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

Online, 13 November 2024, 14:00-16:30 CET

**Thought starter – On the criteria to select indicators of the Global
Framework on Chemicals**

Note by the secretariat

1. At the second segment of the first meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators (OEAHGMI) the group agreed that the secretariat, in coordination with the Co-Chairs, should develop a thought starter on criteria to select indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals.
2. The requested thought starter is attached in the Annex to this document. The thought starter is a revised version of document GFC/OEAHGMI.2/2 that was submitted at the second meeting of the OEAHGMI and revised by the secretariat, in consultation with the Co-Chairs, based on feedback received from stakeholders.

Annex: Thought starter – On the criteria to select indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals

Background

At its Fifth Session held from 25 to 29 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), adopted the “Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste”, along with a set of resolutions to support implementation.

The Framework includes a measurability structure in its Annex III, described in its section XI. The measurability structure aims to facilitate reporting and monitoring of progress and impact made in the implementation of the Framework and contribute to assessing progress towards the Vision.

The International Conference has established an open-ended ad hoc group (OEAHG) on measurability and indicators that will work on preparing recommendations for finalizing the measurability structure and a proposal for a set of indicators.

The measurability structure is composed of different categories of indicators and lays out a set of criteria that the indicators meet. All indicators in the measurability structure will be either from a list of readily available existing indicators or new indicators.

This thought starter intends to provide an insight of the criteria to be used in the process of reviewing and screening indicators that align with the Vision, Strategic Objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Categories of indicators in Annex III to the Framework

The measurability structure presents three categories of indicators to be used to track progress in the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals:

- a) High-level indicators: A set of high-level indicators is necessary to address the progress of the Framework in meeting its Vision. These indicators relate to the impact of chemicals and waste on human health and on the environment and they are used for tracking national, regional, and global progress and for communication purposes. These indicators are:
 - i. The global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste;
 - ii. The global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste.
- b) Headline indicators: These indicators monitor specific components of each strategic objective at national, regional, and global levels. They are focused on outcomes related to chemicals and waste management;
- c) Target indicators: These indicators track progress in reaching the targets of the Framework. They include process indicators that measure actions taken, and impact indicators that measure results achieved against the targets. Target indicators are for thematic or in-depth analysis of each target and they are used at global, regional, and national levels where relevant;
- d) Other indicators, as decided.

Each indicator is included in the Framework only once, except for those that are relevant to more than one target or strategic objective. It is important for indicators to be equipped with a clear and concise factsheet.

Set of criteria in Annex III to the Framework

A set of criteria for the indicators is provided in Annex III to the Framework. The criteria are listed here and expanded:

- a) Relevance and/or meaningfulness to the Framework: Relevant indicators are actionable and produced in a timely manner. An indicator should be clearly linked to one or more targets and provide robust measures of progress towards the target(s). The indicator should be relevant to policy formulation and provide enough information for policy making. It should also be sensitive and responsive to policy interventions and other underlying causes of change at the appropriate level (global, regional, national, and local). For global monitoring, the indicator should be relevant to all countries.
- b) Availability of data to create a baseline and to assess progress: To ensure the effectiveness of indicators, historical data, where available, are needed to establish a baseline. Reliable and verifiable data sources are essential to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the indicators. The baseline data will allow for the measurements of progress over time and will facilitate the assessment of the Framework's implementation.
- c) Have a designated custodian: Each indicator should have a designated custodian responsible for data collection and maintenance. This custodian should have the necessary resources and expertise to manage the indicator effectively. There is one or more designated lead responsible agencies for timely and high-quality reporting of the indicator and for undertaking the related analysis. At the international level, there should be an agency or agencies responsible to aggregate national or regional data, development and dissemination of concepts, methods and analysis used, describing the assessment of progress made globally and by regions. In addition, the agency should provide guidance and/or assistance to countries to strengthen their capacity to produce data necessary for the indicators.
- d) Allow for regular updating to help ensure sustainability of the measurement: Indicators should be updated regularly to ensure they reflect current conditions and trends. To the greatest extent possible, indicators should be constructed from well-established sources of public and private data. The capacity for data collection and analysis to support the indicator should exist at national and international levels.
- e) Allow for easy access to data and enable stakeholder participation in data collection: Data for indicators should be publicly available and accessible to ensure transparency. Stakeholders should be actively involved in the development and maintenance of the indicators, ensuring that the data collected is relevant and has wide stakeholder acceptance. Additionally, the indicator should be clear and easy to understand for policy makers, the general public and other stakeholders, and unambiguous for interpreting. Use of language and terminology and the presentation of information should be carefully considered.
- f) Data comparability through standardized methodologies: Standardized data collection and processing allows for data comparability and accurate analysis.

These criteria were used by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to review and screen the long list of 279 existing indicators originally identified as relevant to the chemical and waste agenda. These criteria contributed to reducing the number of indicators down to 63.

Criteria to identify priority indicators for further consideration

The Co-Chairs of the OEAHG on measurability and indicators have proposed to revisit the list of 63 indicators and select two groups of top priority indicators taking into account three main criteria. The

list of criteria selected to be used for this new analysis includes two criteria from the set given in the measurability structure and proposes one new criterion:

- a) Relevance/meaningfulness to the Global Framework on Chemicals (this criterion was already identified as criteria a) in Annex III)
- b) Availability of data (this criterion was already identified as criteria b) in Annex III)
- g) Demonstration of progress – the indicator should show change over time. It is recommended that those indicators that do not evolve over time or are not expected to further evolve over time in future would not be included in the priority group (this is an additional suggested criterion)

Conclusions

Selecting appropriate indicators for the Framework is crucial for effective monitoring, for measuring progress and for reporting. The criteria that are listed in Annex III to the Framework have been reflected upon in this thought starter with the aim to provide a comprehensive guide that can support stakeholders in their analysis and selection of indicators that will enable measurement of progress towards achieving the Vision and Strategic Objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals.