

Statements to be delivered at the plenary session on 24 June 2025

Agenda Item 3. Global Framework on Chemicals

3(a). Implementation arrangements (V/8)

The European Union and its Member States acknowledge the progress made in advancing the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

The European Union and its Member States thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the continued leadership and support for the Global Framework, as requested in UNEA resolution 6/9. Consistently providing implementation support is pivotal to ensuring the success of our shared vision.

The European Union and its Member States commend the creation of a dedicated trust fund. This instrument allows for coordination, management, and targeted resource use to support the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals and related objectives by governments and civil society. We acknowledge with appreciation the impressive \$28.3 million contributed to the Fund so far. This financial commitment is encouraging and vital in transforming commitments into actions, especially in aid of countries most in need.

Furthermore, we appreciate the \$ 2.6 million for operational support by the Secretariat, while being aware that more means are needed to enable its comprehensive engagement in all relevant work areas.

The European Union and its Member States are equally grateful to the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and its participating organisations for accepting the invitation extended through resolution V/8. Their proactive approach in supporting implementation programmes and other activities like workshops or surveys reflects dedication and an inclusive spirit. These activities will play a vital role in guiding implementation, strengthening cooperation, and building capacity among all stakeholders.

3 (c). Global Framework on Chemicals Fund (V/3)

The European Union and its Member States express great appreciation for all contributors to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for their commitment and contributions. Impressive \$28.3 million for the GFC Fund is encouraging and essential in turning words into action, especially in support of countries most in need.

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for its efforts so far to make the Fund work and for its engagement in the first round of applications, which had an impressive number of applications to be analysed.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariats of the GFC and of the Special Programme for their support for the Executive Board, particularly during the first round of applications, when the Secretariats did enormous work to ensure the successful course of the first round.

The European Union and its Member States support in principle the decisions taken by the Executive Board so far and are looking forward to use the OEWG for further discussion

amongst stakeholders of needs for modification of the Terms of Reference of the GFC Fund, including the modalities for its implementation at the International Conference, as suggested in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/5. We consider that it would be useful to continue the discussion on the specific questions that have been raised in the discussion on the implementation of the Fund and we stand ready to contribute in this work.

Agenda item 4. Financial considerations (V/3)

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and IOMC participating organisations for the activities undertaken to develop a study to assess the existing financial flows and needs associated with the implementation of the Framework.

We also notice and support ongoing efforts of the UNEP Financial Initiative in addressing the pollution crisis in sector-specific value chains by developing valuable studies towards ascertaining financial flows and future financial needs to reach the objectives and targets of the Framework.

The European Union and its Member States appreciate the work done by the Secretariat and participating organisations of the IOMC on developing the terms of reference for the updated report on “cost of inaction”. Taking note of the significant value of this study in reaching objectives and targets of the GFC, the EU+MS believe that finalisation of this work in a quick and effective manner will be a crucial step forward. Thus, gaining some clarification from the Secretariat regarding the plan for raising the funds to carry out the second phase of the study would be appreciated.

Agenda item 3(d) - Gender action plan (V/4)

The European Union and its Member States welcome the progress made to date in developing a draft gender action plan and thank the Secretariat for all its efforts to finalise that work and a draft plan for consideration by the International Conference in 2026.

We thank the Multistakeholder Processes for Sustainable Development Institute (MSP Institute) for the preparation of the report on the Development of a Gender Action Plan.

The European Union and its Member States support actions that will lead to the development of the Gender Action Plan, which will aim to achieve equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes and to promote gender-responsive policies, to which the European Union and its Member States attach high importance.

We participated in the call from the first phase of work on the Gender Action Plan and shared information on integrating a gender perspective into policies, plans, and actions related to chemicals and waste management.

Agenda item 5 - Programme of work and Budget (V/12)

The European Union and its Member States recognise the progress made since the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals, including the setting up of the Secretariat of the GFC and the GFC Fund.

We recognise that there is still work to be done to ensure proper realisation of the activities of the Secretariat, including ensuring the financial stability.

We would appreciate additional details on plans for how to cover the financial gap for the Secretariat functioning in 2025 and 2026.

The European Union and its Member States would like to encourage stakeholders, who are in the position to do so, to provide financial contributions to the budget or consider in-kind contributions.