



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

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Implementation arrangements

**The role of chemicals and waste management in fostering
sustainability and circularity**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a document on the role of chemicals and waste management in fostering sustainability and circularity: *Multi-stakeholder events to support development of a Global Framework on Chemicals Implementation Programme on “Strengthening economic and industry sector engagement and action along value chains”*. It has been prepared by the Inter Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) in collaboration with the Global Framework on Chemicals secretariat.

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

* UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1

The role of chemicals and waste management in fostering sustainability and circularity:

Multi-stakeholder events to support development of a GFC Implementation Programme on “Strengthening economic and industry sector engagement and action along value chains”

Thursday 26 June 2025, OEWG, Punta del Este, Uruguay

*An Information Paper prepared by the IOMC in collaboration
with the GFC Secretariat*

UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/13

Global Framework on Chemicals

Target D6 - By 2030, sustainable chemical and waste management strategies have been developed and implemented for major economic and industry sectors that 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.

Target D3 – By 2030, the private sector, including the finance sector, incorporates strategies and policies to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste in its finance approaches and business models and applies internationally recognized or equivalent reporting standards.

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1 Introduction

1.1 About this Note

This note complements Information Document 11, which provides an overview of progress made in developing GFC Implementation Programmes in line with Resolution V/8. It offers further details on a proposed Implementation Programme entitled “*Strengthening Economic and Industry Sector Engagement and Action Along Value Chains*” (referred to as the GFC Industry Implementation Programme), as well as on related OEWG multi-stakeholder events scheduled for 26 June 2025. These events build on and complement discussions held earlier in the week in the contact group on implementation arrangements.

1.2 Purpose of the Multistakeholder Events

The main purpose of the OEWG multi-stakeholder events on 26 June is to gather input from stakeholders relevant to the development of the GFC Industry Implementation Programme. The development of this Programme was mandated by ICCM5 through Resolution V/8. The events aim to engage stakeholders in the co-creation of the Implementation Programme in the lead-up to its consideration at the International Conference in 2026.

Specific objectives of the events include:

- Presenting work undertaken in 2024–2025 to develop specific components of the Programme, including thematic workstreams and Industry Sector Programmes.
- Developing a shared understanding of the value that an Industry Implementation Programme can bring to the Global Framework on Chemicals.
- Showcasing selected stakeholder initiatives that contribute to knowledge-sharing within the Programme and broader GFC implementation.
- Identifying collaborative activities for inclusion in the global workplan of the Programme and in the workplans of specific Industry Sector Programmes.
- Exploring opportunities to build momentum for the Programme and to engage additional stakeholders in the lead-up to and following the International Conference.

1.3 Brief Recap of the Proposed Industry Implementation Programme

Mandate for the Programme

ICCM 5 Resolution V/8 on “Implementation arrangements” invited 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”. The topic of “Integrating sound chemicals and waste management in economic and industrial sectors along value chains” is one of the topics specifically mentioned in the Resolution.

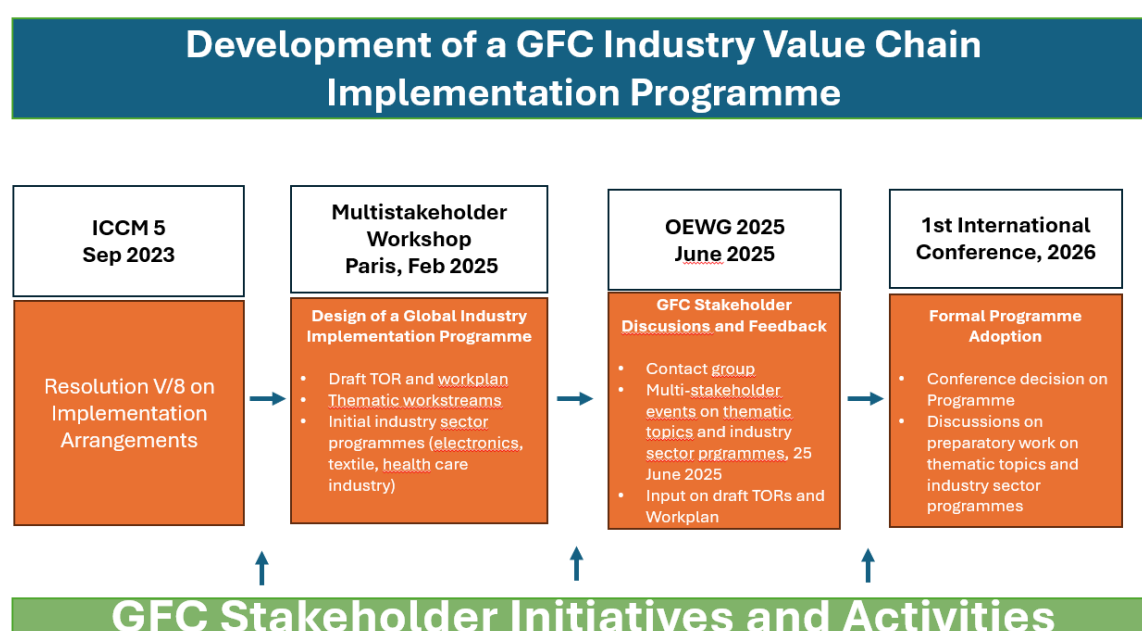
The proposed GFC Industry Implementation Programme aims to complement and add value to formal GFC meetings and negotiations by co-creating, through multi-stakeholder collaboration, a mechanism for intersessional activities and exchanges. This mechanism could focus on enabling regular knowledge-sharing, recognizing good practices and achievements, engaging new stakeholders, enhancing coordination, identifying gaps, and promoting joint solutions. Given the absence of dedicated funding, it is essential that the Programmes deliver clear value and are actively owned and supported by GFC stakeholders.

A key feature of the Programmes is their emphasis on recognizing, promoting, and supporting results-oriented initiatives and actions led by stakeholders committed to advancing specific GFC targets and exploring opportunities for collaborative action. To reinforce stakeholder-driven efforts, knowledge exchange, and joint solutions, the Programmes would include a limited number of supporting collaborative activities.

Consultative Process to Date

As part of the journey from ICCM5 to the International Conference in 2026, a series of consultative activities is being organized by the IOMC to support the co-creation of the Programme and ensure it is owned by all relevant stakeholders. The figure below outlines this journey, highlighting key milestones such as the multi-stakeholder workshop held in Paris and the upcoming OEWG in Uruguay.

Figure 1: Process to-date of developing a proposal for the industry Implementation Programme



To engage stakeholders and generate momentum for the development of a GFC Industry Implementation Programme, the IOMC organized a global multi-stakeholder [workshop](#) in February 2025 in Paris. The event brought together approximately 200 stakeholders, with about half participating virtually in selected sessions. A key focus of the workshop was to discuss critical elements for developing guidance to support the implementation of Targets D6 (and D3), which call for ambitious strategies by industry sectors.

The workshop helped catalyze momentum for the development of specific GFC Industry Sector Programmes, including for the electronics, textiles, and healthcare sectors—and potentially for the private finance sector as well. It also identified several thematic workstreams for cross-cutting activities, including:

- Identifying priority chemicals of concern
- Measuring chemical footprints and impacts
- Enhancing transparency and traceability along value chains
- Establishing disclosure and reporting standards/frameworks
- Promoting green and sustainable chemistry innovation and solutions
- Facilitating private sector financing and investment.

Proposed programme components

Inf document 11 of the OEWG proposes that in general the proposed GFC Implementation Programmes comprise:

- A “global” workplan component focusing on outreach, guidance, 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 *Industry Implementation Programme*, the overall Programme is proposed to be complemented by specific *Industry Sector Programmes* tailored to the needs and characteristics of diverse economic and industry sectors. Work is already underway to develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) and workplans for sector-specific programmes on textiles, electronics, and healthcare (other sectors may also be considered), ensuring alignment with the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), including Target D6. The figure below provides an overview of the possible various components of the Programme.

Figure 2: Possible structure and components of an industry Implementation Programme



1.4 Value Propositions for Stakeholders to Engage

The GFC and its targets are voluntary. To attract and engage industry stakeholders in the Implementation Programmes, a compelling value proposition needs to be developed, one that offers tangible benefits for participation. The multi-stakeholder events on 26 June provide an opportunity to obtain input on the possible value that the Programme could provide. Suggested value proposition include, but are not limited, to the following four elements:

- **Co-creating enabling policies relevant to the sector:** The Programme provides an opportunity for stakeholders to make proposals and co-create recommendations regarding what policy and legal enabling elements could be put in place to achieve relevant GFC Targets. This work could be included in the workplans of each industry sector programme and create an incentive for stakeholders to engage. It could also identify linkages with, and provide input to the six cross-cutting thematic topics (e.g. identifying priority chemicals, chemicals footprint approaches, innovating private financing work, etc.).
- **Recognizing commitment and frontrunner action:** The Programme can provide a platform for leading industry stakeholders to showcase their commitments, initiatives, and actions, thereby gaining public recognition. Such actions may include corporate chemical policies, chemical footprint disclosure, or efforts to phase out priority chemicals of concern (and to create market opportunities for safe chemicals used on products based on meeting certain functionality requirements). These topics are highlighted in Target D6, though other targets are also relevant.

The recognition could be discreet in nature (e.g. by including stakeholder initiative in the workplan) or more formal, for example through a Resolution that acknowledges, recognizes, or endorses certain stakeholder initiatives.

- **Knowledge-sharing and learning:** The Programme can facilitate the identification of specific topics of shared interest, enabling stakeholders to exchange knowledge and highlight good practices. Questions relevant for knowledge sharing include the following:
 - What are priority chemicals of concern in the value chain that have been identified by various stakeholders and what are their common elements/differences?
 - What are good practices to share chemical data and information along value chains to address specific user needs?
 - How are chemicals issues linked to and integrated in broader sustainability initiatives in the sector (e.g. circular economy)?
 - How are stakeholders implementing Target D6 to develop sustainable strategies which address some of the above topics?
- **Analysis, alignment, and harmonization:** The Programme can offer a forum to review existing methodologies and standards, fostering recommendations and a roadmap for potential alignment and harmonization. Those recommendations could, for example, be addressed to organizations engaged in standard setting.

2 Background information on OEWG multistakeholder events, 26 June 2025

2.1 Overview and Discussion Questions

The events on 26 June 2025 are closely linked to, and build upon, the contact group discussions on Resolution V/8 held earlier in the week. They reflect the proposed structure of the Programme, with the morning sessions focusing on thematic workstreams and the afternoon dedicated to specific Industry Sector Programmes.

The following guiding questions are relevant across all events:

- Why is GFC work on the specific theme or industry sector important, and how does it contribute to the implementation of specific GFC targets—particularly Targets D6 and D3?
- What key stakeholder initiatives and good practices support GFC implementation and broader sustainability objectives along value chains? Would further knowledge-sharing on these initiatives be valuable?
- What collaborative activities (e.g. knowledge-sharing on specific topics, development of guidance, alignment of approaches) could be included in the Programme's workplan?

- How can stakeholders remain engaged, and how can additional stakeholders be encouraged to participate in the lead-up to the International Conference? How can collaborative action be sustained and nurtured?

2.2 Introductory Session in Plenary (*morning*)

The day will begin with an introductory plenary session, which will present the rationale and context for developing the Implementation Programme. It will also provide a summary of prior consultations and technical work to date, including preparatory efforts related to the development of guidance to support the implementation of Target D6.

2.3 Thematic Events (*morning*)

2.3.1 Flow of Thematic Events

Each of the six thematic topics that cut across the Industry Sector Programmes (see section 2.3.2) will be addressed in a dedicated event. These events will highlight the relevance of each topic, share key outcomes from the Paris workshop, and summarize follow-up work undertaken since then. They may also feature stakeholder presentations or statements to enrich the discussion.

Each event will conclude with an open discussion focused on identifying collaborative activities that could benefit stakeholders and be included in the global workplan of the Programme. Examples of such activities include:

- identifying and sharing knowledge on relevant stakeholder initiatives and actions
- exploring opportunities for coordination, alignment, and harmonization of approaches
- developing options and guidance to support effective stakeholder implementation.

2.3.2 Thematic Workstreams Supporting the Industry Value Chain Programme

Knowledge Sharing on Priority Chemicals of Concern

This workstream responds to the call in Target D6 to identify priority chemicals of concern within economic and industry sectors. Its focus is on enhancing understanding of existing initiatives that identify such chemicals—examining their objectives, methodologies, and the criteria used. The aim is knowledge-sharing rather than reaching consensus on what constitutes a “priority chemical of concern.”

Measuring Chemical Footprints and Impacts

Target D6 encourages the identification of “standards and measures, such as the chemical footprint approach,” to reduce chemical impacts and, where feasible, inputs along value chains. As a first step, this workstream will identify existing methods for measuring chemical footprints and impacts, including those promoting resource efficiency. It may also explore opportunities for coordination, alignment, or harmonization of approaches.

Transparency and Traceability Along Value Chains

Transparency and traceability of chemical information across value chains are referenced in several GFC targets and are critical for implementing Target D6. Building on work from the SAICM Chemicals in Products Programme, this workstream aims to enhance understanding of the types of data valued by different user groups, how such information can be effectively communicated, and how the Implementation Programme can help advance this issue.

Disclosure and Reporting Standards/Frameworks

Corporate reporting on sustainability, including chemicals and waste management, is increasingly important for companies, the public, and financial stakeholders. This workstream offers an opportunity to identify and examine recognized reporting standards relevant to the GFC, and to explore ways to align corporate disclosure with GFC targets, where appropriate.

Green and Sustainable Chemistry Innovation and Solutions

Target D6 promotes measures to reduce chemical impact and input across value chains. Green and sustainable chemistry innovation is key to achieving this. This workstream will support knowledge-sharing and analysis of existing guidance, databases, and platforms related to green chemistry and safer alternatives. It will also consider how Industry Sector Programmes can be supported to advance green and sustainable chemistry solutions.

Private Sector Financing and Investment

Financial actors, both public and private, play a crucial role in aligning investment flows with GFC objectives. Target D3 specifically calls on the private sector, including financial institutions, to integrate sound chemicals and waste management into financing models and reporting. This workstream will explore actions needed to equip investors with relevant guidance and information. It may also serve as the foundation for a stand-alone Industry Sector Programme aimed at aligning private investment strategies with the GFC.

2.4 Events Focusing on Specific Industry Sector Programmes (*afternoon*)

In the afternoon, the focus will shift to the development of specific GFC Industry Sector Programmes for the textile, electronics, and healthcare sectors. Similar to the thematic sessions, each event will provide an overview of key discussions and outcomes from the Paris workshop and related follow-up activities, including progress on draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) and workplans.

Selected stakeholders will present relevant initiatives and share perspectives on how the Programme can be designed to provide tangible value to stakeholders in each sector. This may include discussions on how the Industry Sector Programme can contribute to, and add value within, broader sectoral sustainability initiatives.

Each event will conclude with a discussion on potential activities that could be incorporated into the global workplan of the Programme, based on stakeholder input and sector-specific priorities.