

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
Item 3 (g) of the provisional agenda*

Global Framework on Chemicals: national focal points

National focal points

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its fifth session, held in Bonn, Germany, in September 2023, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted resolution V/7 on the development of guidelines for national focal points.
2. In the resolution, the Conference, among other things, requested the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to develop draft guidelines for consideration at the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals. In addition, all stakeholders, including national focal points, and the relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals were invited to provide input on the draft guidelines.
3. Additional details on the development of the draft guidelines can be found in document GFC/OEWG.1/INF/10.

II. Activities to implement the resolution

4. The secretariat developed draft guidelines for consideration by the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals at its third meeting, held on 26 February 2024. The Bureau agreed that the guidelines were a good basis for strengthening and improving the effectiveness of national focal points and other focal points. It was suggested that, in addition to the guidance itself, there should be methodology on how the guidance could be implemented and an opportunity to test the guidance.
5. An initial expert group consultation was held on 4 September 2024 to consider how to refine the draft guidelines, including the best ways to operationalize the guidelines in a practical, concrete and impactful manner; share best practices; develop a road map for the implementation of the guidelines; and secure additional human, technical and financial resources to implement the Framework. Further consultations will be held prior to the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

* UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1.

III. Proposed action

6. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to:
- (a) *Express its appreciation* for the important work done by national and other focal points to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals;
 - (b) *Acknowledge* the value of developing guidelines that optimize the effectiveness of responsibilities and activities of national focal points and other focal points;
 - (c) *Invite* all stakeholders, including national focal points, to provide input on the draft guidelines and road map as they are developed;
 - (d) *Encourage* Governments to nominate national focal points and other focal points in equal measure from ministries responsible for the environment, health and labour sectors;
 - (e) *Invite* all stakeholders to update their focal point contact details regularly to ensure efficient and effective communication;
 - (f) *Encourage* all stakeholders to further implement the resolution as appropriate.
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