

Health Care Industry Sector

Date: Thursday 26th June, 2025

Time: 15:00 - 18:15

Modality: Hybrid

Convened by: WHO in collaboration with the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), Health Care without Harm and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)

Please see detailed concept note below.



World Health
Organization



ATACH
Alliance for Transformative
Action on Climate and Health
WHO hosted network



WORKSHOP:

Safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable supply chains in the healthcare sector

First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals

26 June 2025 – 15:00-18:15 (GMT-3) In Person and Portions Online during Multi-stakeholder Day

15:00–16:30 Introduction and Overview on the Healthcare Implementation Programme

- In person location: Jaguel 1+2 room
- Online: select 'Join as a guest' at:
<https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php?MTID=m2f3665ece5235a49ad3c03e5a4f39d07>>

16:45–18:15 Working Sessions on the Healthcare Implementation Programme

- Breakout Groups #1 and #2 (In-person only): Jaguel 1+2 room
- Breakout Group #3 (Remote only) Advanced registration required:
https://who.zoom.us/meeting/register/qU9rFPFSQuKt_Nfl2nkzig

Scope and Purpose

To take stock of progress on the preparation of a proposal for a GFC healthcare sector Implementation Program (IP) through the engagement of OWEG GFC and other health sector stakeholders and further deliberation on the Terms of Reference

Objectives

- Discuss roles and responsibilities of key stakeholder groups, including health system management, health trade unions, suppliers of health products, UN procurement, standard setting and collaborators, such as the WHO Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health (ATACH)
- Review Draft Terms of Reference. Discuss and identify key concepts and priorities and relevant work of stakeholders such as importance of procurement in supply chain transformation, reducing unnecessary products and procedures, and identifying and prioritizing chemicals of concern

Outcomes

- Draft Terms of Reference updated
- Key stakeholders roles defined
- Important elements discussed and affirmed as critical to Healthcare IP
- Next steps/commitments including linkage to ATACH and other related initiatives

Participants

Health sector participants in the first OEWG of the Global Framework on Chemicals in-person in Uruguay June 2025 with selected portions online. The participants will include:

- Representatives of international organizations, Member States, and other key stakeholders, including health service providers, health sector suppliers, academia, and workers' organisations, subject matter experts, regulators, and policy makers working on chemicals, waste and pollution, climate change and health, environmental sustainability, plastic chemicals in healthcare products, and healthcare waste management, procurement and supply chains.

Provisional Agenda

15:00 - 15:10 Welcome and overview - Virunya Bhat, WHO

15:10 - 15:20 Why the healthcare sector is important for GFC implementation - WHO and ATACH

Moderated by Virunya Bhat

- Why healthcare? - Susan Wilburn, Health Care Without Harm
- WHO, ATACH and 78th World Health Assembly - Megha Rathi, WHO

15:20 - 15:50 Current perspectives from some partner organizations

- **WHO:** Work to date and findings from WHO Expert Consultation and IOMC Paris Workshop - Megha Rathi
- **HCWH:** Work to date and progress on Draft TOR and key elements - Susan Wilburn
- **UNEP:** Key aspects of pharmaceuticals in the environment for a healthcare implementation programme - Fernando Gastón Iturburu
- **UNDP:** Lessons learned from healthcare initiatives - Hilda Van der Veen
- **ILO:** Perspectives from the labour sector – Halshka Graczyk

15:50 - 16:05 Demonstrating momentum in the sector: Selected Case Studies

- Chemical Inventories and phase-out of chemicals of concern in Brazil Hospitals with a focus on PVC substitution in Colombia- Alessandra Azevedo, Healthy Hospitals Project, Brazil
- Sustainable procurement of safer chemicals in India- Pankaj Bector, Director Procurement, National Center for Disease Control, India

16:05 - 16:15 Key stakeholders: Interactive brainstorm - Andrea Rother, World Federation of Public Health Associations

16:15 - 16:30 Introduction and objectives of the breakout groups/working session

16:30 - 16:45 Break

16:45- 17:-45 Breakout sessions

Identify chair and rapporteur to present a summary of the discussion during the report back

- **Breakout Workgroup 1 (in person only): Key concepts**
 - Key concepts and priorities evidenced in progress to date in the draft Terms of Reference including: supply chain, sustainable procurement, supply chain transformation, priority chemicals of concern, unnecessary products and suggest changes and improvements.
 - Identify key stakeholders
 - **Guiding Questions:**
 - Are the key elements identified appropriate for the health sector implementation programme?
 - Are there any elements that are missing?
 - Which relevant GFC targets would a healthcare sector IP help to achieve?
 - What are the priority activities that would contribute to a health IP?
 - What are some of the key criteria that could help build successful pilots to further develop the proposed IP?
- **Breakout Workgroup 2 (in person only): Mapping current activity**
 - Activities, tools and policies already underway that advance the work to be encompassed in Terms of Reference
 - **Example Activities:**
 - A. PVC substitution in Colombia, Philippines and India
 - B. Plastic audits and elimination of unnecessary plastics (gloves)
 - C. European Phase -out list of chemicals
 - D. Pharmaceutical take-back initiatives
 - **Guiding Questions:**
 - What other healthcare sector GFC implementation activities are underway?
 - Key stakeholders involved
 - What examples of the key concepts have been implemented in your programme (national, health system, organizational): sustainable procurement, supply chain transformation, identifying and reducing priority chemicals of concern, reducing unnecessary products and waste
 - What tools and resources have you used to implement climate resilient environmentally sustainable supply chains ?
 - Can you provide examples of programmes that incorporate all of these elements: occupational health, priority chemicals of concern and climate resilient, low carbon health systems?
 - Among the activities underway, what components could be included in a pilot project between now and GFC IC1 (2026) ?
 - What tools and resources are needed in order to support implementation?
- **Breakout Workgroup 3 (online only): Key concepts, stakeholders, policies, activities and tools already underway that advance the work to be encompassed in Terms of Reference**

17:45 - 18:15 Report back and next steps