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

Online, 12 February 2025, 14:00-16:30 CET

Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Open-ended Ad hoc Group on Measurability and Indicators

1. Opening and welcome

Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) and Ms. Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Ad hoc Group on Measurability and indicators (OEAHGMI) opened the Fourth Meeting of the Ad hoc Group at 14:00 CET on 12 February 2025 and welcomed participants.

2. Organizational matters

a) Adoption of the agenda

The Co-Chair presented the provisional agenda for the meeting ([GFC/OEAHGMI.4/1/Rev.2](#)) that was posted on 11 February 2025 on the webpage of the Fourth Meeting of the OEAHGMI.

The Co-Chair invited participants to raise additional points under agenda item 8, any other business. With no other items raised, the provisional agenda was adopted.

b) Organization of work

The Co-Chair informed participants that the working documents for the meeting were available on the webpage dedicated to the [fourth meeting](#). With respect to the frequency of meetings, she reiterated that the group was expected to convene every quarter for two to three hours depending on the agenda to advance its work, and that meetings will be held in an online setting. Finally, she reminded that meetings will be conducted in English only.

The Co-Chair also informed the meeting that while the website of the Global Framework on Chemicals (www.chemicalsframework.org) is transitioning to a new website (<https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals>), the webpage of the OEAHGMI, including documents posted for the Ad hoc Group, will remain under www.chemicalsframework.org and further updates will be shared in due course.

The Co-Chair informed the meeting of the number of registrations per stakeholder group of the task teams of the three workstreams (as of 28 January 2025): Workstream 1, Assessment of existing indicators identified in document SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1: 127 participants (of which 44 were from NGO/civil society, 54 from Government/public sector, 11 from private sector/industry, 10 from academia/research institute, and 8 from IGO); Workstream 2, Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure: 113 participants (of which 37 were from NGO/civil society, 43 from Government/public sector, 11 from private sector/industry, 12 from academia/research institute, and 10 from IGO); and Workstream 3, Identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific indicators: 126 participants (of which 49 were from NGO/civil society, 43 from Government/public sector, 13 from private sector/industry, 13 from academia/research institute, and 8 from IGO). The Co-Chair also shared the link to register to the three workstreams “[Task Team Registration – Measurability and Indicators Workstreams](#)”.

3. Update on the thought starters

a. Interim criteria to select indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals

The Co-Chair introduced document [GFC/OEAHGMI.4 /2 “Interim criteria to select indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals”](#) that was posted on the website on 5 February 2025. The document presented a revised version of the “Thought starter – On the criteria to select indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals” that was introduced at the Third Meeting of the OEAHGMI (document GFC/OEAHGMI.3/2) and took into account input and comments that were submitted to the Secretariat by stakeholders by 29 November 2024. The Secretariat then indicated that the most important changes to the text concerned criteria b), d) and e) and reflected a request to make sure that the screening process of indicators would not exclude potential new indicators that do not have historical data yet to create a baseline and to ensure public availability of data and multistakeholder involvement in the entire process. The Co-Chair proposed to agree as a group to use this as a finalized interim document to guide the work on indicators, pending non-receipt of additional feedback and/or comments on the document by 28 February 2025.

b. Proposed Factsheet template for an indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals

The Secretariat informed the Ad hoc Group that no further comments were received on the template factsheet (document [GFC/OEAHGMI.3/3 “Thought starter – Proposed Factsheet template for indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals”](#)) by the 29 November 2024 and, for this reason, this document is the latest version of the template factsheet. The Co-Chair proposed to agree as a group to use this as the version of the template factsheet to test the indicators, pending non-receipt of additional feedback and/or comments on the document by 28 February 2025. The template factsheet will be revisited, if necessary, after the testing.

4. Update on the Workstreams

a. Update on progress of work under Workstream 1

The Co-Chair recalled that the task of Workstream 1 is to streamline and strengthen the indicators with the aim to reduce their number and enhance their robustness. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), team leader of Workstream 1, agreed to continue working towards the finalization of the list of priority indicators including conducting a gap analysis.

The IOMC informed the meeting that the task team conducted a survey that was open between 24 September and 13 October 2024 with the objective to identify priority indicators from the existing list of 63 indicators through a refinement process according to their relevance to the Framework, availability of data and demonstration of progress. The survey received 45 responses, and 22 unique indicators were identified that included 15 indicators with no objections and 7 with one objection. The IOMC presented a proposal for showcasing the indicators in the measurability structure that is in Annex III to the Framework and proposed as next steps to seek contribution from the task team on the gap analysis with a survey that will be launched in March 2025. The survey will be focused on identifying how well the proposed indicators address a target and will help in identifying targets that do not have matching indicators. In addition, the Co-Chairs encouraged the task team to start testing the factsheets.

b. Update on progress of work under Workstream 3

The Co-Chair recalled that the task of Workstream 3, led by the Secretariat, is to identify indicators (either existing or under development) covering different sectors and themes of relevance to the Global Framework on Chemicals. She added that at the Third Meeting the Secretariat agreed to share the report “Questionnaire on thematic and sector-specific indicators relevant to the GFC and to the IOMC proposed GFC implementation programme - Results and analysis of the responses” with the task team and collect its input and feedback. The revised version of the report (document [GFC/OEAHGMI.4/3](#)) was posted on 2 February 2025.

The Secretariat subsequently presented some highlights of the report including indicators that are in use by different stakeholder groups and ongoing collaborations and initiatives. Emphasis was given to specific areas that require further work when identifying and developing indicators, including chemical identity information, innovation in green and sustainable chemistry, reporting standards, risk assessment and management, pesticide consumption, etc.. Participants expressed concern that the questionnaire,

launched to gather input to support the Secretariat in the scoping exercise, received a low number of responses with respect to the number of stakeholders that were registered to Workstream 3 at the time the questionnaire was open and particularly from the industry sector. It was suggested that more contributions to the work of this Workstream are required and will be sought. The IOMC Workshop on Implementation Programmes working with economic and industry sectors that will take place between 24 and 27 February 2025 was anticipated to offer a good opportunity to promote the work of Workstream 3 and engage with more stakeholders.

c. Update on progress of work under Workstream 2

The Co-Chair recalled that the mandate of the task team of Workstream 2 is to develop additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure including two high-level indicators. UNEP and WHO agreed to lead the task team, with the support of interested stakeholders, in the development of high-level indicators on the global environmental burden and on the global burden of disease, respectively.

i. High-level indicator on the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste

UNEP reported on the progress made by the task team since the Third Meeting of the Ad hoc Group. Four main objectives for the high-level indicator were identified and proposed by UNEP and the task team:

1. Demonstrate impacts of chemicals and waste and show progress of the GFC;
2. Reflect trends, releases and concentrations of chemicals and waste;
3. Raise awareness, and engage with the broader public; and
4. Encourage and track response measures.

Views of the task team on the proposed scope of the high-level indicator were also clustered in four pillars:

1. Production, use/consumption, trade and release of chemicals and waste;
2. Presence of chemicals and waste in environmental matrices;
3. Response measures – regulatory and voluntary approaches;
4. Impact of chemicals and waste on the environment.

Finally, UNEP listed existing sources of information that will support the development of the high-level indicator. Stakeholders expressed appreciation for the work done thus far by UNEP and stressed that the high-level indicator should be science-based. Diverging opinions were expressed on whether the development of the high-level indicator should consider linking emissions to impacts, or, in the case when this approach is not feasible globally, the measurement of release of selected chemicals might be an easier approach for most countries (e.g. Total Applied Toxicity method for pesticides). Aggregation of national data on chemicals release could then inform a high-level indicator while considering other factors such as environmental concentrations, impacts, etc.

ii. High-level indicator on the global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste

WHO reported on the progress made by the task team since the Third Meeting of the Ad hoc Group. WHO informed the Ad hoc Group that the existing global burden of disease systems have a well-established methodology but are limited in scope/applicability. Estimated existing global burden chemicals and burden of disease from wastes will need separate definition and assessment. She indicated that existing approaches are to be strengthened and extended, and the development of a composite indicator from existing “lower level” indicators could be considered. A participant observed that, besides diseases caused by chemicals, also immediate or acute effects on health (e.g. skin burns from corrosive chemicals) due to chemicals should be considered when developing indicators.

5. **OEWG preparation**

The Secretariat introduced the tentative schedule for the GFC Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) and pre-meetings. The OEWG will take place from 24 to 27 June 2025 (pre-meetings on 22 and 23 June) at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The Secretariat added that the plenary will be streamed but without the possibility of intervention. A technical briefing on Measurability is planned for 23 June and during the OEWG there will be opportunities for the Ad hoc Group to meet in

Break-out Groups (BOGs), depending on needs. Participants stressed that the OEWG will give the opportunity to meet in person and capture views and input, including from the regions, on the work that is being done on the measurability structure.

The Co-Chair clarified that, given that the OEAHGMI and the OEWG are both subsidiary bodies of the International Conference, negotiations on indicators will not take place at the OEWG, however, informal groups, such as the BOGs, will be possible and will offer an opportunity to present the outcome of the work done thus far with a wider audience, exchange views, identify and fill gaps (e.g. headline indicators, reporting methods) and exchange views on the intersessional work ahead. The Co-Chairs will prepare a draft proposal with potential topics to be discussed during the BOGs. It was observed that OEWG could be seen as a stock-take moment and could potentially attract more people to participate in the Ad hoc Group, though attention should be paid to avoiding the delay in the advancement of work that might be caused if new stakeholders join the Ad hoc Group. A participant proposed using the side events to present other works that are being undertaken on indicators and other frameworks that could be relevant and feed into the Workstreams (e.g. from the EPA, the European Commission, the Chemical Footprint Programme). A proposal to organize a masterclass dedicated to measurability and indicators at the OEWG was also made. The Co-Chair requested the Ad hoc Group to send suggestions of topics for the BOGs which will be considered by the Co-Chairs.

6. Next steps

The Co-Chair suggested that the Fifth Meeting of the OEAHGMI be held on 16 April 2025 (time tbc), and that date was agreed upon by the group.

The Co-Chair requested the following deliverables to be met by the task teams:

Workstream1 – (Assessment of existing indicators identified in document SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1)

As agreed by the IOMC, they will finalize the list of priority indicators and conduct a gap analysis and will seek contributions from the task team through a survey. The outcome of this work will be presented by the IOMC at the next meeting of Workstream 1 and at the Fifth Meeting of the OEAHGMI.

Workstream 3 – (Identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific work)

The Secretariat will continue working on the assessment of indicators resulting from the questionnaire and presented in the report. At the same time, the Secretariat will engage with more stakeholders including by launching a new survey and reaching out directly to specific stakeholders. A meeting with the task team will also be organized. The Secretariat will report back on progress at the Fifth Meeting of the OEAHGMI.

Workstream 2 - (Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure: global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste indicator)

UNEP will continue refining the proposed objective and scope based on the feedback and input received at the Second Meeting of the task team. UNEP will also call for information on existing sources of information and review them against the GFC criteria. Consultations with experts will continue and a task team meeting will be organized in March 2025. UNEP will report back on progress at the Fifth Meeting of the OEAHGMI.

Workstream 2 – (Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure: global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste indicator)

WHO and the task team of workstream 2 will continue the work as proposed including hosting a webinar with the participation of experts, before the next meeting of the Ad hoc Group. WHO will report back on progress at the Fifth Meeting of the OEAHGMI.

The Co-Chair reminded the Ad hoc Group of the request to send proposals on topics to be discussed at the BOGs and on which day (based on the tentative schedule) they would recommend these discussions take place. A two-week period was proposed to submit inputs to be sent to the secretariat (unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org).

Finally, the Co-Chair recalled that new comments to the interim criteria (document GFC/OEAHGMI.4/2) and to the template factsheet (document GFC/OEAHGMI.3/3) could be submitted to the secretariat (unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org) no later than 28 February 2025 and that if no comments were received the documents would be considered in their final version.

7. Any other business

No items were raised under any other business.

8. Closure of the meeting

The Co-Chairs thanked the participants for their participation and the progress achieved thus far and closed the meeting at 16:30 CET.
