

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

Distr.: General
16 April 2025
Original: English

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
Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Global Framework on Chemicals: Global Framework on
Chemicals Fund

Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and status of contributions

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its fifth session, held in Bonn, Germany, in September 2023, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted resolution V/3 on financial considerations.
2. In the resolution, the Conference, among other things, established the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for supporting the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. In accordance with the terms of reference of the Fund, an Executive Board was established as the Fund's decision-making body.

II. Activities to implement the resolution

3. The secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals has provided administrative services and other support to the Fund, including facilitating meetings of the Executive Board, launching the first round of applications, screening applications for eligibility and completeness, and conducting a high-level review of each application.
4. The Executive Board of the Fund has held three meetings to date. The first took place on 8 and 9 April 2024¹ and the second from 12 to 14 June 2024.² Key outcomes of those meetings were the agreement on the ad interim composition of the Executive Board; the workplan, staffing and budget of the Fund's secretariat; and the adoption of the strategic priorities for the Fund and the relevant documents for the first round of applications. The third meeting was split into two sessions: the first was held from 19 to 21 March 2025 in Geneva, and the second will be held online from 26 to 28 May 2025. The outcomes of those meetings will be presented orally to the Open-ended Working

* UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1.

¹ The report of the first meeting is available at www.unep.org/events/conference/first-meeting-executive-board-global-framework-chemicals-fund.

² The draft report of the second meeting is available at www.unep.org/events/conference/second-meeting-executive-board-global-framework-chemicals-fund.

Group and set out in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/5, on issues pertaining to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.

5. The first round of applications to the Fund was launched on 1 October 2024, with a closing date of 31 January 2025. The launch was accompanied by a United Nations Environment Programme press release,³ three webinars for applicants, and broader awareness-raising across various sectors and regions, which are described in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/5. To support applicants during the project development phase, the secretariat provided a “frequently asked questions” document⁴ and operated a help desk that provided assistance via email and in one-on-one consultations.

6. In the first round, a total of 105 applications were received, of which 80 were found to be complete and eligible for consideration by the Board at its session held from 19 to 21 March 2025. Further information on the applications can be found in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/5.

7. Table 1 shows the contributions and pledges to the Fund as at March 2025.

Table 1

Contributions and pledges to the Fund as at March 2025 (in United States dollars)

<i>Donors and contributors</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>Total</i>
Germany	21 762 090	–	21 762 090
Quick Start Programme	4 272 400	–	4 272 400
International Council of Chemical Associations	534 611	547 000	1 081 611
Switzerland	465 071	–	465 071
Spain	345 720	–	345 720
Kingdom of the Netherlands	213 605	–	213 605
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	187 373	–	187 373
United States of America	148 515	–	148 515
Belgium	–	31 250	31 250
Finland	15 740	–	15 740
Total income	27 945 125	578 250	28 523 375
Total pledged contributions	2024	2025	Total
European Union	–	221 000	221 000
Total income	–	221 000	221 000

8. At its second meeting, the Executive Board approved a staffing and budget table for 2024 and 2025. The table was refined to reflect the year 2026 and presented to the Executive Board; it is pending final approval. Table 2 presents a comparative budget showing the budget approved at the second meeting of the Executive Board, actual expenditures for 2024, and updated figures for 2025 and 2026.

³ Available at www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/new-fund-support-chemicals-and-waste-management-developing-economies.

⁴ Available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/46564/Global_framework_chemicals_fund_FAQs.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

Table 2
Comparative budget (in United States dollars)

			2024 (as at 1 July 2024)		2025	2026
Cost category	Code	Subcategory	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Budget
Secretariat staff and travel						
Personnel	1100	Project personnel total	226 650	–	387 750	626 008
		P-4 (Coordinator of the Fund)	–	–	273 000	281 190
		P-3 (Programme Management Officer) ^a	–	–	114 750	236 385
		P-2 (Associate Programme Management Officer / Junior Professional Officer) (7 months)	–	–	–	108 433
	1200	Consultants total	20 000	–	50 000	10 000
			–	–	50 000	10 000
	1300	Administrative support total	160 000	–	161 000	331 660
		GS-6 (Finance Assistant) ^a	–	–	95 000	195 700
		GS-4 (Team Assistant) ^a	–	–	66 000	135 960
Travel	1600	Travel	5 000	–	20 000	20 000
	1999	Subtotal	411 650	–	618 750	987 668
Meetings and training events						
Meetings and conferences	3100	Executive Board meetings	30 000	–	23 500	24 500
	3999	Subtotal	30 000	–	23 500	24 500
Projects						
	4100	Projects	–	–	(to be determined)	
	4999	Subtotal	–	–	(to be determined)	
Premises and other						
Fixed operating costs	5100	Operating costs for secretariat personnel (office overheads)	50 000		60 000	60 000
	5999	Subtotal	50 000	–	60 000	60 000
Miscellaneous components						
Communication costs	6200	Communication and outreach products	10 000	–	15 000	15 000
	6300	Translation of documents	–	–	50 000	50 000
	6999	Subtotal	10 000	–	65 000	65 000
Total			501 650	–	767 250	1 137 168
Programme support costs (13% PSC)			65 215	–	99 743	–
Total general			566 865	–	–	1 285 000

Note: During the transition from the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to the Global Framework on Chemicals in 2024, some expenditures were absorbed by alternate budgets.

^a The post has been budgeted for six months in 2025 and the full year in 2026.

9. During its deliberations, the Executive Board raised the question of lack of clarity in paragraph A.1 of the annex to resolution V/3. As the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted resolution V/3 after adopting resolution V/12 on the programme of work and budget, there was no provision either for staff to provide services for the Executive Board or for the related administrative activities required to make the Fund operational. On the basis of an assessment of what was needed to make the Fund operational, a staffing table and a workplan were proposed by the secretariat and agreed to by the Executive Board at its second meeting. An ad interim programme of work and budget were approved by the Executive Board and will remain in place until the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals takes a decision on the final terms of reference of the Fund.

III. Proposed action

10. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to:

- (a) *Commend* the Executive Board for its work to operationalize the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and its first round of applications;
- (b) *Express appreciation* to donors and contributors for their contributions and pledges to the Fund;
- (c) *Take note* of the guidelines adopted by the Executive Board and invite the Executive Board to update them as necessary;
- (d) *Reaffirm* the importance of reviewing the provisionally adopted terms of reference of the Fund, taking into account the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution V/3 and the lessons learned since the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
- (e) *Also reaffirm* the decision on the ad interim composition of the Executive Board, which was adopted on 24 January 2024 through the silence procedure;
- (f) *Take note* of document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/5, which provides an update on the third meeting of the Executive Board and on the projects approved under the first round of applications;
- (g) *Reiterate* its invitation, contained in paragraph 14 of resolution V/3, to all Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide financial contributions to ensure that the Fund remains adequately resourced to support countries in implementing the Global Framework on Chemicals.