

**Global Framework on Chemicals –
for a Planet Free of Harm from
Chemicals and Waste**

Distr.: Limited
26 June 2025
English only

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

**Draft report of the Open-ended Working Group of the Global
Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from
Chemicals and Waste on the work of its first meeting****Addendum****I. Global Framework on Chemicals (agenda item 3)****A. Implementation arrangements (resolution V/8)**

1. [continued]

2. Reporting on the work of the contact group on implementation arrangements, the Co-Chair said that the group had discussed the implementation programmes as set out in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/11. Participants had expressed general support for the overall aims of the programmes and for their current draft terms of reference. Final decisions on governance could only be made once the implementation programmes had been further developed. The report by the Co--Chairs on the work of the contact group is set out in annex [--] to the present report.

B. Global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides (resolution V/11)

3. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a note by the secretariat on the global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/10) and an information document on the global alliance (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/14), containing a report on the establishment of the global alliance in its annex. The report had been prepared by a task force established to coordinate the work of the global alliance, consisting of experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme, UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO).

4. A representative of FAO provided an oral report on the work of the task force. After studying similar global alliances, the task force, through a series of discussions and consultations with relevant stakeholders such as the International Labour Organization, the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention, had developed a modality for the global alliance, including an operational framework. The task force members planned to hold further discussions with stakeholders in the margins of the current meeting, including on interim arrangements such as the appointment of the advisory council, and would then start the process of formulating the global alliance. Recalling the importance of addressing highly hazardous pesticides for the sustainability of agriculture, human health and the environment as well as the complexity of the issue, he urged all participants to participate in and support the establishment and operation of the alliance.

5. In the ensuing discussion, many participants, some of whom spoke on behalf of groups of countries, expressed appreciation for the work done by the task force and indicated their support for the creation of the global alliance. Many of them, including one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, acknowledged the alliance as an important means of supporting the transition to safer alternatives and thus of achieving target A7 of the Global Framework. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, and some stakeholders affirmed their willingness to support the alliance and further engage in advancing the achievement of the respective objectives and targets of the Framework.
6. Several representatives raised concerns, however, regarding the proliferation of multilateral spaces where issues such as highly hazardous pesticides were addressed, which, some noted, could be challenging for countries with limited resources. One suggested that, owing to the nature of highly hazardous pesticides, the issue would be better addressed in a forum like the FAO Committee on Agriculture.
7. A number of participants, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the creation of the global alliance and pressed for the alliance to be launched as soon as late 2025 or early 2026, as that would enable it to report on progress at the first session of the International Conference, in line with resolution V/11. Several stakeholders called on the Open-ended Working Group to devise a clear plan for a rapid launch, including for the formation of an interim steering committee, opening of a membership process and activation of thematic working groups, with one also urging Member States and partners to formally express their intention to join the alliance and to commit financial and technical support to its success.
8. Many of those who spoke during the discussion offered comments and suggestions on the draft operational framework for the alliance as set out in the annex to the task group's report. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, and some stakeholders expressed overall support for the draft operational framework. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries also expressed interest in a wider consultation with interested stakeholders. Several participants indicated that the governance structure of the alliance should reflect the multi-stakeholder, multisectoral approach of the Global Framework and promote meaningful engagement by civil society, with one specifying the need for geographical representation, gender balance and intergenerational representation, including dedicated youth seats on the advisory council, and another emphasizing the need for adequate representation of low-income and middle-income countries.
9. Several participants questioned the scope of the alliance, with one saying that it went beyond the wording of resolution V/11 and another calling for the scope to be clarified in order to enhance the operational viability of the alliance and ensure tangible results.
10. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, recommended that the task force develop a detailed action plan providing specific milestones and actions for achieving the goals of the alliance. She further called for a stakeholder engagement framework establishing clear guidelines on how to engage stakeholders and encourage collaboration and investment in safer alternatives, as well as a means of encouraging communities to monitor and evaluate their own pesticide use and safety. Another participant called for progress, through the global alliance, in the areas of a just transition to sustainable production models; strengthening of regulatory and health surveillance through international cooperation, technical assistance, training and updating of regulatory frameworks; and environmental justice and territorial equity.
11. Some representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries recommended that measurable indicators be developed for review by the International Conference to ensure that the objectives of the alliance were being met. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the importance of means of implementation to ensure the success of the alliance, with one noting with concern that, in line with paragraph 30 of the operational framework, no dedicated funding was foreseen for the alliance. In the same vein, one stakeholder urged all organizations and interested parties to enable the financing of all essential elements for the alliance.
12. In terms of comments on specific parts of the draft operational framework, one representative, supported by several others, said that paragraph 18 (c), which proposed promoting a transition towards sustainable crop production systems, including alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides, neglected to consider the economic and social pillars of sustainability, and suggested a review of that area of work in favour of a truly comprehensive and balanced approach that reflected the diversity of productive realities.
13. In addition to the above, individual participants suggested that the task force, in developing the operational framework, explore international cooperation mechanisms to ensure equitable access to

alternative technologies, in line with the principle of just transition enshrined in the Global Framework; exercise caution in making explicit reference to the technical criteria of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management in defining highly hazardous pesticides in paragraph 9, and instead use relevant multilateral environmental agreements as guiding references; use the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint as a reference in terms of support for the development of legal and regulatory frameworks and implementation of pilot projects for replacing highly hazardous pesticides; reference the goal of the alliance in sections 1, 2 and 4 of the draft operational framework; add the overarching goal of the alliance to section 2, emulating the lead paint alliance by emphasizing the protection of children's health and prevention of their exposure to highly hazardous pesticides; specify, in paragraph 8 of the operational framework, that the action plan would remain voluntary in nature; allow open participation in the global alliance rather than membership contingent on acceptance as stated in paragraph 17; provide for greater oversight by the International Conference, including approval of the alliance action plan, the terms of reference for and co-chairs of the technical working groups, and alliance reports and publications; and provide for awareness-raising on health, economic and environmental impacts, aimed at governments, pesticide regulators, civil society, development agencies, the media and the general public.

14. The Open-ended Working Group noted that the issue of highly hazardous pesticides might also be discussed under the sub-item on emerging policy issues and agreed that the comments provided would be reflected in the present report.

C. Global Framework on Chemicals Fund (resolution V/3)

15. [continued]

16. Reporting on the work of the informal group on the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, the Co-Chair of the group said that participants had discussed the revision of the terms of reference of the Fund for consideration by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals at its first session. Participants had highlighted the need for clarity regarding the financing of the secretariat and the operational costs of the Fund. Regarding the interpretation of eligibility criteria, the application guidelines should reflect the fact that resolution V/3 did not distinguish between different groups of developing countries. The matter of the eligibility of applications from civil society organizations had been raised, and participants had recalled that the evaluation of the Quick Start Programme had highlighted the effectiveness of projects led by civil society.

17. Concerning the composition of the Executive Board, participants had discussed establishing a minimum threshold for donors' Board membership, considering the role of in-kind contributors in the Board's work, and reflecting upon a more inclusive participation of stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations and sectoral representatives in the Board's decision-making processes. The question of whether earmarked contributions would be permitted had also been raised.

18. With regard to the role of national focal points in the endorsement of projects, while participants had acknowledged the importance of coordination by national focal points, they had expressed concern that the current endorsement procedures created additional barriers for trade unions and civil society organizations. The participants had shared ideas on how to enhance multisectoral engagement, including limiting the number of projects that could be submitted in each round of funding, for example, to two per country, one from Government and one from a civil society organization.

19. The Chair, thanking the informal group for its work, said that the Executive Board looked forward to receiving written input until the end of July 2025 and that such written input, as well as the comments made during the current meeting, would be considered as part of the Executive Board's deliberations at a forthcoming meeting, when the terms of reference would be reviewed and a proposal put forward for consideration by the International Conference at its first session.

20. The Open-ended Working Group agreed that the report of the contact group would be reflected in the present report.

D. Emerging policy issues and issues of concern (resolution V/5)

21. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the note by the secretariat on emerging policy issues and issues of concern (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/5), which included preliminary input to the report by the IOMC participating organizations on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, as requested in paragraph 4 of International Conference on Chemicals Management resolution V/5, and an information document containing a report on the Partnership for a Lead-free Future (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/7).

22. A representative of IOMC said that the participating organizations had proposed continuing work on most of the emerging policy issues and issues of concern, and expanding the scope of the lead in paint issue to include all lead-related environmental and health risks and sources. The Open-ended Working Group might wish to consider the extent to which issues of concern could be integrated into the implementation programmes of the Framework.

23. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives and one stakeholder said that some of the emerging policy issues and issues of concern could be incorporated into the implementation programmes. They stressed the importance of avoiding duplicating the work of other environmental bodies and of focusing the available resources on areas most in need of attention under the Framework. One representative said that the core activities relating to the sound management of chemicals and waste should take priority over emerging policy issues or issues of concern when allocating resources. Several stakeholders said that none of the issues in question had been tackled fully and all should be considered by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals at its first session. One participant called for consultations to be held with stakeholders in the run-up to the first session of the Conference to gather inputs and data on the various issues of concern.

24. Other participants said that developing countries should participate fully in determining emerging policy issues and issues of concern and devising the corresponding workplans. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries in the management of emerging issues should be enhanced.

25. Some stakeholders said that the proposal to expand the scope of the issue of lead in paint to include all lead-related environmental and health risks and sources, as set out in a conference room paper submitted by the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, reflected the importance of addressing the use of lead in a range of consumer products, including batteries, cosmetics and ceramics, in line with World Health Assembly resolution 78.27 on galvanizing global support for a lead-free future. Several representatives expressed support for the proposal, and one said that sources of other metals, such as arsenic and chromium, should also be included given their harmful effects on health and their use in a variety of applications. One representative questioned whether lead in paint should be considered as an emerging policy issue in view of the progress that had been made in that area by other environmental platforms. One stakeholder suggested that exposure to sources of lead other than paint should be considered as a separate issue of concern, and another stakeholder said that specific measures for different sources of lead were required in order to address the issue effectively.

26. One participant sought clarification of the procedural implications of the proposal set out in the conference room paper, as the Global Framework on Chemicals provided no guidance on the procedure for expanding the scope of an existing issue of concern. She asked whether the proposal would be forwarded to the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals for formal consideration, noting that stakeholders should be given sufficient time to assess the scope and implications of the proposal and any related workplans. Furthermore, any future recommendation related to restrictions on substances or products should be supported by national impact assessments on the technical and economic feasibility of alternatives. Regarding the proposal to remove nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials as an issue of concern, she recommended a cautious approach and sought clarification of the basis for the proposal, given the increasing use and potential risks associated with nanomaterials.

27. Subsequently, the Open-ended Working Group agreed to establish a contact group on emerging policy issues and issues of concern. The contact group was mandated to reflect on the proposals submitted by the IOMC participating organizations regarding existing emerging policy issues and issues of concern, provide guidance for the continued implementation of resolution V/5, and consider the proposal to expand the scope of the issue of lead in paint, as set out in a conference room paper. The deliberations of the contact group were to be guided by resolution V/5; working documents UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/5 and UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/10; information documents UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/7, UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/8, UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/11, UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/14 and UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/15; and the conference room paper. The outcomes of the contact group would be transmitted to IOMC for consideration and subsequently presented to the International Conference. The Co-Chairs of the contact group would be Džejna Milaković-Ramadani (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Lamin Jaiteh (the Gambia).

28. [to be completed]

E. International cooperation and coordination (resolution V/6)

29. Introducing the sub-item, a representative of the secretariat provided an overview of the relevant documents, including a note by the secretariat entitled “International cooperation and coordination: interlinkages and activities to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals” (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/6), and information documents on activities of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in support of implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/8), and on contributions of the chemicals and waste international agreements and frameworks to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/9).

30. A representative of UNEP, providing a report on the outcomes of the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, and the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel, said that the newly established Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution would strengthen the science-policy interface across the life cycle of chemicals, waste and pollution, ensuring that policymakers were equipped with independent, policy-relevant scientific advice. The resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group had met the previous week to finalize the foundational document, rules of procedure and arrangements for the operations of the Panel. The current foundational document outlined the objectives, functions, scope of work and institutional arrangements of the Panel, including the roles of the plenary, the Bureau and the subsidiary bodies. Key issues that remained under discussion were stakeholder participation, a conflict-of-interest policy and modalities for intersessional work. The Panel was not a duplication of existing bodies, rather it was a complementary mechanism that sought to provide integrated, authoritative scientific assessments and policy-relevant advice across the chemicals and pollution agenda. It would be closely linked to the Global Framework on Chemicals, with potential for synergies to support implementation, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing.

31. A representative of the IOMC secretariat drew attention to the acknowledgement of several IOMC participating organizations in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/6, and to the detailed information set out in UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/8 on the activities undertaken by all IOMC participating organizations since the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which was relevant for the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

32. In the ensuing discussion, many participants, including several who spoke on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for the efforts to ensure cooperation and coordination between the Global Framework on Chemicals and multilateral agreements, as well as with United Nations bodies and international organizations, in order to address chemicals and waste management as a cross-cutting issue. A number of participants, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, also highlighted the need to ensure a multi-stakeholder and multisectoral approach as a matter of priority, with the full and meaningful participation of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, workers, youth and communities most affected by pollution and toxic waste.

33. Many representatives, including some who spoke on behalf of groups of countries, commended the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, which should collaborate closely with the Global Framework on Chemicals. Several representatives, including some representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries, underscored the importance of avoiding the duplication of efforts and promoting synergies that could maximize the impact of resources and of existing multilateral environmental agreements. In that connection, one representative highlighted the need to take into account negotiation processes already under way, including the new Panel and the proposed international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. In addition, one representative underscored the importance of delineating institutional goals and ensuring complementarity between platforms and processes related to science and policy, with a view to ensuring credibility and effectiveness.

34. Some participants drew attention to the need to prioritize synergies between the Global Framework on Chemicals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In that connection, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also acknowledged a report under the Basel Convention on the contributions of the chemicals and waste international agreements and frameworks to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (UNEP/CHW.17/INF/59). One stakeholder highlighted the fact that the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions played a key role in contributing to the targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the United Nations General Assembly should be invited to hold a dedicated high-level dialogue on pollution, with a view to

considering the work to combat pollution through the Global Framework on Chemicals and beyond. Some stakeholders also suggested that the Global Framework on Chemicals should join the Environment Management Group, which would be critical to raising the profile of the Framework.

35. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the integration of effective chemicals and waste management into national development plans and policies required solid international support, particularly for developing countries needing technical and financial assistance. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that enhanced collaboration was needed to ensure respect for the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and sustainable development. To that end, international partnership, together with regional and subregional platforms, should be strengthened in order to facilitate coordination, information exchange, capacity-building and joint action tailored to chemical management needs in Africa, and developing countries should be empowered to meet their objectives to protect human health and the environment. One stakeholder said that international coordination needed to prioritize the inclusion of voices from the global South, ensuring access to technical support and to predictable, sustainable funding for South-South cooperation, as solutions must be driven by those most affected. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that adequate and predictable resources needed to be mobilized to support national initiatives. One stakeholder noted that political and financial commitments were urgently needed to address both the funding shortfall to the Global Framework on Chemicals and the larger budget crisis faced by the United Nations system.

36. One representative proposed that alternative language be used under the proposed actions in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/6, subparagraph 13 (b), to welcome the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution as an important contributor to the sound management of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention, and to request the secretariat to ensure ongoing engagement with the new Panel in line with its activities as described in resolution V/12.

37. One representative, reiterating her country's national position, said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals were not legally binding, and could be interpreted freely by all States in exercise of their sovereignty. That national position applied to any references to the 2030 Agenda or the Goals, and to any paragraphs containing wording that ran counter to the guiding principles on the protection of life, freedom and private property.

38. The Open-ended Working Group agreed that the comments provided would be reflected in the present report.

F. National focal points (resolution V/7)

39. Introducing the sub-item, a representative of the secretariat provided an overview of the relevant documents, namely a note by the secretariat on national focal points (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/7) and an information document on the same subject (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/10).

40. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, and some stakeholders welcomed the documents and commended the secretariat for the development of guidelines for national focal points, which, they said, were key to the effective implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals, and should therefore receive adequate support. A number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, and some stakeholders highlighted the importance of fostering a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, including the involvement of civil society, Indigenous Peoples and those most affected by exposure to chemicals. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that focal points should be officially designated through interministerial consultations, and another said that the focal points should coordinate stakeholders at the national and regional levels.

41. A number of representatives highlighted the need to allow for adaptation to differing national circumstances, and for the level of ambition to reflect what could realistically be achieved with the necessary level of flexibility. One representative said that, in their current form, the draft guidelines for national focal points required significant revision to ensure alignment with diverse national circumstances and to incorporate critical feedback from delegations. Another representative said that the guidelines departed considerably from the national institutional arrangements in his country, and that their scope went beyond its expectations; amendments to the wording would therefore be required. Another representative said that the provisions in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/7 should be voluntary in nature, including the proposed action in relation to the structure of State bodies, and stressed the administrative role of the national focal points, which involved communications for the implementation of the Framework. Moreover, some of the details included in the guidelines were unnecessary, for example, on the number of national focal points and their functions.

42. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that capacity-building should be regulated and sustained for focal points in developing countries, and that no country should be left behind in delivering the vision of the Global Framework on Chemicals. One stakeholder highlighted the need for continued engagement with national focal points in low-income and middle-income countries, and one representative emphasized the importance of adequate resources and political and institutional support to national focal points to enable the fulfilment of their mandate. One representative said that the national focal point guidelines should not prescribe changes to the established organizational structure, unless doing so was a strict requirement for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Another representative said that national focal points should be given clear methodologies and mechanisms to share their experience and good practices, with a view to strengthening capacities and improving governance. One stakeholder said that national implementation plans needed to be aligned with existing development, health and environmental strategies, and include mechanisms for meaningful civil society engagement to foster knowledge-sharing. One stakeholder said that online spaces should be used during the intersessional period to ensure consistent capacity-building for national focal points. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed gratitude to UNEP for the work of its World Conservation Monitoring Centre, including the organization of expert meetings to discuss guidelines and to identify capacity-building needs.

43. One representative said that conducting analysis of the activities to support the Global Framework on Chemicals carried out by national focal points in various countries would be beneficial in shaping the guidelines. One representative and some stakeholders highlighted the relevance of the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network, which was aimed at facilitating health sector engagement in the sound management of chemicals, assisted with capacity development, and should be acknowledged in the focal point guidelines. One representative also advocated the enhanced engagement of the health sector in the global sound management of chemicals. Some stakeholders said that an indicator could be established to show which focal points from which sectors were attending meetings of the Global Framework on Chemicals. Another stakeholder said that gender considerations needed to be integrated into every stage of implementation, recognizing the differentiated impact of chemicals and the importance of equitable participation and benefits. Yet another stakeholder underscored the vital role played by ministries of labour in the effective implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals, bringing a unique perspective, including on the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment.

44. The Open-ended Working Group agreed that the comments provided would be reflected in the present report.

G. Measurability structure and indicators (resolution V/9)

45. The sub-item was introduced by Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) and Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), the Co-Chairs of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators established pursuant to International Conference on Chemicals Management resolution V/9 on measurability structure. Attention was drawn to the relevant documentation, which included a note by the secretariat and an information document, both on the measurability structure (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/9 and UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/12).

46. Ms. Gardiner, outlining the mandate of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators, explained that, since April 2024, the open-ended ad hoc group had met five times in an online setting with a view to advancing its objectives, which included preparing recommendations for finalizing the measurability structure and a proposal for a set of indicators for annex III to the Global Framework on Chemicals to be considered by the International Conference of the Global Framework. It had developed two documents: the first containing interim criteria to be used in the selection of Framework indicators; the second setting out a template fact sheet, with the aim of standardizing information on and facilitating the evaluation and comparison of different indicators. Work to identify and develop a set of indicators had been organized into three thematic workstreams. Under workstream 1, existing indicators had been streamlined, a preliminary list of 22 indicators had been identified and a gap analysis was being conducted; under workstream 2, high-level indicators were being developed on the global environmental burden and on the global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste; and, under workstream 3, an analysis was being carried out to identify and evaluate indicators relevant to specific sectors and themes.

47. Ms. Kuroda said that a technical briefing had been held prior to the current meeting in order to inform stakeholders of the progress made in the work of the open-ended ad hoc group and garner feedback. As the open-ended ad hoc group was a subsidiary body of the International Conference, the discussions at the current meeting were an opportunity to share views, information and experiences.

The three workstreams would advance their work and report back to the open-ended ad hoc group, which would prepare recommendations for finalizing the measurability structure and a proposal for a core set of meaningful and relevant indicators for the consideration of the International Conference. Continued collaboration with existing stakeholders and cooperation with other entities with relevant expertise to support the open-ended ad hoc group's work would be welcomed.

48. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, and some stakeholders welcomed the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators and expressed appreciation for the progress made in the three workstreams. Many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, and a stakeholder underscored the importance of a measurability structure and indicators to monitor the implementation and impact of the Framework and the achievement of its strategic objectives and targets.

49. Some representatives stressed the need to streamline and maximize the use of existing indicators, thereby avoiding duplication and overlap, improving efficiency and consistency in international monitoring and forestalling the unnecessary creation of new instruments. One representative recommending having at most one or two indicators for each of the Framework's targets. Another representative, while recognizing efforts to identify existing indicators, expressed the view that more indicators were needed in the provisional measurability structure to provide a more complete picture of progress towards meeting the Framework's objectives. One stakeholder welcomed the efforts made to identify gaps in the proposed existing indicators, voiced support for the criteria for developing new indicators where needed and proposed that those criteria be adopted on a permanent basis.

50. A number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, and some stakeholders proposed elements for consideration in the development of the indicators. Some expressed the view, for instance, that the indicators should: (a) be closely linked to, but not exceed the scope of, the Framework's strategic objectives and targets; (b) be clear, relevant, feasible and quantifiable; (c) be grounded in accessible, reliable and relevant scientific data to facilitate meaningful, transparent and equitable reporting; (d) strike a balance between quantitative and qualitative indicators; (e) reflect the diversity of sectors involved; and (f) incorporate standardized methodologies and tools for data collection; to ensure consistency across regions and sectors. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries underscored the need to agree on some indicators as soon as possible, given the time-bound nature of certain Framework targets. One stakeholder stressed the need to ensure that the indicators would measure not only outcomes but also inputs, such as the financial and technical resources allocated for implementation. The same stakeholder called for the integration of gender-disaggregated data to improve understanding of the differentiated impacts and health outcomes of chemical exposure and enable targeted, gender-responsive chemical management policies, and for participatory monitoring, including through community-based and civil society-led initiatives.

51. One representative explained that, in accordance with her Government's policy, references to gender and the Sustainable Development Goals would no longer be supported in United Nations documentation and programming, which included the Framework and the measurability structure, and that any references to climate should be focused on specific threats and sensible environmental protections.

52. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries called for the measurability structure and the criteria for identification of indicators to take into account geographical and regional needs, especially with regard to developing countries. Some representatives highlighted the need to take national circumstances into consideration, take account of existing national indicators and ensure that indicators were responsive to the institutional capacities of all countries. They also stressed that the measurability structure and indicators should not impose burdensome monitoring requirements or disproportionate demands, in particular on developing countries. One representative called for explicit safeguards to uphold the voluntary nature of the Framework and emphasized that indicator outcomes should be used to share knowledge and best practices only. He added that any implicit link to resource access or compliance in indicators might not be supported.

53. A representative and a stakeholder underscored the need to ensure that data was available in easily accessible formats, including for use by the public, academia and affected communities. The stakeholder drew attention to the importance of local capacity-building, especially in lower-income and middle-income countries, and the importance of strengthening laboratory networks through investment in infrastructure, training and quality systems to ensure accurate, science-based data for informed decision-making.

54. Regarding specific Framework targets, a representative proposed an amendment to the terminology used in indicators related to target A7, on the phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides, while a stakeholder suggested that the development of indicators for that target should take account of technical cooperation and relevant methodologies being developed by FAO and experts with regard to target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, on reducing pollution to levels not harmful to biodiversity. Another stakeholder called for collaboration and coordination between the chemicals and waste and the biodiversity clusters to ensure coherence between the Global Framework on Chemicals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. One stakeholder expressed the view that workstream 2 should start on the second phase of its work, in particular on indicators for targets A5, A7 and D5, and suggested that a call for proposals be launched to inform the discussions. Another stakeholder, providing an overview of relevant developments at the 2025 conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, emphasized the importance of the high-level indicators being developed under workstream 2, in particular on the environmental burden of chemicals and waste.

55. In the light of the discussion, the Open-ended Working Group decided to establish an informal group on the measurability structure, with the aim of facilitating an exchange of views on the matter, to be guided by resolution V/9, the technical briefing (see para. 47 above) and the relevant documentation. The informal group would be co-chaired by Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) and Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), given their role as Co-Chairs of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators.

56. [to be completed]

H. Health surveillance systems (resolution V/10)

57. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of WHO reported that International Conference on Chemicals Management resolution V/10 on health surveillance systems had been brought to the attention of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly, at which WHO engagement in international chemicals management had been welcomed and proposed updates to the WHO road map to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond had been agreed. Those updates included greater priority being placed on health surveillance, biomonitoring and poison centres. The road map was an important tool for facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration and identifying health sector-related actions to contribute to achieving the strategic objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals. Despite the importance of health surveillance, significant challenges were faced: more than 50 per cent of countries did not have a poison centre, and health surveillance and chemical exposure data systems were fragmented. There was a need to strengthen institutional links between poison centres, health and environment ministries, and other stakeholders. WHO is working on various initiatives, including to establish and strengthen poison centres, especially in regional networks in Africa and the eastern Mediterranean; strengthen surveillance and reporting on human exposure to lead; support new partnerships; collaborate with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to include human exposure data in its effectiveness evaluation; and engage in the measurability work of the Framework, with a focus on health-related indicators and the global burden of disease. Effective surveillance on chemicals should be a core part of integrated national chemicals and waste management systems; it was therefore to be hoped that the issue would be emphasized in the development of relevant implementation programmes of the Framework, particularly those strengthening national chemicals management systems.

58. In the ensuing discussion, a representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries and a stakeholder welcomed the process of updating the WHO chemicals road map, which, it was suggested by the representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, should be integrated into the relevant implementation programme of the Framework. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, and stakeholders emphasized the importance of health surveillance systems and data for monitoring public health and protecting human health from chemical exposure. A stakeholder highlighted that while such data was vital for the development of targeted interventions, many systems were weak or lacking. One representative underlined the cost-benefit ratio of surveillance systems at the international level, emphasizing, among other things, their criticality in responding to emergencies, preventing tragedies and giving voice to those most affected. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries and a stakeholder underscored the health sector's critical role and expertise with regard to the sound management of chemicals and waste, adding that poison centres provided vital information to other sectors. Some representatives, including

one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, among other things, poison centres could generate epidemiological statistics, identify problematic chemicals and inform public policy on alternatives to hazardous substances. One representative expressed the view that health surveillance was a cross-cutting tool spanning public health, environmental regulation and human rights. Noting various challenges, including a lack of technical and financial resources, she made a number of proposals, which included ensuring the interoperability of health information systems; developing a digital platform and repository; the inclusion of the global South, civil society and Indigenous Peoples; and placing an emphasis on environmental justice and equity. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries highlighted the importance of the Framework to foster multi-stakeholder cooperation, which would include the health sector. He called for the inclusion in the implementation programme 1 of a mechanism to support the strengthening of linkages between poison centres and relevant ministries. He also encouraged stakeholders to assist in collecting health surveillance data in countries where the current systems were weak or lacking. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, and a stakeholder called for the integration and prioritization of specific actions and initiatives to strengthen the health sector's role in implementing the Framework, promote intersectoral collaboration and give greater attention to the Framework's health sector-related targets.

59. One stakeholder said that the role of industry in health surveillance should not be overlooked. Workers were canaries in the coal mine: they faced higher exposure to chemicals, first at work and then in the community. He drew attention to a number of relevant International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and recommendations, such as the Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161), which contained specific health surveillance requirements. He emphasized the value of the expertise and data of existing networks and tripartite structures, which included labour ministries, workers and employers, as well as relevant ILO departments.

60. The Open-ended Working Group agreed that the comments provided would be reflected in the meeting report.

I. Capacity-building

61. [to be completed]

II. Financial considerations (resolution V/3) (agenda item 4)

Assessing the existing financial and investment flows as well as financial needs associated with the implementation of the Framework

62. [to be completed]

III. Programme of work and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2024–2026 (resolution V/12) (agenda item 5)

63. [continued]

64. Subsequently, reporting back on the initial meeting of the contact group, one of the Co-Chairs of the group said that the group had made some progress but needed more time. On the first point of its mandate, the group had sought clarifications from the secretariat and had asked for a table linking the expected secretariat staff contributions to the various activities mentioned in the document, which the secretariat had agreed to produce for consideration at the group's next meeting. The table was expected to inform a discussion on the prioritization of activities to be carried out by the secretariat. On the other two aspects of the mandate, an exchange of views had taken place, including on assessed contributions, voluntary contributions based on an indicative scale of assessment, proposals for specific work programme items and a resource mobilization strategy. On the last point, the secretariat had indicated that it was still in the process of preparing a strategy to mobilize resources and was considering reaching out to non-traditional donors, including philanthropic organizations.

65. [to be completed]

IV. Preparations for the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals (agenda item 6)

66. [to be completed]

V. Other matters (agenda item 7)

67. [to be completed]

VI. Adoption of the report of the meeting (agenda item 8)

68. [to be completed]

VII. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 9)

69. [to be completed]
