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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
First session
Geneva, 16–20 November 2026

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the session

1. The first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, to be held from 16 to 20 November 2026 at the Geneva International Conference Centre, will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 16 November.

2. There will be an opportunity for the delivery of regional statements. The duration of each statement should be no longer than three minutes. Longer statements, as well as national statements and other statements, may be submitted to the secretariat for publication on the intranet site of the meeting.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

3. The International Conference may wish to adopt the agenda of its first session on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/1.

(b) Organization of work

4. As the Global Framework on Chemicals is a successor to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the institutional arrangements established for that process, as well as the resolutions and decisions adopted thereunder, will continue to operate under the Global Framework on Chemicals, unless otherwise modified by subsequent decisions of the International Conference.

5. The International Conference may wish to conduct its work according to the approach and schedule of work outlined in the scenario note (UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/1), prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau, and to meet daily from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary. The International Conference may wish to establish contact groups and other groups as it may deem necessary, and to specify their mandates.

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(c) Election of officers

6. The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session elected members of the Bureau.[1] It also elected non-governmental representatives to participate in the discussions during the meetings of the Bureau.[2] The Conference was also informed about the designation by the regional groups of new regional focal points.[3] It was decided that the terms of Bureau members, non-governmental representatives and regional focal points would run from the closure of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management until the closure of the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

(i) Bureau of the International Conference

7. A president and four vice-presidents, one of whom will act as rapporteur, are to be elected by and from among the representatives of the governmental participants present at the session to serve as the Bureau from the closure of the first session until the closure of the next session of the Conference, in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 14 of the rules of procedure. In electing the officers, governmental participants shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation, as outlined in paragraph 3 of rule 14. Therefore, each of the five regions of the United Nations is to be represented by one officer in the Bureau.

8. Accordingly, the Conference will be invited to proceed with the election of Bureau members, whose term of office will commence at the closure of the first session.

(ii) Regional focal points and sectoral representatives

9. Regional focal points are encouraged to play a facilitative role within their regions, including undertaking activities as determined within each region, such as chairing regional meetings, disseminating information of interest to focal points within their region, collecting views from national focal points on matters of interest to the region, and assisting in the flow of information and views from the region to its Bureau member, as appropriate.[4]

10. Accordingly, the regions are invited to nominate regional focal points, whose term of office is to begin at the closure of the first session, to support the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

11. The President will invite four representatives of non-governmental participants and one representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to participate in the discussions during the meetings of the Bureau for the purpose of providing advice and responses to the Bureau, as appropriate, in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 15 of the rules of procedure. One representative of each of the health, industry, trade union and public interest groups of non-governmental participants is to be elected at the end of each session of the Conference and remain in that capacity until the end of the next session. IOMC is to be represented by the chair of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee.

12. Accordingly, the health, industry, trade union and public interest groups of non-governmental participants are invited to each nominate one representative, whose term of office will begin at the closure of the first session, to participate in the discussions during the meetings of the Bureau.

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[1] At its fifth session, the Conference elected Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan) as President of the Conference and Santos Virgílio (Angola), Audun Heggelund (Norway), Maria Vanessa Aliaga Araujo (Peru) and Magdalena Frydrych (Poland) as Vice-Presidents. Mr. Abbas (Pakistan) was subsequently replaced by Aisha Humera Chaudhry (Pakistan), and Mr. Heggelund (Norway) was replaced by Thomas Sverre (Norway).

[2] Jorge Luis Ocana Correa (United Nations Institute for Training and Research), subsequently replaced by Hilda van der Veen (United Nations Development Programme), Chair of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee; Sara Brosche (International Pollutants Elimination Network), representing public-interest non-governmental organizations; Rory O'Neill (International Trade Union Confederation), representing labour organizations; Chrysanthi Sofokleous (International Council of Chemical Associations), representing industry; and Susan Wilburn (Health Care Without Harm), representing the health sector. Susan Wilburn was subsequently replaced by Andrea Rother (School of Public Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa).

[3] Africa: Juliett Petlane (Lesotho); Asia and the Pacific: Itsuki Kuroda (Japan); Central and Eastern Europe: Suzana Andonova (North Macedonia); Latin America and the Caribbean: Francisco Napoleón García Ortíz (El Salvador); Western Europe and other States: Ivo de Zwaan (Kingdom of the Netherlands).

[4] In accordance with resolution II/2 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

Item 3

Representation, credentials, and accreditation of representatives

13. The credentials of governmental participants and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the secretariat, if possible, no later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Any later changes in the composition of delegations shall also be submitted to the secretariat.

14. The Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, will examine the credentials of the governmental participants and report thereon to the International Conference. Representatives of governmental participants may participate in the session provisionally pending a decision by governmental participants in the International Conference regarding their credentials.

15. Intergovernmental and non-governmental participants will be required to be duly accredited, with names to be submitted no later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. In the case of non-governmental participants, a responsible official of each such participant is to include a statement describing the activities, expertise and responsibilities of the participant and how they are consistent with the purpose of the Global Framework on Chemicals. Non-governmental participants shall be admitted to the session upon verification by the secretariat, unless one third or more of the governmental participants object.

Item 4

Global Framework on Chemicals – tracking progress

(a) Update on implementation of the resolutions adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session

16. At its fifth session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted 12 resolutions. The International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals may wish to take note of the information provided in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/2, which summarizes activities under each resolution and signals which topics are covered by a separate agenda item and may require further consideration and possible action by the Conference.

(b) Overview of progress towards the strategic objectives and targets and of gaps in progress

17. The International Conference has before it an indicative overview, prepared by the secretariat, of progress under the Global Framework on Chemicals towards its five strategic objectives and 28 targets (documents UNEP/GFC/IC.1/3 and UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/3). The assessment draws on three sources of information: existing indicators developed and maintained by IOMC and/or its participating organizations; a baseline survey conducted by the secretariat; and online sources of information.

18. The Conference may wish to consider the gaps in progress and identify areas for accelerating action for implementation under agenda item 5.

(c) Measurability structure and indicators

19. In resolution V/9, the International Conference on Chemicals Management decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators with the aim of preparing recommendations for the finalization of the measurability structure and a proposal for a set of indicators for annex III to the Framework, for consideration at the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

20. The recommendations and proposals developed by the open-ended ad hoc group are set out in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/4, which includes a draft resolution, and document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/4, which provides additional background information. The International Conference may wish to consider the elements provided, including the recommendations and proposals of the open-ended ad hoc group and the draft resolution and proposed indicators for possible adoption.

21. Pursuant to section XI of the Framework, the International Conference may also wish to provide guidance on stakeholder reporting on implementation efforts, including the frequency of such reporting, and consider for this purpose the action proposed in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/4.

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Item 5

Global Framework on Chemicals – accelerating action

(a) Issues of concern

22. In resolution V/5, the International Conference on Chemicals Management decided that all emerging policy issues and issues of concern recognized prior to its fifth session should transition on an interim basis to "issues of concern" under the Framework, and it strongly encouraged stakeholders to continue their work. It also decided that the International Conference of the Framework, at its first session, would determine the path of existing issues of concern under the Framework.

23. In response, the IOMC organizations, in consultation with stakeholders, developed a report[5] providing (a) an update on progress achieved in relation to existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern recognized before the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, indicating how the work contributed to achieving the strategic objectives and targets of the Framework; (b) an analysis of opportunities to continue addressing those issues; and (c) recommendations on their future as issues of concern under the Framework.

24. In accordance with the provisions of the Framework, the secretariat issued a call for nominations of new issues of concern, which resulted in four proposals by stakeholders. The nominations, together with associated workplans, are set out in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/5, and comments received from stakeholders on those new nominations are available online.[6]

25. The International Conference may wish to decide on the way forward regarding issues of concern. To do so, it may wish to consider the information available to it, including the note by the secretariat (UNEP/GFC/IC.1/5) summarizing the proposed way forward for existing issues of concern and providing an overview of the new nominations along with a draft resolution.

(b) Implementation arrangements, national focal points and capacity-building

26. In resolution V/7, the International Conference on Chemicals Management requested the secretariat to develop draft guidelines for consideration by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals to close the gap in guidance for national focal points and to strengthen and prioritize national chemical and waste management capacities. The Framework also provides that the International Conference of the Framework will develop a strategy for building capacity and supporting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

27. The Global Framework on Chemicals provides that the International Conference may adopt implementation programmes as a mechanism for supporting the Framework and contributing to the achievement of its strategic objectives and targets. In addition, the International Conference may establish ad hoc working groups to provide direction and momentum for the work, as well as to mobilize engagement. In resolution V/8, the International Conference on Chemicals Management urged all stakeholders across the life cycle of key economic and industrial sectors to commit to the implementation of the Framework and invited IOMC to play a facilitating and coordinating role in encouraging their engagement, and to collaborate on and develop proposals for implementation programmes.

28. In response, IOMC led a consultative process that resulted in proposals for implementation programmes on (a) legal frameworks and institutional capacities for the sound management of chemicals and waste (implementation programme 1) and (b) industry engagement and action along value chains (implementation programme 2). The process triggered the establishment of 10 informal multi-stakeholder groups, which have conducted preparatory work in 2025 and 2026 on six cross-cutting thematic workstreams,[7] and four industry sector programmes, on the construction, electronics, healthcare and textiles sectors, which are open to all stakeholders and contribute to the proposed implementation programmes.

[5] The report can be found on the website of the Global Framework on Chemicals at https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals/international-conference-1.

[6] See https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals/international-conference-1.

[7] Cross-cutting thematic workstreams: (a) transparency, traceability, and disclosure along value chains; (b) identification of priority chemicals of concern; (c) approaches to measuring chemical footprint and impacts; (d) green and sustainable chemistry innovation; (e) reporting standards and frameworks; (f) private sector financing and investment.

29. Recalling resolution V/6, in which the International Conference on Chemicals Management stressed the importance of the process to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, the Conference may also wish to welcome the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution and consider further arrangements for proposing items for consideration by the Panel in its programme of work as well as for participation by the Framework as an observer in the Plenary of the Panel.

30. Information on the development of draft guidelines for national focal points, of a proposed strategy for capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and of proposals for accelerating progress and for cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel, together with a draft resolution, is set out in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/6. Further information on implementation arrangements is available in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/6.

31. The Conference may wish to consider the implementation arrangements and adopt the proposed implementation programmes.

(c) Gender action plan

32. In resolution V/4, the International Conference on Chemicals Management requested the secretariat, with the participation of interested stakeholders, to develop a gender action plan for consideration by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals at its first session. The draft gender action plan is presented in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/7, along with a draft resolution for consideration by the Conference.

Item 6

Global Framework on Chemicals – investing for impact

(a) Finance and investment

(i) Opportunities for unlocking financing and shaping investment

33. In resolution V/3, the International Conference on Chemicals Management requested an assessment of existing financial and investment flows as well as financial needs associated with the implementation of the Framework, to inform discussions at the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals. It also requested an update of the 2013 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) study on the costs of inaction.[8]

34. The International Conference has before it a note by the secretariat (UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8) that provides an overview of progress made in assessing financial flows and needs, as well as a scoping study on the methodology for analysing the benefits of action for the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste. Relevant information can also be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/7.

35. The Conference may wish to consider opportunities for strengthening the overall financing architecture for the implementation of the Framework, including public, private and blended sources of finance, and approaches for mobilizing additional resources in support of the Framework's objectives and targets, as well as the proposed draft resolution set out in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8.

(ii) Harnessing the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for further impact – review of the terms of reference of the Fund

36. In resolution V/3, the International Conference on Chemicals Management established the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and provisionally adopted its terms of reference, which the International Conference is to review at its first session.

37. The Conference will have an opportunity to consider the progress achieved in the operation of the Fund, lessons learned from its initial rounds of funding, and its contribution to supporting the implementation of the Framework at the national, regional and global levels.

38. The draft revised terms of reference, as agreed on by the Executive Board of the Fund, are presented in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8, together with a draft resolution for their possible adoption by the Conference. The Conference may also wish to consider opportunities to further strengthen the role of the Fund as a key component of the Framework's implementation and financing architecture.

[8] United Nations Environment Programme, *Costs of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals* (2013). Available at https://wedocs.unep.org/items/fb7489a1-3070-4db3-bb3d-8fd6ef4342f1.

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(iii) Leveraging the Global Environment Facility

39. The Conference may wish to consider opportunities to strengthen complementarities between the Framework and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and to consider the proposed actions contained in the relevant note by the secretariat (UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8). Discussions could focus on ways to support the implementation of priorities identified under the Framework; to support the implementation of the Framework's measurability structure and indicators; and to strengthen complementarity between the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and GEF, as appropriate, to facilitate subsequent access to larger-scale financing through GEF-supported programmes and other innovative financing approaches.

(b) Programme of work, budget and options for a sustainable secretariat

40. In resolution V/12, the International Conference on Chemicals Management approved the indicative programme of work, budget and staffing structure for the secretariat for the period 2024–2026. It also requested the secretariat to report to the Conference at its next session on its activities, staffing and budget and to prepare a budget for the period 2027–2029 for consideration by the Conference.

41. The Conference has before it a note by the secretariat (UNEP/GFC/IC.1/9) that provides an update on the contributions, activities, staffing list and budget approved by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session and proposes a new budget, staffing list and activities, together with a recommendation for the sustainable financing of the secretariat, elaborated on in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF.8, and a draft resolution.

42. The Conference also has before it a report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the implementation of the Framework, including on programmatic aspects (UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/9).

43. The Conference may wish to consider this information and act on it, including through approval of the proposed programme of work, budget and staffing structure. The Conference may also wish to have an exchange of views on opportunities to mobilize additional resources and partnerships, including through engagement with the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders, consistent with applicable safeguards and due diligence requirements.

Item 7

Dates and venue of the second session of the International Conference

44. The Conference may wish to invite offers to host its second session and request the Bureau, following the conclusion of the first session, to determine the dates and venue of the second session.

Item 8

Other matters

45. The Conference may wish to consider other matters raised during the session.

Item 9

Adoption of the report of the session

46. The Conference will be invited to consider and adopt the draft report of its first session, to be prepared by the rapporteur, on the understanding that the finalization of the report will be entrusted to the rapporteur, working in consultation with the secretariat.

Item 10

Closure of the session

47. It is expected that the session will conclude by 6 p.m. on Friday, 20 November 2026.

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