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Sixth meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators

Online, 27 August 2025, 14:00-16:00 CEST

Concept note for the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators prepared by the co-chairs.

Note by the secretariat

1. The annex to the present note includes a concept note prepared by the co-chairs with the support of the Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals, setting out their proposal for organisation of work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators (OEAHGMI) for the upcoming period until the next International Conference.
2. The present document has not been formally edited.

Annex I

Concept note for the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators prepared by the co-chairs.

I. Introduction

1. This concept note, which we have prepared with the support of the Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals, sets out a summary of results achieved to date by the group and its workstreams. It lays out a revised approach for the organization of work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators (OEAHGMI) up until the International Conference, building on reflections from the first Open-Ended Working Group (4–27 June 2025, Punta del Este, Uruguay), the progress achieved so far and the time until the International Conference. We would like to thank all contributors to the task teams for their engagement and commitment.

Background

2. The Global Framework on Chemicals adopted at ICCM5 established a measurability structure to be comprised of high level, headline, process, and other indicators to track progress towards its vision and strategic objectives.
3. As proposed in our first concept note ([GFC/OEAHGMI.1/Seg.2/2](#), May 2024), the OEAHGMI organized its work in three workstreams aimed to define the set of indicators for the measurability structure:
 - i. Workstream 1–Assessment of existing indicators
 - ii. Workstream 2–Development of additional indicators
 - iii. Workstream 3–Identification and assessment of thematic and sector specific indicators.
4. The work conducted under the OEAHGMI, including under its three main workstreams, was reported ([GFC/OEWG.1/INF/12](#)) to the first Open-Ended Working Group.

II. Key takeaways from the first Open-Ended Working Group

5. The progress of the OEAHGMI was presented at GFC OEWG 1 held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in June 2025. At the OEWG, stakeholders commended the work that had been achieved and noted that, while there was some progress, further substantive work remained to be undertaken in the lead up to the International Conference (IC). Stakeholders emphasized that while reporting on implementation was welcomed and encouraged, it was not obligatory. Considering the timeline until the IC, stakeholders recommended prioritizing the measurement of those targets that most effectively demonstrate the impact of the Framework. Additionally, there was recognition that whilst there had been good participation by a broad range of stakeholders, efforts needed to focus on the inclusion of stakeholders with the relevant experience/skillset to advance the work.

III. Stock take of the outcomes of the work conducted by the OEAHGMI

6. The OEAHGMI agreed interim criteria (document [GFC/OEAHGMI.4/2](#)) to select indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals and an interim fact sheet template aimed at facilitating the standardization of information on indicators and having an objective approach to their selection by the Conference ([GFC/OEHGMI.1/6/3](#))

Workstream 1, led by IOMC, assessed the pertinence of existing indicators identified in the updated “Inventory and analysis report: existing indicators on chemicals and waste management” (document [SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1](#)) in light of the Framework's adopted measurability structure. Based on this assessment, workstream 1:

- a. produced refined list of 22 indicators (document UNEP/[GFC/OEWG.1/INF/12](#), Annex VI), and
 - b. conducted a gap analysis.
7. Given that most of the targets were flagged as either partially addressed or not addressed by these existing indicators, there are gaps that need to be filled to complete the measurability structure. The upcoming work of the OEAHGMI will build upon the outputs of Workstream 1.
8. **Workstream 2** engaged in the following:
- a. the WHO led the work on the High-Level Indicator (HLI) of the burden of disease and reviewed the incorporation and feasibility of integrating the current Global Burden of Disease framework into the HLI.
 - b. the UNEP led the work on the HLI on the Environmental Burden with support of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) together with other interested stakeholders. The task team considered the objectives, scope, including a proposed definition of the “environmental burden” as it applies to chemicals and waste, constituting elements, prioritization and potential structure of the HLI.
9. Considerable work remains to be done in developing both High-Level Indicators. To facilitate the timely finalization of the HLI proposals, we suggest that the organization of work be further refined and accelerated.
10. **Workstream 3** conducted two surveys to identify thematic and sector specific indicators and the results and preliminary analysis showed promising outcomes (document [GFC/OEAHGMI.4/3](#)). The identification of thematic and sector-specific indicators requires further analysis including consideration of how to interface with indicators being developed under Implementation Programmes and other alliances and partnerships. The upcoming work of the OEAHGMI will build upon the outputs of Workstream 3.

IV. Updated organization and schedule of work

11. Further to the work conducted thus far as well as the discussions and feedback received during the OEWG, we would like to propose new working modalities to complete the work before the upcoming International Conference. We believe that the new organization of work will help make effective use of the available resources, time, and expertise.
12. In place of continuing with the parallel work of the three workstreams, we propose that the OEAHGMI continues its intersessional work by establishing and then drawing from a pool of experts. With the support of the Secretariat, we propose to open a call for experts that meet the following criteria:

- i. Technical, international, regional and/or national experience related to indicators;
 3. Proven experience related to the topics of the strategic objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals;
 - ii. Proven expertise in the development of proposals for integrated approaches and/or experience of methodological approaches for indicator integration including specific areas relevant to the scope of the High-Level Indicators;
 - iii. Willingness to participate actively in the development of the work.
13. We propose, in consultation with the Secretariat, to draw on these experts from the pool to participate in small groups that will focus on developing outstanding indicators under each strategic objective. Regional and sectoral balance in addition to expertise and experience will be considered for each group.
 14. Meetings of these small groups of experts will focus on the completion of the identification and/or development of indicators that assess the progress under each strategic objective building on the outputs of workstreams 1 and 3. Their work will include developing headline indicators for each strategic objective. Experts with relevant experience and expertise will be invited to participate in the meetings that are most relevant to their expertise. For example, for strategic objective A, we foresee the need for chemical policy and legislative experience in addition to indicator development expertise; for strategic objective D there will be a need for a greater engagement from companies and the private sector. The frequency of meetings will depend on progress although at least one virtual meeting per strategic objective is planned before November 2025.
 15. For the development of High-Level Indicators, we propose to set up two task forces drawn from the same pool of experts: one for determining how to assess the global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste and one for considering the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste.
 16. The work of the experts will be posted for transparency and reported back to the OEAHGMI for review, discussion and feedback.
 17. The OEAHGMI, as well as the smaller groups of experts and the two task forces will be expected to conduct their work in English. Experts will conduct their work in parallel and meet virtually on a regular basis. The Secretariat will provide administrative and technical support to the work of the groups as necessary. Relevant documentation will be made available on the webpage of the OEAHGMI: [Open-Ended Ad Hoc Group on measurability and indicators | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#) and notified to participants attending the OEAHGMI.
 18. A face-to-face meeting with experts is expected to take place in January 2026 to reflect on the work conducted under the expert groups and the two task forces, ponder reflections and further advance the work, as required. The outcome of this meeting will be reported to the eighth OEAHGMI meeting scheduled for February 2026.
 19. The OEAHGMI will continue to meet on a quarterly basis until the final submission (May 2026) of the final proposal document to the meeting of the International Conference. An updated timeline of the group meetings and major milestones is set out in Figure 1.

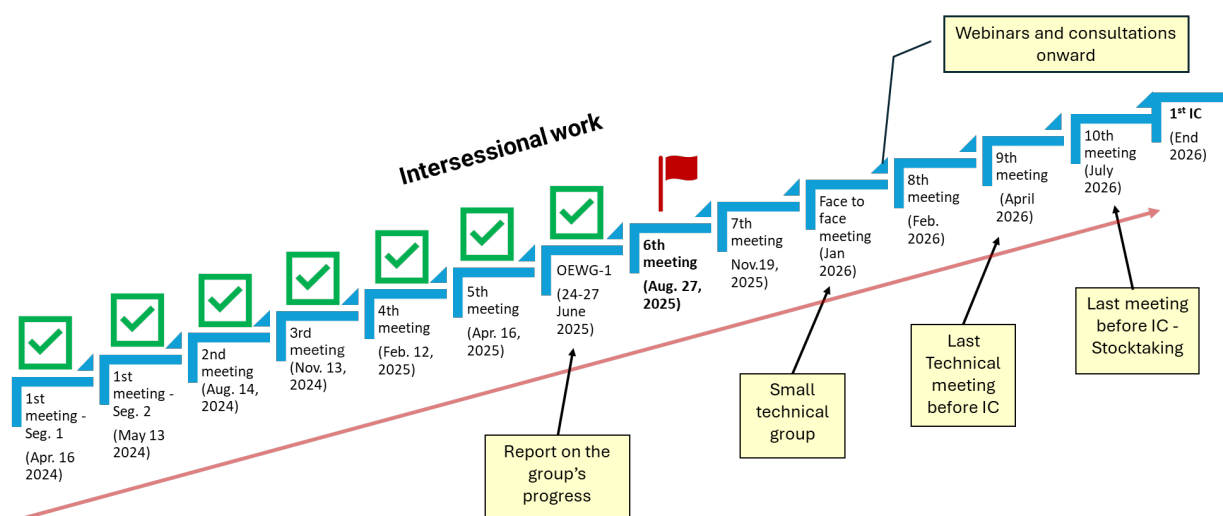


Figure 1. Schedule of work of the group until the First International Conference.

Note: The exact dates indicated are tentative and will be confirmed prior to the sessions.

V. Expected Outcomes and Next Steps

20. Workstream 1, led by IOMC, will complete the factsheets for the refined list of 22 indicators and present them to the OEAHGMI at the November meeting. Once this has been completed, workstream 1 will be discontinued.
21. Workstreams 2 and 3 will discontinue immediately. An open call for experts will be held in early September 2025 to set up a pool of experts.
22. The expert groups and the two task forces will start work once the pool of experts has been set up and provide technical input and specialist knowledge to the OEAHGMI.
23. As set out in resolution V/9, the OEAHGMI group will develop recommendations to finalize the measurability structure and a proposal for a set of indicators for annex III to the Global Framework on Chemicals. These recommendations will include:
 - a. A proposal for a list of indicators for the different targets of the GFC.
 - b. A proposal for headline indicators.
 - c. A proposal for a set of indicators and their construction for the HLI(s) of the burden of diseases and the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste.
 - d. Each proposed indicator will be accompanied by a factsheet setting out the rationale for its selection, along other information, as per the template agreed at the third meeting of OEAHGMI (document [GFC/OEAHGMI.3/3](#)).

If possible, a proposal will be made for the inclusion in the Framework of elements relating to Issues of Concern, Implementation Programmes, capacity building and sector-specific indicators in the measurability structure. The group may also consider establishing cross-cutting indicators (e.g., gender, finance).