

Knowledge-Sharing on Priority Chemicals of Concern

Date: Thursday 26th June, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Modality: Hybrid

Convened by: FAO in collaboration with UNEP

Context and Background

The International Conference on the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste may adopt programmes to support the implementation of the Framework to achieve its strategic objectives, as presented in part V, “Strategic objectives and targets”. Following adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste in 2023, resolution V/8 was agreed on implementation arrangements, inviting “stakeholders... to collaborate on and develop proposals for implementation programmes”. The IOMC convened a multistakeholder workshop to further this in Paris, on 24-26 February 2025. The workshop identified cross-cutting thematic workstreams that would provide support to specific industry sector programmes. Knowledge-sharing on priority chemicals of concern was identified as a thematic workstream, and along with five (5) other topics, will be addressed in a dedicated event during the GFC-OEWG Multi-Stakeholder Day.

Chemicals are vital to industry and everyday life, yet many substances present in products and processes continue to pose significant risks to human health and the environment. Identifying and addressing priority chemicals of concern is essential to advancing the vision of the Global Framework on Chemicals for a planet free from harm caused by chemicals and waste. Despite growing awareness, information on these chemicals remains fragmented across sectors, supply chains, and regions. To support effective decision-making and foster collaborative action, systematic knowledge sharing on chemicals of concern is critical to align efforts and reduce duplication. This workstream enables interventions, enhances transparency, and supports the transition to safer alternatives, while recognizing the contexts of diverse economic and industry sectors.

Target D6 states that “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...” This workstream responds to the call in Target D6. Its focus is on enhancing understanding of existing initiatives that identify such chemicals—examining their objectives, methodologies, and the criteria used. The aim is

knowledge-sharing rather than reaching consensus on what constitutes a “priority chemical of concern.”

Session Objectives

This event aims to promote knowledge-sharing on regulatory and voluntary approaches to identify priority chemicals of concern as a cross-cutting thematic area relevant for strengthening action in support of GFC implementation, with two main outcomes:

- Enhanced understanding of regulatory and voluntary approaches to chemical prioritizations.
- Concrete recommendations for follow-up activities on this cross-cutting thematic area, including potential inputs to GFC implementation programmes.

The event will highlight experiences and approaches to establish harmonized criteria and approaches, transparency, and practical tools to support informed decision-making for the sound management of chemicals. It will also discuss next steps in further advancing the work in the context of the GFC IP development.

Agenda

Time	Program
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome & Introduction to the Session Welcome and summary of the results of past thematic discussions Speaker: Mario Yarto, FAO
10:05 – 10:35	Introduction to the workstream and Experience-Sharing Introduction in the context of the GFC and presentation of panelists sharing approaches and criteria Moderator: Mr. Jonah Armond, Government Representative, Antigua and Barbuda Speakers: Mr. Juergen Helbig, European Union; Ms. Ruthy Eleonora, Indonesia; Mr. Benjamyn Marks, Responsible Business Alliance; Mr. Jago Wadley, PAN-UK
10:35 – 11:10	Plenary Discussion Open discussion with the audience on exploring opportunities to identify and map common criteria applied for chemicals of concern Moderator: Mr. Jonah Armond, Government Representative, Antigua and Barbuda
11:10 – 11:15	Conclusion and Recommendations

	Summary of key points and next steps
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	Speaker: Mario Yarto, FAO
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