V/3.
11. Any stakeholder of the Global Framework on Chemicals may participate as an observer at meetings at their own expense. Observers could include, among others: representatives of Governments and of regional economic integration organizations, the coordinator and/or co-chairs of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the chemicals and waste cluster, the coordinator of the Specific International Programme of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the chair of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, representatives of civil society, the secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility and/or any other participant identified by the Executive Board, as appropriate.

⁴ Annex to Resolution V/3. <https://www.chemicalsframework.org/page/resolution-v3-financial-considerations>

12. Observers do not participate in any decision making of the Executive Board.

Current ad interim Executive Board members

13. To operationalize the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, and the need to have an Executive Board in place as soon as possible, the Bureau decided to initiate a silence procedure for the ad interim country representatives of the Executive Board until the first session of the International Conference could endorse the arrangement. The proposal was that the Executive Board be composed of the President and four Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the next session of the International Conference, the five regional focal points and representatives of all the bilateral and multilateral donors and contributors to the Fund.
14. The Bureau agreed to launch the silence procedure which ended on 28 March 2024.
15. As a result of that procedure, the current, ad interim membership of the Executive Board is made up of members of the Bureau, who are country representatives or regional focal points, and representatives of all donors/contributors i.e., currently Belgium, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America and the International Council of Chemical Associations. These members will hold office until the first session of the International Conference in 2026.
16. Any donors or contributors who have made a financial contribution during the period between ICCM5 and the first session of the International Conference are eligible to be a member of the Executive Board until the first session of the International Conference. A donor or contributor who has provided a substantial amount of money to the Fund (of at least 10 million USD) will remain a member of the Executive Board until such funds have been expended.

Suggestions for Future Executive Board members (to be decided at the first session of the International Conference)

17. As per paragraph 4 above, and in accordance with paragraph 21 of ICCM5 resolution V/3, at the first session of the International Conference in 2026, two national Government representatives from each United Nations region will be appointed to the Executive Board for the following intersessional period.
18. When determining membership to the Executive Board, the donors and contributors will select their own participants.
19. Once appointed, Executive Board members will be expected to hold office from the most recent and until the next session of the International Conference.
20. Any donors or contributors who have made a financial contribution during the period between the most recent and the next session of the International Conference will be eligible to be a member of the Executive Board for the following intersessional period. A donor or contributor who has provided a substantial amount of money to the Fund (of at least 10 million USD) will remain a member of the Executive Board until such funds have been expended.
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