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

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Agenda item 3(a) of the provisional agenda*
Implementation arrangements

**Development of Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)
Implementation Programmes to Advance Integrated Chemicals
and Waste Management**

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a report on the development of Global Framework on Chemicals implementation programmes to advance integrated chemicals and waste management.. It is reproduced as submitted by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.

The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1

Annex

Development of Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) Implementation Programmes to Advance Integrated Chemicals and Waste Management

*An Information Paper prepared by the IOMC for consultation at
the OEWG, Uruguay, June 2025*

UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/11

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1. Background

1.1 Purpose of the document

This OEWG Information Document presents proposals for advancing three Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) Implementation Programmes, hereinafter referred to as “Programme(s).” The development of such Programmes is referred to in para 24 of the GFC, with further details provided in Resolution V/8. The OEWG meeting in June 2025 provides an opportunity to generate feedback from stakeholders in further developing the mandates, TORs and workplans for the proposed Programmes in advance of the next International Conference on the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) in 2026. Suggestions presented in this document are based on valuable input received from a diverse range of GFC stakeholders gathered through consultative activities conducted in 2024 and 2025 and involving more than 500 stakeholder participants in total.¹

Section 1 provides background on the GFC Implementation Programmes and key relevant decisions taken at ICCM5. It also identifies the specific feedback sought from OEWG stakeholders to support the further development of the three proposed Programmes through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration. Section 2 introduces overarching and cross-cutting issues relevant to the development of all three Programmes, including governance, knowledge management, and financing. Section 3 presents specific suggestions for three proposed Programmes that respond to topics set out in Resolution V/8 adopted at ICCM5. Section 4 introduces possible next steps to generate further momentum towards the International Conference in 2026.

1.2 Feedback requested from OEWG

During the consultative process to develop GFC Implementation Programmes, important questions and issues related to their design have emerged. This Information Document aims to address these topics, and OEWG participants are invited to provide feedback, including on the following questions and topics:

- Does the proposed approach for the Implementation Programmes - focusing on knowledge-sharing, coordination, collaboration, and fostering ongoing action (i.e. in between formal GFC meetings) - provide value-added and benefits to GFC stakeholders? What, if anything, is missing in the approach to encourage broader stakeholder participation?
- What would constitute an effective governance structure for the Programmes—one that ensures inclusive stakeholder engagement, identifies linkages across Programmes, and maintains accountability to the International Conference, while remaining flexible enough to attract broad stakeholder participation?
- What opportunities exist to strengthen the draft Terms of Reference and draft Workplan for the two proposed Implementation Programmes on:

¹ See the related OEWG meeting document **UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/8** - Implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

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- “Strengthening legislation and institutional capacities for the sound management of chemicals and waste (IP1, “National Systems Programme”) and
 - “Strengthening economic and industry sector engagement and action for the sound management of chemicals and waste along value chains” (IP2, “Industry Value Chain Programme”)?
 - What are stakeholder views towards developing an Implementation Programme on “Integrating chemicals and waste issues in sustainable development decision-making” (IP3). Are the two proposed initial topics² (Chemicals and Climate Change' and 'Chemicals and Education') of interest?
 - What are effective ways to address important topics that cut across all Programmes, (e.g. issues of concern, gender considerations) and to organize knowledge-sharing and coordinating functions of the Programmes?
 - How can the Implementation Programmes help to mobilize financial resources to support both stakeholder-led initiatives on the ground, but also for financing global-level activities, such as coordination and knowledge management?

1.3 GFC mandate to develop Implementation Programmes

Mechanisms to support implementation of the GFC

The Global Framework on Chemicals specifies in para. 24 that the International Conference on the GFC “may adopt programmes to support the implementation of the Framework in order to achieve its strategic objectives and targets”. It also states that “Such programmes should have their own focus and engage relevant sectors and stakeholders, and could include, in a flexible and dynamic format, the actions that the stakeholders intend to initiate or contribute to at the national, regional, and/or international levels in order to successfully meet the relevant GFC targets”. Furthermore, “programmes should also include any necessary mandates, terms of reference, workplans and/or other mechanisms, including actions to address identified issues of concern where relevant, to contribute to the success of the overall Framework and its strategic objectives”.

The GFC also specifies that participation in each of the programmes should be open to all relevant stakeholders and sectors and that the International Conference may establish *ad hoc* working groups to provide direction and momentum for the work, as well as to mobilize engagement. In addition to the actors specifically identified in the targets, the International Conference should “invite the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and intergovernmental organizations to contribute actively to the implementation programmes to support the Framework and to further strengthen international cooperation and multisectoral engagement in the sound management of chemicals and waste.”

² See section below on “Programme focus” for IP3.

Resolution V/8 on “Implementation arrangements”

Resolution V/8 on “Implementation arrangements” invites the IOMC, governments, stakeholders, as well as other international organizations “to collaborate on, and develop proposals for implementation programmes (...) for further consideration at the next session of the Conference”. The proposals should address “respective mandates, terms of reference, workplans and other mechanisms”. It also “Urges all stakeholders across the life cycle of key economic and industrial sectors ... to commit themselves to the implementation of the GFC and invites the IOMC to play a facilitating and coordinating role in encouraging their engagement”. The following proposed activities respond to this mandate while at the same time setting the stage for a GFC Implementation Programme on economic and industry sector engagement and action. Finally, Resolution V/8 also states that the possible adoption of implementation programmes at the next International Conference in 2026 should not delay immediate stakeholder action to implement the strategic objectives and targets of the Global Framework, and “welcomes and encourages the undertaking of further activities concerning all areas of work during the intersessional period until the next session of the Conference”.

1.4 GFC reference to integrated chemicals and waste management

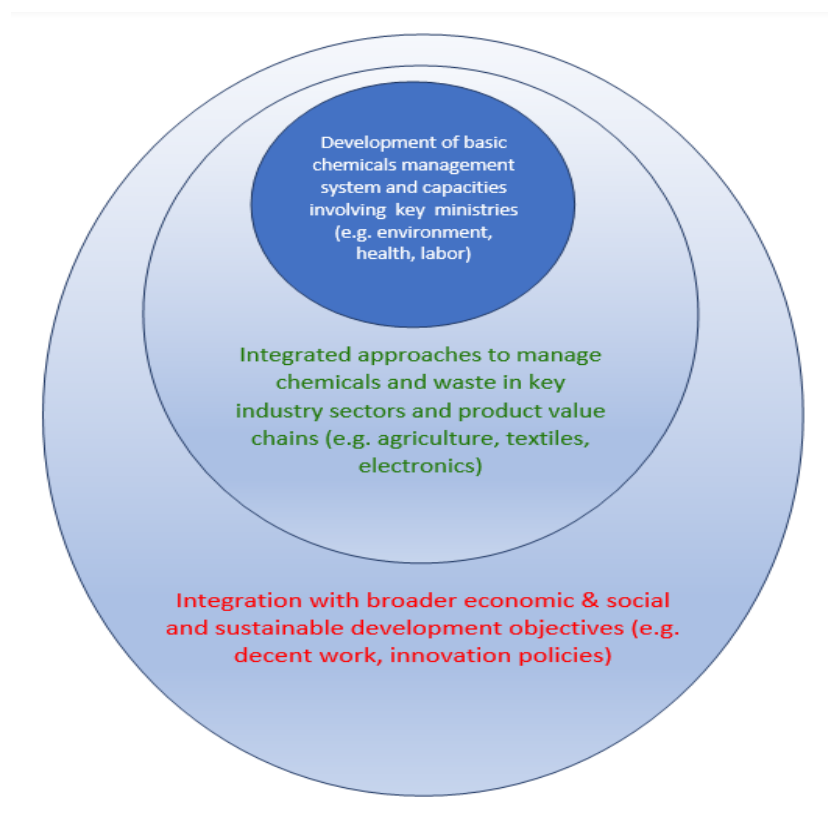
In its preamble, Resolution V/8 refers to the value and various dimensions of integrated chemicals and waste management, including related activities undertaken by the IOMC together with diverse stakeholders prior to ICCM-5. The integrated management concept had been proposed by the IOMC during the intersessional process for the GFC.

Taking this work into account, the Resolution refers to the following areas of work for possible implementation programmes, among others, to be considered:

1. Developing integrated national chemicals and waste management systems and capacities at the national and regional levels;
2. Integrating sound chemicals and waste management in economic and industrial sectors along value chains;
3. Integrating sound chemicals and waste management in sustainable development decision-making processes, as appropriate; and
4. Addressing issues of concern, as appropriate.

The integrated chemicals and waste management concept addresses the above areas of work, with issues of concerns (in particular, the existing issues) being covered as a cross-cutting topic, *i.e.* they need to be addressed in national systems, by industry action along value chains, and when integrating chemicals and waste issues in sustainable development processes (see Figure 1). Given that ICCM-5 adopted a number of decisions concerning the identification of new Issues of Concern by the International Conference, stakeholders may be interested to discuss how to group relevant activities under a separate programme in order to identify new issues of concern.

Figure 1: The three dimensions of integrated chemicals and waste management



1.5 Role of the IOMC in programme development

Resolution V/8 extends an invitation to the IOMC and other stakeholders to collaborate on and develop proposals for implementation programmes for further consideration at the next Conference. Responding to this, the IOMC offered to play a role in facilitating, encouraging, and coordinating the development of a small number of implementation programmes which correspond to the mandate provided in Resolution V/8. In doing so, the IOMC is bringing together its collective expertise and support of its ten Participating Organizations.³

As Resolution V/8 is open concerning the number of GFC implementation programmes; other proposals concerning implementation programmes may be developed by stakeholders for consideration of the International Conference. Therefore, the suggestions featured in this document are not intended to be exclusive, but represent an initial set of proposals from the IOMC.

Consultative activities to support the development of the three proposed Programmes in 2024-2025 have included a number of webinars and two multistakeholder workshops. These activities helped to conceptualize the purpose and modus operandi of the proposed Programmes as well as the development of draft mandates, TORs and initial workplans for two Programmes. Furthermore, and as encouraged by the GFC, the IOMC initiated a number

³ <https://partnership.who.int/iomc/support-for-gfc-implementation-programmes>

of supportive technical activities which are presented below.

Beyond facilitating Programme development, individual IOMC participating organizations (POs) continue to execute activities and projects that support implementation of specific GFC targets, individually or jointly with others. These activities are not addressed in this note, but many of them are expected to contribute to the programmes presented in this document.

2 Cross-cutting considerations for developing Programmes

2.1 Proposed approach for the Programmes

In line with paragraph 24 of the GFC, the proposed GFC Implementation Programmes would complement formal GFC meetings by facilitating regular knowledge-sharing, recognizing good practices and achievements, engaging new stakeholders, enhancing coordination, identifying gaps, and promoting joint solutions. The Programmes would also promote and support results-oriented actions and initiatives undertaken by stakeholders committed to advancing specific GFC targets through coordinated efforts. To reinforce stakeholder-driven efforts and knowledge exchange, the Programmes would include a limited number of targeted global or regional supporting activities undertaken through collaboration. This approach takes into account that the proposed Programmes do not have dedicated financing mechanisms to support specific stakeholder activities and initiatives.

2.2 Overall aims of the Programmes

Awareness Raising and Stakeholder Mobilization

Many stakeholders are not yet aware of the GFC and its 28 Targets. Given the relevance of their activities, their engagement in GFC implementation efforts is essential. In close collaboration with, and complementing the overall awareness raising activities of the GFC Secretariat, the Programmes could foster further dedicated outreach with constituencies that have not actively participated in the GFC to raise awareness of the GFC and engage additional stakeholders in GFC implementation worldwide.

*Identifying Good Practices, Knowledge-Sharing, and Stakeholder Needs**

A key dimension of the proposed Programmes is to gather and share information on ongoing and planned stakeholder implementation actions and initiatives. This can serve as the basis for sharing knowledge concerning good practices that may be of value to others. Programmes may also facilitate assessing the needs of stakeholders to help guide targeted support and collaboration.

An important aspect of taking this topic further is to develop a Knowledge Management Platform for the Implementation Programmes, which allows all stakeholders to access relevant knowledge in a structured way. This could build on knowledge management activities undertaken under SAICM, and consider the latest developments in artificial intelligence.

An important question is to what extent, or whether Programme related knowledge sharing

would be hosted by the GFC Secretariat, the IOMC (or one of its POs), or by other stakeholders. For example, for IP1 (the National Systems Programme), the IOMC Toolbox for Decision-Making in Chemicals Management (www.iomctoolbox.org) will continue to be a supporting IT platform. It will continue to be maintained, expanded, and populated with country-specific case-studies. Based on feedback from the OEWG, the IOMC could engage with the GFC Secretariat to take this matter forward in advance of the International Conference.

Collaboration, Coordination, and Partnerships

The information and knowledge shared through the Programmes can serve as a foundation for enhanced collaboration among stakeholders. This may include catalyzing new partnerships, twinning arrangements, or implementation coalitions, and supporting alignment with the capacity-building efforts of multilateral, bilateral, and other actors.

Review, Dissemination, and Use of Guidance

For several relevant targets, guidance materials—such as those available through the IOMC Toolbox or the LIRA Guidance on “Legal and Institutional infrastructures for the sound management of chemicals and measures for Recovering costs of national Administrations” — already exist. Each Programme could systematically document these resources and assist stakeholders in accessing and applying them. This review process may also help to identify gaps in available guidance that need to be addressed.

Finance and Technical Support

GFC stakeholder implementation activities are funded through a variety of sources, including their stakeholder resources, but also external funding. The latter may include funds from the GFC Trust Fund, the Special Programme, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), bilateral development cooperation, industry contributions, and philanthropic organizations. Other mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), may also be relevant.

Additional financial and technical resources may be available through other stakeholders participating in the Programmes. Facilitating access to these resources could lead to new partnerships, matchmaking, or twinning arrangements. Support may also be provided to assist stakeholders in preparing funding proposals.

2.3 Analysis and Feedback

Implementation Programmes offer a valuable opportunity to document and analyze factors that contribute to success, or hinder progress to implement the GFC. Each Programme may include a "lessons learned" component to inform future implementation efforts and provide evidence-based feedback to the International Conference.

2.4 Programme structure and components

While each Programme needs to be designed in a way to meet its objectives, in general, the proposed Implementation Programmes comprise two main components:

- A “global” component focusing on outreach, guidance, oversight, and thematic/cross-cutting issues; and

- A “stakeholder action” component comprising and fostering knowledge-sharing of stakeholder action and initiatives contributing to the Programme

In the case of the proposed “Industry Value Chain Programme”, the overall Programme is proposed to be complemented by specific Industry Sector Programmes that accommodate diverse economic and industry sectors, such as the textiles, electronics, and health care industry. Work has already started to develop TORs and workplans for such “sub-programmes” that are aligned with the GFC, in particular Target D6 within the broader “Industry Value Chain Programme”.

2.5 Governance

Advisory Committee and Ad Hoc Working Groups

The GFC text states that Implementation Programmes may be adopted by the International Conference. To facilitate this process, it is proposed to establish a subsidiary governance mechanism that ensures multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder input on key programme matters in advance of the Conference’s deliberations and decisions (i.e. TORs and workplans). This mechanism should reflect the inclusive, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of the GFC, while retaining sufficient flexibility to attract a broad range of relevant actors as well as facilitating action.

One option is to establish a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder advisory committee for each Programme that reports directly to the International Conference. Alternatively, a single advisory committee could be established to oversee all proposed Programmes. This approach could strengthen coherence and coordination across Programmes, while reducing the administrative and resource burden. In the latter case, the GFC Bureau could potentially fulfil the advisory committee function.

A key responsibility of the advisory committee would be to review and provide initial validation of draft terms of reference and workplans for Implementation Programmes prior to submission of a request to the International Conference to adopt a Programme. For individual Programmes, ad hoc working groups - as referred to in the GFC- could be established, including for specific Industry Sector Programmes. While it is important to engage diverse stakeholders, such working groups could bring together stakeholders in a more informal and flexible format.

Other functions of the Advisory Committee may include:

- provide guidance on all important aspects of Programme Implementation
- foster stakeholder engagement, partnerships and other mechanisms to support implementation
- help identify potential funding sources to support implementing activities
- identify issues and create links across all Implementation Programmes
- identify lessons learned and report back to the International Conference on all aspects of Programme implementation.

Coordination/convening support

To provide convening support for the Programmes, a recognised neutral body, such as an

IOMC PO or the GFC Secretariat, could be invited to provide initial services. This could include convening support for specific Industry Sector Programmes, while making sure that engagement and ownership of industry and other stakeholders is ensured.

2.6 Assessing the value-added of programmes

The following questions are proposed to help assess whether a Programme is delivering value and generating impact. Has the programme been able to:

- Reach out to and engage relevant stakeholders, while mobilizing new ones?
- Catalyze new implementation activities by stakeholders?
- Identify and widely disseminate good implementation practices?
- Coordinate efforts and create synergies across implementation activities?
- Provide access to and/or mobilize additional resources for implementation?
- Identify bottlenecks in implementation and propose solutions?

The ultimate benchmark for assessing the success of Implementation Programmes is whether they contribute to accelerating progress toward the achievement of the relevant GFC targets.

2.7 Common elements of Programme TORs

The GFC provides little guidance on the structure and content of TORs for Implementation Programmes. The following elements are proposed to guide the development of TORs for the proposed Programmes and have served as the basis for the developed draft TORs for two specific Programmes featured in Annex 1 and 2. These common elements may also inform the development of Implementation Programmes by other GFC stakeholders. In this context, it is important to note that the TORs serve as a reference to encourage and guide stakeholder engagement, while specific activities would be featured in the workplans.

- Proposing stakeholder(s)
- Programme rationale
- Objectives and scope
- Stakeholder initiatives and actions falling under the Programme
- Programme structure and components
- Stakeholder participation in the Programme
- Governance
- Knowledge-sharing
- Finance considerations
- Synergies with other Implementation Programmes
- Monitoring, analysis, and feedback to the International Conference.

3 Proposals for Programmes to advance integrated chemicals and waste management

This section provides initial considerations regarding three proposed Programmes which specifically respond to topics specified in Resolution V/8. Given that the GFC contains a number of provisions related to “issues of concern”, it is proposed to address those as an integral part of each Programme, rather than establishing a separate programme. Following the OEWG meeting, TORs for the proposed Programmes as well as workplans need to be refined/developed in advance of the International Conference in 2026.

3.1 Strengthening national legislation and institutional capacities

3.1.1 Programme focus

The Implementation Programme on “Strengthening Legal Frameworks and Institutional Capacities for Chemicals Management” (IP1) aims to support countries in establishing and enhancing the legal and institutional foundations necessary for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle. Anchored in Strategic Objective A of the GFC, the Programme will promote efforts to develop, implement, and enforce national legal instruments that minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste, in line with national circumstances and priorities.

Drawing from past consultations and technical guidance - such as the IOMC Information Paper on Integrated Chemicals and Waste Management and the LIRA Guidance - the Programme will facilitate the exchange of good practices, offer technical assistance, and foster capacity-building partnerships. Stakeholders are invited to provide input on priority legal elements and institutional arrangements that should be addressed under the Programme.

This Programme will primarily focus on GFC Target A1, which calls for governments to adopt, implement, and enforce legal frameworks and establish institutional capacity by 2030. Additional relevant targets include: A2, A3, A5, A6, A7, B1, B2, B3, B4, B6, D2, D4, D7, E2, E3, E5, and E6. Initial focus areas may include the development of national legislation requiring classification and labelling in accordance with the GHS; establishing legal mandates for generating and disseminating knowledge on industrial and consumer chemicals; empowering national authorities to conduct risk assessments and manage chemical risks; and designing cost-recovery schemes to ensure the financial sustainability of chemicals management systems.

3.1.2 Consultative process

To support a consultative process to develop the Programme, the IOMC developed a draft discussion document on the Programme, organized a webinar on the Programme (20 March 2025⁴), and will organize a multi-sectoral and multistakeholder workshop (22-23 June) on the Programme in advance of OEWG.

3.1.3 Initial global activities to accompany the Programme development process

To accompany the above Programme development, the IOMC has been working on the following activities during the course of 2024 and 2025:

⁴ <https://iomcwebinars.org/current-webinar-series/gfc-implementation-webinar-4/>

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- Survey on country initiatives, interest and needs (February 2025)
 - Initiation of stock-taking on capacity development initiatives and activities and consideration of effective means to ensure coordination, including GFC stakeholders
 - Development of a concept paper/guideline on strategic options to develop chemicals legislation
 - Development of model legislation/modules/building blocks, including innovative chemicals risk management decision-making
 - Consideration of a regulatory benchmarking tool for countries to self-assess their national chemicals legislation and identify possible gaps.

3.1.4 Draft TOR for the Programme

A draft Terms of Reference for the Programme is included as Annex 1 for input from the OEWG.

3.1.5 Programme Workplan

A Programme Workplan will be developed as a follow-up to OEWG for consideration of the International Conference in 2026. It is expected that the above preparatory activities will continue and be featured in the Programme Workplan.

3.2 Strengthening economic and industry sector engagement and action

3.2.1 Programme focus

The Implementation Programme “Strengthening Economic and Industry Sector Engagement and Action for the Sound Management of Chemicals along Value Chains” (IP2) aims to promote the development and uptake of innovative, safer, and more sustainable solutions across product life cycles and industry sectors. Anchored in Strategic Objective D of the GFC, the Programme seeks to maximize benefits to human health and the environment by supporting a transition towards safer alternatives, accelerating the shift to sustainable production and consumption patterns and fostering more resilient, transparent, and accountable supply chains.

The Programme will also facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and technical support to drive innovation in materials, processes, and business models. Stakeholder input is sought to identify priority sectors, chemicals of concern, and promising strategies for reducing chemical footprints and impacts throughout value chains.

The Programme will primarily contribute to achieving GFC Target D6, which calls for the development and implementation of sustainable chemicals and waste management strategies in major economic and industry sectors by 2030. These strategies should identify priority chemicals of concern and apply standards and measures - such as chemical footprinting - to reduce their input and impact. Other relevant targets include: A3, A4, A7, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, D1, D4, D7, E2, E3, and E6.

3.2.2 Consultative process

To support the development of this Programme, the IOMC prepared a discussion document on the Programme and organized a webinar (10 December 2024).⁵ To generate additional momentum to develop the GFC Industry Implementation Programme, the IOMC organized a global multi stakeholder IOMC workshop in Paris in February 2025,⁶ with more than 150 stakeholders, many of them industry stakeholders. The workshop agreed that a Global Industry Implementation Programme should include two components: (1) a global workplan providing overall guidance, coordination and advancing thematic/cross-cutting work, and (2) a series of Industry Sector Programmes with specific TORs and Workplans.

3.2.3 Initial global activities to accompany the Programme development process

To accompany Programme development, the IOMC initiated work on the following during the course of 2024 and 2025:

IOMC Survey to engage economic and industry actors along value chains (2024-2025)

Significant awareness and outreach is required to inform economic and industry stakeholders along value chains about the GFC and its objectives and targets. To maintain the momentum from ICCM5, and to stimulate industry and their associations to consider measures to implement the GFC, the IOMC and the GFC Secretariat disseminated a short survey in 2024, which remains open. The link to the survey can be accessed [here](#). Interim results can be accessed [here](#).

Initiation of consultation on thematic workstreams

As a follow-up to the IOMC workshop, informal multistakeholder working groups were formed to identify activities to advance the following thematic workstreams.

- Identifying priority chemicals of concern
- Chemical footprint approaches
- Transparency and traceability along value chains
- Disclosure and reporting standards/frameworks
- Green and sustainable chemistry innovation and solutions
- Private sector financing and investment

The working groups will share their results during OEWG and are open to engage other interested stakeholders following OEWG in the future.

Initiation of consultations on specific industry sector programmes

As a follow-up to the IOMC workshop, informal multistakeholder working groups were formed to develop a draft TOR and Workplan for possible specific Industry Sector Programme.

⁵ <https://iomcwebinars.org/current-webinar-series/gfc-implementation-webinar-3/>

⁶ [https://partnership.who.int/iomc/newsroom/events/item/2025/02/24/default-calendar/economic-and-industry-sector-engagement-and-action-to-implement-the-global-framework-on-chemicals-\(gfc\)](https://partnership.who.int/iomc/newsroom/events/item/2025/02/24/default-calendar/economic-and-industry-sector-engagement-and-action-to-implement-the-global-framework-on-chemicals-(gfc))

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- Electronic industry sector
 - Textile industry sector
 - Healthcare industry sector

The working groups will share their results during OEWG and are open to engage other interested stakeholders following OEWG in the future. Other industry sectors mentioned at the workshop include Food and Agriculture, Building and Construction, the Retail Sector, and Mining.

Development of guidance to support implementation of Target D 6 (2024-2025)

To support stakeholders in implementing Target D6 (which encourages development of sustainable chemical and waste management strategies in economic and industry sectors), the IOMC has initiated the development of a guidance document. To ensure that the guidance will be of value to industry, and addresses perspectives of GFC stakeholders, discussions with stakeholders on some aspects of the guidance took place at the global IOMC workshop in February 2025. The draft will be further developed taking into account discussions at OEWG.

3.2.4 Draft TOR for the Programme

A draft Terms of Reference for the Programme is included as Annex 2 for input from the OEWG.

3.2.5 Draft Programme Workplan

Programme Workplan will be developed as a follow-up to OEWG for consideration of the International Conference in 2026. It is expected that the above preparatory activities will continue and be integrated into the Programme Workplan.

3.3 Integrating chemical and waste issues in sustainable development decision-making

3.3.1 Programme focus

The Implementation Programme on “Integrating Chemicals and Waste Issues in Sustainable Development Decision-making” (IP3) aims to create stronger linkages with relevant sustainable development agendas at national, regional, and global levels. By aligning with cross-cutting priorities such as climate action, education, decent work, and health, the Programme seeks to promote policy coherence, maximize co-benefits, and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Initial areas of focus - Chemicals and Climate Change and Chemicals and Education - offer concrete entry points for demonstrating the interconnections between sound chemicals management and key development outcomes. Stakeholder input is invited to refine these themes and identify additional strategic linkages that can drive transformative action and stakeholder engagement.

This Programme would focus on certain aspects of implementing Strategic Objective E of the GFC, which aspires to, *inter alia*, enhanced implementation through the integration of sound management of chemicals and waste into all relevant decision-making processes. Of particular relevance is Target E which states that “By 2030, stakeholders identify and

strengthen, as appropriate, synergies and linkages between chemicals and waste management and other key environmental, health and labour policies, such as those related to climate change solutions, biodiversity conservation, human rights protection, universal health coverage, or primary health care.” Other relevant [Targets](#) include: A3, A6, A7, B4, B5, C1, D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, E1, and E2.

Consultative process

To support the development of this Programme, an IOMC webinar held in September 2024⁷ facilitated an initial discussion on the topic. Additionally, [the 3rd Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability](#) in September 2024 offered valuable insights into key interlinkages, with education and climate change emerging as important areas for which the GFC is relevant.

3.3.2 Initial global activities to accompany the Programme development process

Development of “primers” on linkages with sustainable development decision-making

To inform the design and development of thematic areas under IP3, the IOMC proposed as a first step the development of a series of short documents (“primers”) on the interface of chemicals with specific sustainable development decision-making topics.

Topics for the development of primers proposed include the interface of chemicals and waste management with:

- National Development Planning
- Climate Change
- Biodiversity
- Education
- Health
- Innovation
- Pollution
- and MEAs / other relevant international instruments.

In 2025 work has commenced to develop “pilot” primers on chemicals and education and chemicals and climate change, respectively. The primers will follow a common structure and focus on opportunities of mainstreaming chemicals and waste issues and priorities into related policies and decision-making processes. This includes identifying key policy processes where integration is most relevant, and highlighting institutions typically responsible for implementation. The primers will also offer guidance on how to embed chemicals and waste considerations into institutional work plans, budgets, and priorities. Finally, they outline opportunities to engage international bodies active in these areas to foster alignment of their work with the GFC.

In addition, work undertaken in the context of the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) and the UN Common Approach to Pollution may be of relevance. The Common

⁷ <https://iomcwebinars.org/current-webinar-series/gfc-implementation-webinar-2/>

Approach provides a supportive framework and an outline for organized, collective, and integrated action for the United Nations system to align its efforts to the Global Framework on Chemicals and the Sustainable Development Goals, with the sound management of chemicals and waste being key to ensuring a pollution-free planet.⁸

Questions for further consultation

In developing a draft TOR, workplan, and mandate for this Programme, the following questions may be relevant:

- What are important sustainable development processes (international and national) for which mainstreaming chemicals and waste management considerations is important?
- For the identified topics and processes, how can chemicals and waste management objectives be integrated into their relevant programmes, projects, and financing? What approaches can be applied, based on lessons-learned?
- Who are the thought leaders and stakeholder champions ready to engage in action at the international and national levels for specific topics?

Development of a discussion document

As a next step, the IOMC is encouraging stakeholders to consider and propose if they are ready to engage in and possibly lead work on the two proposed IP3 topics, or any other sustainable development topic of interest. In case of such interest, an informal group could be established to review pilot primers and explore opportunities for further thematic work. This work could inform a discussion document in advance of the International Conference in 2026: “Developing a GFC Implementation Programme on Integrating Chemicals and Waste Management Issues in Sustainable Development Processes”. If of value, a multi-stakeholder workshop on this topic could also be considered (subject to securing the required resources).

4 Next steps towards the International Conference

The IOMC is looking forward to input from the OEWG on the proposals made in this document. As a follow-up, a number of activities are proposed (which may require additional resources to be first secured):

⁸ For more information: <https://unemg.org/pollution-free-planet/>.

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- Preparation of a revised TORs and Workplans for IP 1 and IP 2 for submission and approval of the International Conference in 2026.
 - Continuation of supportive technical work under IP1, including a concept document on strategic chemicals management options, and other topics discussed at the IP1 workshop preceding the OEWG.
 - Engagement of additional stakeholders in advancing the Thematic Workstreams, and Industry Sector Programmes under IP2. This may include, subject to available resources, topic-specific workshops (e.g. on data transparency and traceability).
 - Continuation of supportive technical work under IP2, including further development of guidance for Target D6 implementation.
 - Development of pilot primers on specific topics of the chemicals and waste and sustainable development, and identify stakeholders interested in leading or engaging in thematic work on chemicals and climate change and education, respectively.
 - Development of a discussion document on IP3, taking into account input received by OEWG and stakeholder interest.
 - Identification of further action needed at the global level to support Implementation Programmes, including an approach/platform to foster knowledge management.
 - Development of a proposal to identify resource requirements to provide effective coordinating support to develop and establish Implementation Programmes.

**Annex 1: “Strengthening National Chemicals Legislation and Institutional Capacities
for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”: Draft TOR for a GFC
Implementation Programme**

Proposing stakeholder(s)

Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in partnership with
[.....].

1) Programme rationale

A large number of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, do not have essential basic chemicals management legislation in place to ensure the sound management of chemicals. This potentially results in significant negative impacts on human health and the environment.

2) Objectives and scope

GFC Targets relevant for the Programme

The Implementation Programme brings together GFC stakeholders committed to implementing the GFC and advancing towards the achievement of Strategic Objective A which aspires that “Legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities are in place to support and achieve the safe and sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.”

Specifically, GFC Target A1 spells out that by “2030, Governments have adopted and are implementing and enforcing legal frameworks, and have established appropriate institutional capacity to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste as appropriate for their national circumstances”. Other relevant GFC targets include: A2, A3, A5, A6, A7, B1, B2, B4, B6, D2, D4, D7, E2, E3, E5, and E6.

Programme Objectives

The proposed implementation programme comprises, promotes, and supports, results-oriented initiatives and activities undertaken by stakeholders working towards the implementation of effective chemicals legislation and institutional capacities, as called for by the GFC Strategic Objective A and Target A1. Through this, it aims at filling the prevailing gaps concerning chemicals legislation between developed and developing countries.

3) Stakeholder initiatives and actions falling under the Programme

While specific activities to implement the GFC and the Programme are identified, owned and executed by GFC stakeholders, the following types of initiatives, activities or projects are proposed to fall within the scope of the Programme:

- Strengthening of legislation or standards to promulgate classification and labelling compatible with the GHS.
- Strengthening of legislation to generate knowledge about hazardous chemicals, assess and regulate chemical risks throughout the life cycle.
- Strengthening of institutional capacity to manage chemicals, including the establishment of a national chemicals’ agency, or an inter-ministerial coordinating

mechanism.

- Strengthening of legislation for specific industry sectors to advance chemical safety, sustainable chemistry innovation, and a non-toxic circular economy along value chains.
- Strengthening of cost recovery schemes to ensure financial sustainability of national legislation and institutional capacities, such as registration fees or Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.
- Other activities that contribute to developing integrated national chemicals and waste management systems and capacities at the national and regional levels
- Any support initiatives provided by a development organization or other stakeholder group to support any of the above activities.

4) Programme structure and components

Global programme component

The global component of the Programme focuses on overall outreach, guidance, general knowledge-sharing and exchange of experience. The following supporting activities may be undertaken at the global or regional level, subject to available resources,

- Awareness raising campaign to highlight the importance of chemicals legislation.
- Identifying stakeholder initiatives and stakeholders in need of support and inviting them to engage in the programme.
- Identifying opportunities for coordination and creating synergies.
- Provision of technical support to develop project proposals and access to financing.
- Match-making to link demand for assistance with available support.
- Global and/or regional multi-stakeholder knowledge-sharing workshops.
- Knowledge-sharing and documentation of good practices.
- Further development of guidance and training materials.
- Analysis of progress and challenges faced by stakeholders.

Further details will be provided in the Programme's workplan

5) Stakeholder engagement in the Programme

Stakeholders encouraged to engage

The proposed Implementation Programme is open to all stakeholders. Specific stakeholders encouraged to engage include:

- Governments and/or regional inter-governmental organizations planning to take measures to strengthen their chemicals legislation and/or ready to share their experience.
- International organizations, bi-lateral development organizations and other development partners and stakeholder groups offering technical or financial support.

- Other GFC stakeholders, such as industry, labor unions, civil society organizations or academic institutions who have significant experience or activities relevant to the Programme and related GFC targets.

Process for stakeholders to engage

Stakeholders interested in engaging in the Programme should be committed to implementing the GFC and its strategic objectives and targets, be ready to share what they have to offer to the Programme or their need for support and be ready to report on progress made in implementing the GFC and identifying challenges encountered.

Stakeholders may join the Programme by notifying the IOMC and GFC Secretariat. The communication shall include a statement confirming the commitment of the stakeholder to implement the GFC and in particular Strategic Objective A, as well as a brief description of relevant initiatives, activities, and resources relevant to implementing the Programme. While this creates a network of stakeholders specifically engaged in a particular Programme, all Programme activities are open to and will be announced to all GFC stakeholders.

6) Knowledge-sharing

An integral part of the Programme is to compile relevant initiatives and good practices of stakeholders relevant to achieving the objectives of the Programme. This will include capacity development initiatives and projects implemented by IOMC Participating Organizations, other development partners and national governments. Compiling and sharing this knowledge widely and systematically is expected to foster coordination and collaboration among participating stakeholders.

Furthermore, the identification of and knowledge sharing of good legislative practices will help to ensure that countries committed to strengthening their chemicals legislation will be able to learn about and review the experience gained in other countries.

7) Governance

Programme coordination

As one of the proponents of the Programme, the IOMC/one or more of its Participating Organizations (POs) are ready to offer coordinating services for the Programme, working closely with the GFC Secretariat.

Multi-stakeholder advisory group

- Please refer to the above section 2.5 on Programme Governance.

8) Financial considerations

Implementation activities that will be undertaken under the programme (as taken up in the Programme's workplan) could be funded through various means.

These may include financial resources that could be accessed through for example multi-donor trust funds such as the GFC Trust Fund, the Special Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as funding made available by governments, international and bilateral development cooperation agencies, industry or philanthropic organizations.

In addition to these funding sources, financial and technical resources may be available through stakeholders participating in the implementation programme, including support to assist stakeholders in developing project proposals, as well as through CSR funding.

Some funding will also be required for supporting activities at the international level (e.g. global and/or regional knowledge-sharing workshops).

9) Synergies with other Implementation Programmes

The Programme is closely linked to and will support the proposed GFC Implementation Programme on Industry Engagement and Action along Value Chains, for example by covering legislation on developing safe and sustainable products and reducing the chemical footprint along value chains.

10) Monitoring, analysis, and feedback to the International Conference

Monitoring

To assess the success of the implementation programme, indicators developed under the GFC will be used to monitor progress and assess the impact of activities under the Programme. Further process indicators may be proposed by the Advisory Group and programme stakeholders to measure intermediate progress against questions, such as the following. The ultimate benchmark to assess the success of the implementation programme is if it succeeds in accelerating progress towards achieving relevant GFC targets.

Analysis and feedback to the International Conference

The programme creates an opportunity to understand factors fostering success or impeding progress. The programmes will therefore include a “lessons learned” component to inform future implementation action and/or provide feedback to the International Conference. This will be fostered through the knowledge-sharing component of the Programme.

Annex 2: “Strengthening Engagement and Action of Economic and Industry Sectors for the Sound Management of Chemicals along Value Chains”: Draft TOR for a GFC Implementation Programme

Proposing stakeholder(s)

Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in partnership with
[.....].

1) Programme rationale

While significant progress has been achieved, chemical releases and pollution continue to occur along value chains resulting in significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment. These releases and related exposures to chemicals occur at all stages of the life cycle, including production, use, and disposal (Global Chemicals Outlook II).

To help address these challenges, the proposed Programme comprises, stimulates and supports results-oriented activities by industry and other stakeholders to implement the GFC, in particular target D6 which calls upon economic and industry sectors to develop and implement Sustainable Chemicals and Waste Management Strategies.

2) Objectives and scope

The Implementation Programme brings together stakeholders committed to implementing the GFC. Specifically, Target D6 of the GFC stipulates that “by 2030, sustainable chemical and waste management strategies have been developed and implemented for major economic and industry sectors, which identify priority chemicals of concern and standards and measures, such as the chemical footprint approach, to reduce their impact and, where feasible, their input, along the value chain”. Other relevant GFC targets include: A3, A4, A7, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, D1, D4, D7, E2, E3, and E6. Further details will be provided in an IOMC guidance document to support the implementation of Target D6.

Programme objectives

Taking into account target D6 and other industry-relevant targets, the following overall programme objectives and guiding principles are proposed:

- Data and information on chemicals along supply chains is available and transparent
- Harm to workers, the public, and the environment from hazardous chemicals is avoided
- Compliance with national and international obligations is met, and ideally, exceeded
- Chemicals of concern are identified and replaced with safer alternatives
- A commitment to performance improvement and transparent reporting is upheld.

3) Stakeholder initiatives and actions falling within the Programme

The following type of stakeholder initiatives, activities or projects fall within the scope of the Programme:

- Development and implementation of “Sustainable chemicals and waste strategies” called for in target D6, or any other form of corporate policies that aim to achieve GFC targets

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- Identification of priority chemicals of concern in industry sectors and use of standards and other measures to reduce their impact and, where feasible, input along value chains (D6)
 - Sustainable supply chain policies and practices that stimulate chemical risk reduction and aim to replace priority chemicals of concern in supply chains
 - Development of methodologies to assess the chemical footprint along value chains, or other approaches that assess corporate chemical and waste management performance
 - Regulatory actions and other enabling measures to reduce the risks of or phase out priority chemicals of concern and stimulate sustainable chemistry innovation
 - Further development, and use of sustainability reporting standards that take into account chemicals and waste consideration and GFC targets
 - Research and dissemination of information on safe, green and sustainable chemistry innovation to replace chemicals of concern
 - Private and public financing initiatives compatible with the GFC including safe, green and sustainable chemistry solutions
 - Awareness raising campaigns, guidance development and any other forms of technical assistance to foster sustainable transformation of industry sectors.

4) Programme structure and components

The Programme is designed to comprise a suite of global activities to guide the Programme, coupled with specific economic and industry sector programmes.

Global programme component

The global component of the Programme focuses on overall outreach, guidance, general knowledge-sharing, oversight and addressing issues which cut across industry sector programmes. It may also include regional activities, as appropriate. The following activities may take place at the global level. Details will be provided in the overall global workplan:

- Awareness raising to highlight the importance of industry action to implement the GFC
- Guidance for developing sustainable chemicals and waste strategies in economic and industry sectors (D6) and development of specific Industry Sector Programmes
- Supporting/encouraging the development of specific Industry Sector Programmes and their review
- Addressing issues cutting across industry sectors (e.g. data transparency, priority chemicals of concern)
- Ensuring linkages with other aspects of GFC implementation and other Implementation Programmes
- Multi-stakeholder knowledge-sharing and analysis of progress and challenges faced.

Industry sector programmes

The second component of the Programme comprises a series of specific Economic or Industry Sector Programmes. These sector programmes bring together relevant stakeholders and have their own TORs and workplans. Stakeholders interested in establishing a specific Industry Sector Programme are encouraged to work with other stakeholders to develop a TOR and workplan, which should be linked to the GFC and consistent with overall Programme parameters and guidance. The mandate, TOR, and workplan of industry sectors programmes would be reviewed by an global multi-stakeholder advisory committee for the overall Programme, and a recommendation would be issued to the International Conference to adopt each programme.

Industry sector programmes should consider the following activities as they develop their workplan:

- Awareness-raising and outreach to engage relevant industry sector-stakeholders at global, regional and national levels.
- Baseline study and landscape analysis of GFC implementation in the industry sector
- Identify/compile priority chemicals of concern and innovative solutions to reduce their impacts or their replacement
- Global multi-stakeholder workshop to engage key stakeholders and companies in the industry sector
- Encourage the development of sustainable chemicals and waste management strategies (D6) by industry associations and corporations
- Review of relevant industry sector standards (including reporting standards) and identify opportunities to align them with the GFC
- Knowledge-sharing of front-runner actions and identification of gaps and needs.

Other activities and elements may be added, taking into account sector specific needs and priorities.

5) Stakeholder engagement in the Programme*Stakeholders encouraged to engage*

Stakeholders encouraged to engage in the Programme include:

- Industry associations and individual companies committed to and ready to take (or already taking) measures to implement the GFC
- Governments and/or regional inter-governmental organization committed to and ready to take measures to improve the environmental performance of industry
- International organizations, bi-lateral development organizations and other development partners and stakeholder groups offering technical or financial support
- Other GFC stakeholders, such as labor unions, civil society organization, or academic institutions who have significant experience or activities relevant to the Programme.

Process for engaging in the Programme

Stakeholders interested in engaging in the Programme should be committed to implementing the GFC and its strategic objectives and targets, be ready to share what they have to offer to the Programme or their need for support, and be ready to report on progress made in implementing the GFC and identifying challenges encountered.

Stakeholders may engage in the Programme by notifying the IOMC and GFC Secretariat. The communication shall include a statement confirming the commitment of the stakeholder to implementing the GFC and in particular Strategic Objective D, as well as a brief description of relevant activities. In the case where a specific Industry Sector Programme has been established, stakeholder engagement in the industry sector programme is by default considered as an engagement in the overall Implementation Programme. There shall only be one electronic platform to register participation. While this creates a network of stakeholders specifically engaged in a particular Programme, all Programme activities will be announced to and are open to all GFC stakeholders.

6) Identifying good practices and knowledge-sharing

An important aspect of the Programme is to elicit information about ongoing and planned stakeholder implementation action and identify good practices which may be of interest to other stakeholders. Structured, transparent, and results-oriented knowledge sharing could also include the systematic identification of needs of stakeholders as well as of stakeholders able to provide support. *[to be further developed]*

7) Governance

Programme coordination

As the main proponent for the Programme, the IOMC, with support of POs, is ready to offer services for the overall coordination of the global Programme, working closely with the GFC Secretariat. Some extra budgetary support may be required to deliver these services and global level activities, such as organizing global workshops and knowledge-sharing.

Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group

- Please refer to the above section 2.5 on Programme Governance.

Industry sector programme coordination

Specific Industry Sector Programmes require some coordination and convening services. Coordination services may be provided by an international organization and/or respected non-governmental organization with a robust activity portfolio related to the sector. One option is that two or three organizations work together to propose a sector implementation programme, and share the coordination of the Programme, using in-kind resources, or funding mobilized through other sources.

8) Finance considerations

Activities to implement the programme and its workplan could be financed through various means, including through in-kind stakeholder resources, as well as through the mobilization of additional financing. These additional resources may come from multi-donor trust funds such as the GFC Fund, the Special Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as funding made available by governments, international and bilateral development

cooperation agencies, philanthropic organizations, and industry, including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding. Furthermore, financial and/or technical resources may be available through participating stakeholders, e.g. by assisting stakeholders in developing project proposals.

9) Synergies with other Implementation Programmes

- *To be completed*

10) Monitoring, analysis, and feedback to the International Conference

Monitoring

To assess the success of the implementation programme, indicators developed under the GFC will be used to monitor progress and assess impact of activities under the Programme. Further process indicators may be proposed by the Steering Group and programme stakeholders to measure intermediate progress against questions, such as the following.

Has the Programme been able to:

- reach out to and engage relevant stakeholders and mobilize new stakeholders?
- catalyze new implementing activities by stakeholders?
- identify and widely share good implementation practices?
- coordinate and create synergies in implementation activities?
- provide access to and/or mobilize additional resources for implementation?
- identify implementation bottlenecks and solutions?

The ultimate benchmark to assess the success of the implementation programme is if it succeeds in accelerating progress towards achieving relevant GFC targets.

Analysis and feedback to the International Conference

The programme creates an opportunity to understand factors fostering success or impeding progress. The programmes will therefore include a “lessons learned” component to inform future implementation action and/or provide feedback to the International Conference.

Annex 3: Pilot working areas under a GFC Implementation Programme “Integrating chemicals and waste issues in sustainable development decision-making”

Chemicals and Climate Change

This work area would explore the critical connections between chemicals management and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Many chemicals are greenhouse gases or contribute indirectly to emissions through unsustainable production, use, and disposal practices. Conversely, climate change can exacerbate chemical risks through changes in temperature, precipitation, and extreme weather events. The Programme will support efforts to:

- integrate chemicals and waste considerations into climate policies and nationally determined contributions (NDCs),
- promote climate-smart chemicals management strategies, and
- foster cross-sector collaboration between environmental, health, and climate institutions.
- This work will help stakeholders leverage synergies and avoid trade-offs between chemicals management and climate action.

Chemicals and Education

This work area would address the role of education in advancing the sound management of chemicals and waste. Raising awareness, building technical capacity, and promoting a culture of sustainability across generations are essential to long-term change. The Programme will support:

- integration of chemicals and waste topics into formal and informal education systems,
- development of targeted training materials for different audiences (e.g. policymakers, industry, youth), and
- collaboration with education ministries, universities, and community-based organizations.