Masterclass on Understanding Finance and Sustainable Chemicals Management

Date: Thursday 26th June, 2025
Time: 13:00 – 13:45
Modality: Hybrid
Convened by: UNEP

Context and Background

Pollution from chemicals poses serious threats to human health, ecosystems, and economic stability. Financial institutions, through the activities they finance and underwrite, are often exposed to pollution risks. These risks are increasingly material to financial performance and portfolio resilience.

This master class aims to provide an introduction and insight into the rationale and approach that private finance institutions are taking to understand and address the impacts of chemical pollution across their portfolios. This session will explore examples of best practice in the finance sector and key issues to address for the finance sector to mitigate systemic risks and contribute to the implementation of the GFC targets. This master class supports the implementation of GFC Target D3, which calls on the finance sector to incorporate strategies and policies for the sound management of chemicals and waste into their business models by 2030, and of GFC Target E3, which requires that adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources from all sources are mobilized and aligned with the GFC strategic objectives and targets.

Session Objectives

The session aims to build an increased understanding by a wide audience, of the approach that the financial sector is adopting and progressing to tackle the impacts of pollution across their portfolios; of the key issues to be addressed to align finance with the GFC targets, and of the role of public actors to foster innovative financing and to mobilise private finance.

Agenda

Time	Program
13:00 – 13:05	**Welcome & Introduction to the Session** An overview of master class objectives and agenda, and introduction of speakers **Speaker:** Johannes Heister, WB
13:05 – 13:15	**Pollution Guidance for banks** Presentation of UNEP FI's report *Navigating Pollution: a Blueprint for the banking sector* and Pollution Guidance for banks **Speaker:** Benjamin Warr, UNEP FI
13:15 – 13:43	**Panel discussion** Examples of best practice to shift financial portfolios and key issues to address to accelerate and scale up finance alignment. **Facilitator:** Peggy Lefort, UNEP FI; Johannes Heister, WB
13:43 – 13:45	**Conclusion and Closing Remarks** Summary of key points **Speaker:** Johannes Heister, WB