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

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Global Framework on Chemicals – investing for impact: programme of work, budget and options for a sustainable secretariat

Programme of work, staffing and budget

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/12 on the programme of work and budget. In that resolution, the Conference requested the secretariat to report on its activities, staffing and budget and to prepare a budget for the period 2027–2029 for consideration by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste at its first session. The International Conference on Chemicals Management also adopted resolution V/3 on financial considerations, in which it established the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund. An update on implementation (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/11) was provided to the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 24 to 27 June 2025, and subsequent updates have been provided to the Bureau of the Framework and to the Executive Board of the Fund.

2. Section II of the present note provides an update on the implementation of the programme of work and budget of the Framework during the period from 1 October 2023 to 31 July 2026, including on budget performance, contributions received, activities carried out and staffing. It also includes a proposed programme of work, budget and staffing plan for the period 2027–2029. Section III provides an overview of the performance of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and a proposed programme of work for the Fund for the period 2027–2029. Finally, section IV of the note includes recommendations regarding options for the sustainable financing of the Framework.

II. Global Framework on Chemicals

A. Implementation of the programme of work in the period October 2023–July 2026

3. Since the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals, the secretariat has been strengthened with the expertise required to support the implementation of the Framework.

* UNEP/GFC/IC.1/1.

Implementation efforts have focused on strengthening foundational capacities, advancing work in high-impact sectors, promoting innovative approaches and sustaining stakeholder engagement and discussions on financing. Key priorities supported and catalysed by the secretariat have included assessing and developing indicators for the measurability structure, improving legislative frameworks, engaging with major industry and economic sectors, integrating considerations related to gender equality and social equity, consolidating national implementation through a strong focal point network, launching the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and mobilizing financial contributions. Further details on key activities carried out in the period 2023–2026 in response to resolutions adopted at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management are provided in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/2.

4. One major milestone was the organization of the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, which brought together more than 400 participants. Structured around the Framework's strategic objectives, the meeting included a multi-stakeholder event focused on strategic objective D, with hybrid participation to broaden stakeholder engagement. Participants reviewed progress in the implementation of all resolutions adopted at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including with regard to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, advancing implementation programmes, the road map for the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides and the draft gender action plan. The outcomes of the discussions can be found in the meeting report (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/14).

5. Being able to track and measure progress is critical to understanding whether chemicals and waste are managed in a safe and sustainable way around the world. The secretariat supported nine online meetings of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators, including expert group meetings and a hybrid expert session, which resulted in the recommendation of 63 draft target-level indicators for consideration by the International Conference. Experts also agreed on a way forward for measuring the two adopted high-level indicators, on the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste (led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) and on the global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste (led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation).

6. Clear and enforceable legislative frameworks not only provide the foundation for protecting people and the planet from harmful pollutants and hazardous substances but can also create the conditions for better design and innovation. Working closely with participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and the Special Programme,[1] the secretariat supported countries in their work to put in place appropriate legislation, in strengthening institutional capacities and in enforcing chemicals and waste legislation, including protecting workers by emphasizing the need for a strong labour component. Along with promoting the building blocks for national chemicals management systems, the secretariat has facilitated the development of "leapfrogging" guidance that encourages practical, proportionate and resource-efficient approaches for policymakers, legislators, regulators and technical experts.[2] The guidance draws on existing international resources and supports the progressive strengthening of national capacities. A pilot project has also been launched to provide one-to-one expert support on legislative implementation and enforcement. This workstream complements the support provided to countries by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the management of chemicals in different industry sectors.

7. Chemicals and waste challenges are ultimately sectoral challenges. To achieve meaningful change, the secretariat has engaged directly with sectors such as construction, electronics, healthcare and textiles to facilitate the establishment of programmes that coordinate activities, share best practices and accelerate transformation and systemic change across value chains in order to embed sustainability, circularity and safety by design into products and materials at the outset. Together with the IOMC organizations, the secretariat has encouraged the private sector to advance work on transparency, traceability and disclosure; to identify priority chemicals of concern; to consolidate chemical footprinting approaches; to promote green and sustainable chemistry innovation; and to scale up private sector financing and investment. Through workshops and meetings, the secretariat

[1] Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

[2] See https://iomcwebinars.org/ic1-and-implementation-programmes/.

promoted coordination, reduced duplication and encouraged the harmonization of standards and tools to support consistent implementation.

8. Achieving the transformative ambition of the Framework requires a clear understanding of how capital flows through key economic sectors. Investment decisions in the agriculture, construction, electronics and textiles sectors shape product design, material choices, chemical choices and use, and waste generation. Mapping financial and investment flows helps to identify where incentives can be aligned, where harmful practices continue to be financed and where resources can be mobilized to accelerate the transition to safer, more sustainable products, technologies and business models. Together with IOMC and other stakeholders, the secretariat has developed an assessment of investment and financial flows for the cotton textile value chain, including a financial needs model to identify hotspots and quantify the transition costs associated with reducing the use of hazardous chemicals. In addition, input was provided on the development of a scoping paper for a quantitative analysis of the benefits of action on the sustainable management of chemicals.[3]

9. To support implementation of the Framework at the national level, the secretariat developed draft guidelines[4] to define the roles and responsibilities of national focal points and committed itself to building their capacity to fulfil their role. Pilot implementation included an induction programme for newly nominated national focal points that was delivered in cooperation with the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre and comprised four webinars and a two-day hybrid meeting between February and April 2026, providing training for 26 national focal points. In addition, to advance gender equality, the relevant concepts have been integrated across a wide range of activities in close collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations programmes and entities. The secretariat developed a draft gender action plan (UNEP/GFC/IC.1/7, annex I) through a consultative process and incorporated gender related-questions into the 2026 baseline survey on the Framework to strengthen gender-responsive data collection and implementation.

10. International collaboration remains essential to delivering the global ambition of the Framework and was expanded significantly during the reporting period. The secretariat worked closely with IOMC and its participating organizations to support the implementation of key resolutions, including on implementation arrangements, indicators and measurability, and issues of concern. The secretariat stepped up its collaboration with WHO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and enhanced its engagement with, and the participation of, focal points from ministries of health and labour, complementing its engagement with ministries of the environment. The secretariat has focused on the development of health- and labour-related indicators under the measurability framework, facilitated the development of the healthcare and labour programmes and improved engagement with health, labour and professional organizations to support coordinated implementation of the Framework. In addition, the secretariat has reinforced collaboration with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including through an information document linking chemicals and waste management with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It has established close collaborative working practices with the International Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution and with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, working together on events and on advancing activities in joint areas of interest.

11. Finally, the secretariat has actively raised awareness of the Global Framework on Chemicals and its importance through forums, conferences and webinars across the United Nations regions. Since 2023, the secretariat has participated in more than 100 events on topics ranging from textiles and electronic waste to labour rights and industry practices and pollution by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Those engagements have brought together stakeholders from different constituencies, including Governments, non-governmental organizations, industry, youth, academia and international organizations, to coordinate action and cooperation.

B. Budget performance for the period October 2023–July 2026

12. During the period from October 2023 to July 2026, UNEP received a total of $5.4 million in contributions for the Framework (see table 1). In addition, UNEP contributed support to the secretariat and related activities in establishing the infrastructure for the Framework and securing donor contributions.

[3] Further information on the scoping paper is available in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/7.

[4] See document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/7.

Table 1
Overview of income and expenditures and estimated balance of the Global Framework on Chemicals

(*United States dollars*)

Description	*Contributions*[a]	*Expenditures*	*Balance*
Contributions received during the period 2023–2025	4 666 981		
Contributions received in 2026 (as of July 2026)	733 163		
Expenditures for the period 2023–2025		2 832 065	
Estimated expenditures for the year 2026		3 630 000	
Subtotal	**5 400 144**	**6 462 064**	
Balance			**(1 061 920)**
Expected contributions			927 317
Overall estimated shortfall (as of July 2026)			**(134 603)**

[a] Excluding contributions from UNEP core funds, thematic funds and operating reserves.

13. Table 1 provides an overview of the income and expenditures and the estimated balance of the Global Framework on Chemicals. Total expenditures for the period 2023–2025 include the costs of secretariat staffing, operations, the implementation of the programme of work as set out in the resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. Estimated expenditures for 2026 include secretariat staffing costs, final payments related to the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, and the costs of the first session of the International Conference of the Framework.

14. An overview of contributions received as of July 2026 to support the secretariat and its implementation activities is presented in table 2. The resources mobilized to date remain significantly below the levels required to fund a full secretariat and implement the approved programme of work.

Table 2
Contributions received as of July 2026 to support the Framework secretariat and its activities

(*United States dollars*)

Donor	*2023*	*2024*	*2025*	*2026*	*Total*
Austria			45 343	22 910	68 253
Belgium		31 250	35 294		66 544
Belgium (Brussels)			14 766		14 766
Canada		49 236		106 535	155 771
Denmark		28 706	52 177		80 883
European Commission			646 000		646 000
Finland		14 690	33 875		48 565
France	108 563	429 078	114 025	115 207	766 873
Germany		159 314	343 279	285 698	788 291
Japan			63 000		63 000
Montenegro				329	329
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)		55 066	113 636		168 702
Norway			96 725		96 725
Pakistan			1 947	1 948	3 895
Sweden		291 403			291 403
Switzerland		465 071	346 224		811 295
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	187 373	315 939		200 536	703 848
United States of America		625 000			625 000
Total	**295 936**	**2 464 753**	**1 906 292**	**733 163**	**5 400 144**

15. As a result of the level of contributions, a more limited staffing capacity than foreseen has been in operation since the International Conference on Chemicals Management approved the indicative staffing structure and programme of work. To ensure the continued delivery of priority

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activities, the secretariat has relied on targeted consultancy and in-kind support provided by UNEP to address specific technical and operational needs. While that approach has provided flexibility, it is not a sustainable substitute for a fully staffed secretariat with the institutional capacity required to support the effective long-term implementation of the Framework.

16. The financial position of the Framework indicates that, while voluntary contributions have been received, including from UNEP, since the establishment of the Framework, the projected total expenditures for the current programme of work exceed the funding secured to date. Although additional pledged contributions are expected to reduce that gap, an estimated funding shortfall of $134,603 remains, highlighting the urgent need to cover the costs for 2026, for the upcoming set of activities programmed for the period 2027–2029, and for staff, which are currently not funded.

17. UNEP has continued to provide in-kind and funding support, including funding for the P-5 position of Coordinator, in addition to providing technical and strategic expertise, in particular on measurability and indicators, issues of concern, and high-impact sectors. A collaborative operational approach in which the Special Programme secretariat and the Framework secretariat were integrated into a new unit has created efficiencies while still respecting their distinct mandates. Cost-efficient working methods have included harnessing the existing sector work of UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and WHO, as well as other IOMC participating organizations' programmes on agriculture, construction, electronics, pharmaceuticals and textiles. This has created synergies and amplified the effect of existing activities.

C. Proposed programme of work and budget for the period 2027–2029

18. This section sets out the proposed programme of work and budget of the Global Framework on Chemicals for the period 2027–2029 and the projected funding requirements to support the implementation of the Framework during that period.

19. Much remains to be done until 2029, and progress will depend on how effectively the global community can work together to turn ambition into change on the ground. Countries continue to need strong policies and legislation, together with the institutional capacity and resources to implement and enforce them. Businesses need better information on chemicals in their products and along value chains in order to identify risks and advance the use of safer alternatives. Governments, companies and investors need stronger evidence of the costs of pollution and the benefits of action to inform policy, investment and financing decisions. Over the next three years, the secretariat will seek to connect with stakeholders and reinforce these efforts: strengthening national systems for chemicals management; advancing implementation in high-impact sectors; making risks and impacts more visible through greater transparency, traceability, disclosure and chemical footprinting; and strengthening the case for mobilizing finance to scale up effective solutions. Bringing to scale market opportunities for green chemistry will also be an area of continued focus. An operational measurability structure will connect those efforts by tracking progress, identifying gaps, demonstrating results and focusing further action and resources on areas where they can have the greatest impact. These efforts will be undertaken in consultation with other bodies, in particular to ensure complementarity with GEF.

20. In order for the Framework to retain an effective governance system, the secretariat will coordinate and support a comprehensive set of strategic activities and meetings from December 2026 until the end of 2029, which will include the organization and delivery of at least twelve Bureau meetings and the second session of the International Conference, provisionally scheduled for 2029. Any intersessional meetings, including a possible meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in 2028, and any ad hoc working groups will be supported pursuant to the decisions of the International Conference and subject to the availability of resources.

21. The secretariat will support the conduct and delivery of activities under the implementation programmes, working in close collaboration with the IOMC participating organizations and relevant stakeholders. Under implementation programme 1, the secretariat aims to dedicate resources to mobilizing multidisciplinary experts and the national focal point network to overcome the barriers to developing, complying with and enforcing legislation related to chemicals and waste management, including instruments that support sustainable domestic financing. The secretariat will also assist countries in applying "leapfrogging" guidance for practical and resource-efficient approaches to managing chemicals as part of the building-block approach to developing national chemicals management systems. Working with ILO, the secretariat will collaborate on activities under the foundational labour pillar, consolidating occupational health and safety action at the national level.

22. Under implementation programme 2, the secretariat will improve the coordination of implementation efforts, encourage stronger engagement of relevant sectors and stakeholders, and work to improve alignment between the implementation programmes and other governance arrangements

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for sectors and issues of concern. The secretariat will engage actively in supporting harmonization and standardization in chemical footprinting, cooperation with international standards bodies and assisting the sector groups in applying those methods. Continuing efforts to improve data availability and accessibility will enhance the transparency and traceability of chemicals in sectors, and the data will feed into a better understanding of the chemicals in use, their properties and potential exposure routes. In addition, the secretariat will support efforts to advance the digital tracking of products and materials. The aim is to complement the work supported by GEF on chemicals in sectors.

23. Building on the Framework's multisectoral approach, the secretariat will promote engagement with companies, industry and trade associations and other relevant stakeholders along the value chain, including within those sectors prioritized under the implementation programmes. The secretariat will encourage businesses to participate in sectoral and thematic implementation efforts with a view to facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement in ways that can create an enabling environment for businesses to transform their respective sectors and pivot away from risks of exposure to harmful chemicals, in particular those associated with the use of manufactured goods.

24. Promoting green and sustainable chemistry to encourage the design of chemicals with few or no hazardous properties will be a priority. The secretariat will encourage the use of sustainable and safer alternatives in high-impact sector programmes and promote principles such as safety by design. In addition, the secretariat will work with international reporting standards bodies, continue its efforts to increase and facilitate private sector financing and investment, and emphasize and mainstream occupational safety and health and gender considerations. The secretariat will continue to support stakeholder engagement, knowledge-sharing and communication, including through focal points, sectoral and stakeholder constituencies, and relevant international and regional partners.

25. The secretariat will ensure that the Framework is represented in major international forums, including the United Nations Environment Assembly, the World Health Assembly, ILO conventions (in particular the development of the new chemicals protocol) and the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. At the same time, collaboration will be strengthened with other global instruments, in particular the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to better align objectives on pollution and chemicals management. Close engagement will continue with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution to ensure that decision-making across the Framework is evidence-based, and cooperation will be strengthened with the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides.

26. The secretariat will also strengthen partnerships and resource mobilization efforts to advance the implementation of the Framework, including through engagement with new actors in accordance with applicable due diligence processes and safeguards. Such engagement will aim to foster collaboration, promote voluntary action in support of the objectives of the Framework, and mobilize expertise, networks and resources to help drive results and the achievement of its goals. Securing the long-term sustainability of the Framework, including that of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, will be critical to achieving sustained impact and effectiveness.

27. Connecting those efforts, the secretariat will focus on making the measurability structure operational, including by applying any adopted indicators, refining methodologies as appropriate and further developing reporting arrangements, including dashboard development and the practical implementation of the high-level indicators. That work will require technical and financial support, including dedicated staff and experts in data and statistics, investment in systems for data collection and reporting, and resources to support custodianship, coordination and stakeholder engagement.

28. The secretariat will continue to implement its communication strategy with awareness campaigns designed to reach the broader set of stakeholder groups required for the effective implementation of the Framework. It will produce high-quality multimedia and digital content, including videos, graphics and animations, and other campaign materials. That will enable the secretariat to reach audiences beyond its immediate community and translate technical developments into accessible, compelling communications for Governments, civil society, business and the wider public.

29. A three-year budget for the 2027–2029 programme of work is presented in table 3. The budget reflects the minimum resources required to maintain a functioning secretariat capable of delivering a programme of work approved by the International Conference. The staffing structure has been reconfigured to support prioritized activities and ensure that essential functions are maintained. The project personnel proposed will ensure that the secretariat has the technical, policy, administrative and communications capacity required to support implementation, service the governing bodies and

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facilitate stakeholder engagement. Significant resources are also budgeted for meetings, including a meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the second session of the International Conference.

Table 3
Proposed secretariat budget for the period 2027–2029

(*United States dollars*)

		Budget		
Cost category	*Subcategory*	*2027*	*2028*	*2029*
Secretariat personnel and travel				
Personnel	**Project personnel component**	**1 820 200**	**1 874 806**	**1 931 050**
	P-5 Senior Programme Management Officer[a]	–	–	–
	P-4 Programme Management Officer	279 500	287 885	296 522
	P-4 Programme Management Officer	279 500	287 885	296 522
	P-4 Programme Management Officer	317 000	326 510	336 305
	P-4 Administrative Officer (20%)	55 900	57 577	59 304
	P-3 Programme Management Officer	233 400	240 402	247 614
	P-3 Programme Management Officer	233 400	240 402	247 614
	P-3 Programme Management Officer	233 400	240 402	247 614
	P-2 Associate Programme Management Officer	188 100	193 743	199 555
	Consultants	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**
	Administrative support	**222 000**	**228 660**	**235 520**
	GS-6 Administrative Assistant	222 000	228 660	235 520
Travel	**Travel**	**60 000**	**60 000**	**60 000**
	Subtotal	**2 112 200**	**2 173 466**	**2 236 570**
Transfers to implementing partners				
Transfers to partners				
	Implementation programmes	160 000	160 000	160 000
	Issues of concern	60 000	60 000	60 000
	Legal and policy	100 000	100 000	50 000
	Technical assistance and capacity-building	150 000	150 000	150 000
	Subtotal	**470 000**	**470 000**	**420 000**
Contractual services				
Contractual services				
	Measurability and reporting	200 000	500 000	300 000
	Knowledge management	20 000	20 000	20 000
	Communications	40 000	40 000	40 000
	Subtotal	**260 000**	**560 000**	**360 000**
Meetings and training events				
Meetings and conferences				
	Second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group	–	1 750 000	–
	Second session of the International Conference	–	–	2 400 000
	Ad hoc working groups	80 000	80 000	80 000
	Subtotal	**80 000**	**1 830 000**	**2 480 000**
Premises and other costs				
Fixed operating costs				
	Operational costs for secretariat personnel	138 138	142 282	146 551
	Subtotal	**138 138**	**142 282**	**146 551**

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		Budget		
Cost category	*Subcategory*	*2027*	*2028*	*2029*
Miscellaneous components				
Reporting costs				
	Printing, website maintenance, translations and publications	10 000	10 000	10 000
	Sundry costs	30 000	30 000	30 000
	Subtotal	**40 000**	**40 000**	**40 000**
Subtotal		**3 100 338**	**5 215 748**	**5 683 121**
Indirect programme support costs (13%)		403 044	678 047	738 806
Total		**3 503 382**	**5 893 795**	**6 421 926**

[a] The P-5 Coordinator position is funded using UNEP core resources and is therefore not included in the budget financed by voluntary contributions.

30. The programme of work for the period 2027–2029 currently remains unfunded. The implementation of the Framework during that period will depend on sufficient, predictable and sustainable financial contributions.

III. Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

A. Implementation of the programme of work of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund in the period 2023–2026

31. During the period 2023–2026, the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund progressed from establishment to operation, serving as a dedicated mechanism for supporting implementation of the Framework at the national and regional levels. This included the establishment and servicing of the Executive Board of the Fund, the development of operational procedures and application guidance, the launch and administration of two funding rounds, and the provision of technical support to applicants and implementing partners.

32. In the first funding round, 80 of the 105 applications received were deemed eligible, and the Executive Board approved four projects covering 11 countries, with grant allocations totalling $2.83 million (excluding programme support costs). The portfolio includes regional initiatives in East Africa, West Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. In three of those projects, implementation has already started, and the fourth project is expected to become operational shortly.

33. The second call for applications, launched on 30 September 2025, generated significant demand from Governments and other eligible applicants. A total of 200 proposals were submitted, including 134 that met the eligibility requirements. In March 2026, the Executive Board shortlisted 16 concept notes for the development of full project proposals. Following the shortlisting process, the secretariat provided technical support to applicants in the development of full proposals, including through coordination with IOMC participating organizations to strengthen project quality and alignment with the objectives and targets of the Framework. Final funding decisions for the second round are expected in September 2026, with grant approvals expected to total $6 million to $8 million, excluding programme support costs.

34. On the basis of the anticipated second-round approvals, the first two funding rounds are expected to result in total grant allocations of $8.8 million to $10.8 million, excluding programme support costs. Separately, estimated cumulative expenditures of $1.95 million through the end of 2026 have supported the establishment and operation of the Fund, including its governance arrangements; the administration of the two funding rounds, both of which met with high demand; technical support for applicants and due diligence; and oversight of a growing portfolio of national, regional and multi-country projects. Those figures demonstrate that the majority of resources deployed through the Fund are directed to projects, while a smaller but essential operational component enables the effective allocation, management and oversight of those resources.

35. An analysis of applications received in the first two funding rounds reveals considerable demand for support in establishing and strengthening the basic policy, legal and institutional systems required for the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste, representing a critical “enabling environment gap”. Applications also reflect broader financing needs that exceed the scale and scope of the Fund. Although its resources are relatively limited compared with larger financing

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mechanisms, such as the GEF chemicals and waste focal area, the Fund plays an important complementary role in addressing critical implementation gaps that may otherwise limit the ability of countries to access, attract and sustain financing at scale.

36. Experience to date therefore supports the increasingly strategic use of Fund resources to address underlying financing constraints and catalyse resources beyond individual grants. As further elaborated in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8, future projects supported by the Fund could contribute, to an extent that is appropriate and proportionate to their scope, to one or more of three financing pathways: generating additional and recurring domestic revenue; directing domestic finance towards chemicals and waste priorities; and preparing initiatives and demonstrating their viability for larger-scale financing.

37. Such an approach would position the Fund as a catalytic component of the broader financing architecture for the implementation of the Framework, complementary to larger financing mechanisms, including GEF and development finance institutions. Further information on financing approaches and the potential future evolution of the Fund, including the potential development of a complementary finance and investment window, is provided in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/7.

B. Financial performance of the Fund

38. During the period October 2023–July 2026, UNEP received a total of $27.7 million for the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund (see tables 4 and 5).

Table 4
Overview of income and provisional expenditures and estimated balance of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

(*United States dollars*)

Description	*Income*	*Expenditures*	*Balance*
Contributions received in the period 2023–2025	27 714 443		
Contributions received in 2026 (as of July 2026)	–		
Expenditures in the period 2023–2025	–	529 786	
Estimated expenditures for 2026		4 620 769	
Subtotal	**27 714 443**	**5 150 556**	
Balance			**22 563 887**
Expected contributions			**106 535**
Overall estimated balance (as of July 2026)			**22 670 422**

Note: A substantial portion of the Fund balance is dedicated to project activities. The estimated balance available for Fund operations from 2027 onward is approximately $1.50 million.

39. Table 4 provides an overview of the income and estimated expenditures and the estimated balance of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund as of July 2026. The total estimated expenditures include both the operational costs of the Fund and grant allocations approved by the Executive Board. Of the estimated expenditures for 2026, $2.83 million relates to grant allocations from the first round, excluding programme support costs. The remainder comprises the associated programme support costs and the Fund's operational expenditures, including staffing and temporary professional capacity; meetings and servicing of the Executive Board; application review and technical appraisal; financial and fiduciary processes; and the initial monitoring and oversight of approved projects.

40. Expenditures for the Fund's operations have remained below the levels approved by the Executive Board under the programme of work and budget for the Fund. Essential professional functions have consequently been supported in part through temporary consultancies, while recruitment has been limited to the minimum that is considered necessary. The recruitment of the approved G-6 position was also placed on hold in the context of the UN80 initiative and the consideration by UNEP of consolidated arrangements for administrative services. While these measures have reduced the Fund's operational expenditure rate, they are becoming increasingly difficult to sustain as the project portfolio and corresponding requirements for monitoring, fiduciary oversight, governance support and implementation assistance expand.

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Table 5
Contributions received as of July 2026 to support the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and its activities
(*United States dollars*)

Donor	*2023*	*2024*	*2025*	*2026*	*Total*
Belgium		31 250	35 294		66 544
Canada					–
European Commission			221 000		221 000
Finland		15 740	17 045		32 785
Germany		21 762 090	159 207		21 921 297
International Council of Chemical Associations		534 611	1 129 458		1 664 069
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	213 605				213 605
Quick Start Programme		2 446 979			2 446 979
Spain		345 720			345 720
Switzerland		465 071			465 071
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	187 373				187 373
United States of America		150 000			150 000
Total income	**400 978**	**25 751 461**	**1 562 004**	**0**	**27 714 443**

Note: Contributions from Germany and the remaining funds from the Quick Start Programme are currently earmarked for projects only.

41. Table 5 shows the voluntary contributions to the Fund received in the period from 2023 to July 2026. In addition, the Government of Germany provided an in-kind contribution of $519,022 in the form of a Junior Professional Officer to support the work of the Fund. Those contributions demonstrate broad support for the Fund and have enabled both the establishment of its operations and the financing of its initial project portfolio. Continued contributions, including resources that can support Fund operations and governance, will be essential to implementing the programme of work of the Fund for the period 2027–2029.

42. The largest share of the Fund's overall balance derives from the contribution from Germany and the residual resources transferred from the Quick Start Programme. Under the applicable funding arrangements, those resources are currently earmarked for projects and cannot be used to meet the Fund's operational and governance costs. Accordingly, the Fund's overall balance does not reflect the substantially smaller amount available to administer and oversee its growing portfolio.

43. A distinction must be made between the Fund's overall financial balance and the resources available to finance its operations. Of the contributions shown in table 5, $3.35 million – comprising all contributions other than the one from Germany and the residual resources from the Quick Start Programme – is not earmarked exclusively for projects and is therefore available to support Fund operations. Together with an expected additional contribution of $106,535, total operational income is estimated at $3.45 million. After deducting the estimated operational expenditure of $1.95 million through the end of 2026, the estimated balance available for operations from 2027 is $1.50 million.

44. Addressing this constraint will require adequate and predictable financing for operations, including staffing, Executive Board meetings, technical appraisal, due diligence, legal and financial processing, project monitoring, country missions, evaluation and reporting. To help meet those needs, the Conference may wish to enable the use of residual Quick Start Programme resources for approved operational and governance costs. Any corresponding use of the contribution from Germany would require separate written confirmation from the donor, consistent with the applicable contribution agreement.

C. Proposed programme of work for the Fund for the period 2027–2029

45. The proposed programme of work for the period 2027–2029 will consolidate the Fund's transition from its start-up phase to the management and oversight of a growing project portfolio. The programme will focus on the following areas:

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(a) Managing and monitoring projects approved in the first and second funding rounds, including substantive and financial reporting, implementation support, risk management and portfolio-level analysis;

(b) Preparing and administering possible third and fourth funding rounds, including application processes, technical appraisal, due diligence and support for applicants, subject to the availability of resources, and the extension of the Fund's timeline as proposed in the draft revised terms of reference of the Fund (UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8, annex I);

(c) Strengthening project-level and portfolio-level measurement of contributions to the objectives and targets of the Framework;

(d) Applying the strategic priorities and the three financing pathways set out in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8 to future funding rounds, including the possible third and fourth rounds, to support projects that generate additional resources, direct existing finance towards chemicals and waste priorities, or strengthen access to larger-scale public and private financing;

(e) Mobilizing contributions for both project funding and the operation of the Fund, strengthening collaboration with GEF and working to secure further resources from other public, private and philanthropic financing partners;

(f) Undertaking the technical, legal, fiduciary and financial work required to develop options for a complementary finance and investment window, subject to a mandate from the Conference.

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Table 6
Proposed budget of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for the period 2027–2029
(*United States dollars*)

		Budget		
Cost category	*Subcategory*	*2027*	*2028*	*2029*
Secretariat staff and travel				
Personnel	**Project personnel component**	**1 206 350**	**1 242 541**	**1 279 817**
	P-4 Coordinator	279 500	287 885	296 522
	P-4 Administrative Officer (30%)	83 850	86 366	88 956
	P-3 Programme Management Officer	233 400	240 402	247 614
	P-3 Programme Management Officer	233 400	240 402	247 614
	P-2 Associate Programme Management Officer	188 100	193 743	199 555
	P-2 Associate Programme Management Officer	188 100	193 743	199 555
	Consultants	**50 000**	**50 000**	**50 000**
	Consultants	50 000	50 000	50 000
	Administrative support	**186 000**	**191 580**	**197 327**
	GS-6 Finance Assistant	186 000	191 580	197 327
Travel	**Travel**	**30 000**	**30 000**	**30 000**
	Subtotal	**1 472 350**	**1 514 121**	**1 557 144**
Transfers to implementing partners				
Transfers to partners	Project implementing partners	16 069 162	–	–
	Subtotal	**16 069 162**	–	–
Meetings and training events				
Meetings and conferences				
	Executive Board meetings	30 000	30 000	30 000
	Subtotal	**30 000**	**30 000**	**30 000**
Premises and other costs				
Fixed operating costs	Operational costs for personnel	83 720	86 232	88 819
	Subtotal	**83 720**	**86 232**	**88 819**
Miscellaneous components				
Communications	Printing, website maintenance, translations and publications	25 000	25 000	25 000
	Subtotal	**25 000**	**25 000**	**25 000**
Project portfolio closure contingency funds				
Contingency funds for project portfolio closure procedures				500 000
Subtotal		**17 680 232**	**1 655 352**	**2 200 963**
Indirect programme support costs (13%)		2 298 430	215 196	286 125
Total		**19 978 662**	**1 870 548**	**2 487 088**

46. Table 6 presents a budget for the programme of work of the Fund for the period 2027–2029. The budget is distributed between project funding (reflected under "Transfers to implementing partners") and operational costs. Of the total budget of $24.36 million, approximately $18.72 million relates to new project grant commitments, project portfolio closure contingency funds and the associated programme support costs, while approximately $5.61 million represents the operational requirements of the Fund.

47. The proposed staffing structure reflects the transition to the management of an expanding and increasingly complex portfolio. Operational requirements include administering possible future funding rounds; managing national, regional and multi-country projects involving multiple

implementing partners; providing technical support during project development and implementation; and ensuring timely monitoring, reporting and risk management. The Fund's eligibility framework, under which both governmental and non-governmental organizations can serve as applicants and implementing partners, also requires enhanced legal, financial and fiduciary due diligence and more intensive project oversight. The proposed staffing capacity is therefore necessary to safeguard the quality, accountability and timely delivery of projects in the Fund's portfolio.

48. Regarding operational requirements, the proposed programme of work requires $5.61 million in operational costs for the period 2027–2029. Offset against the estimated operational balance of $1.50 million at the end of 2026, this results in an estimated operational financing gap of approximately $4.11 million for the period 2027–2029. The gap relates specifically to the resources required for the Fund's operations and is separate from the resources available for project funding. Without additional or more flexible operational resources, the Fund will not have sufficient capacity to implement the full programme of work throughout the three-year period. This could affect the secretariat's ability to oversee projects effectively, service its governance arrangements, administer future funding rounds and develop the proposed complementary finance and investment window.

49. Under the current terms of reference of the Fund, 2027 is the final year in which resources may be committed to new projects. Accordingly, all resources available for new project grant commitments are presented in the budget for 2027. If the International Conference approves the proposed extension of the Fund's timeline, the Executive Board may review and redistribute those resources over the period 2027–2029, including for possible third and fourth funding rounds, in accordance with the revised terms of reference and subject to the availability of resources.

50. The proposed budget retains $500,000, excluding programme support costs, in project-earmarked resources as project portfolio closure contingency funds for 2029. The funds are intended to support final project audits and evaluations, risk-based site visits and verification, the closure of project agreements, and the resolution of outstanding project-level financial or implementation matters. It is separate from the Fund's operational budget and would be used only for costs directly associated with the oversight and closure of funded projects.

51. Pending a decision by the International Conference, the residual Quick Start Programme resources of $2.44 million have not been allocated to new project grants in the proposed budget. The Conference may wish to authorize their use for approved operational and governance costs of the Fund. If authorized, those resources would partially address the operational financing gap of $4.11 million identified above, leaving $1.67 million to be financed through additional or more flexible contributions.

52. The programme of work and budget may require further review in the light of the number and complexity of approved projects, the availability of operational resources, and the decisions taken by the Conference. Any adjustments would be considered by the Executive Board in accordance with the revised terms of reference of the Fund.[5]

53. If the Fund's timeline is not extended, any resources that are earmarked for projects and cannot be committed by the applicable deadline, as well as any balances remaining after the completion and closure of the portfolio, would be disposed of in accordance with the relevant contribution agreements and applicable United Nations financial regulations, rules, policies and procedures, including the return of funds to contributors where required.

IV. Mobilizing and leveraging resources in support of the Global Framework on Chemicals

54. At its first meeting, the Open-ended Working Group recommended that the secretariat prepare an analysis of options for mobilizing and leveraging resources in support of the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals, including options to support the long-term financial sustainability of the secretariat and the Fund.

55. The options considered, which are summarized below and presented in greater detail in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/INF/7, are focused specifically on strengthening the long-term financial sustainability of the secretariat of the Framework. Broader perspectives relating to financing the implementation of the Framework, including the Fund, innovative financing approaches and

[5] In resolution V/3, the International Conference on Chemicals Management provisionally adopted the terms of reference of the Fund. The Conference further decided that the terms of reference would be reviewed at the first session of the International Conference of the Framework. Further information can be found in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8.

opportunities to leverage additional public and private investment, are addressed separately in document UNEP/GFC/IC.1/8.

56. Paragraph 80 of the Framework provides that the core budget of the secretariat is to be financed through voluntary contributions from Governments, the private sector and all other stakeholders. Governments and stakeholder groups are invited annually to provide voluntary financial contributions. So far, those contributions have fallen short of the predictable and sustainable financial support required.

57. The estimated financial requirement for the Framework for the period 2027–2029 comes to approximately $21.4 million and comprises the secretariat's programme of work, including convening the International Conference and a possible meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, and the operational requirements directly related to the management and implementation of the Fund, including staffing and governance functions. The amount excludes the resources allocated to projects implemented with support from the Fund.

58. Recent contribution levels have revealed both the value of voluntary support and the challenges associated with maintaining predictable financing. Contributions received by the secretariat amounted to approximately $4.66 million in the period 2023–2025. While voluntary contributions remain the foundation of the Framework's financing arrangements, current contribution levels suggest that additional measures are required in order to ensure predictability, diversification and long-term sustainability.

59. As implementation activities under the Framework expand through the Fund, the implementation programmes, strengthened monitoring and reporting, partnership development and private sector engagement, the secretariat's functions and resource requirements also continue to increase. Without more predictable and sustainable financial support, the secretariat's ability to carry out those functions effectively and provide the necessary support to parties and stakeholders will become increasingly constrained, potentially affecting the pace and effectiveness of implementation of the Framework.

60. The secretariat reviewed a range of approaches used in multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations processes and multi-stakeholder initiatives to support the long-term sustainability of governance, coordination and implementation support functions.

61. As the Framework is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral instrument, no single financing approach appears to ensure the long-term sustainability of the secretariat and of the required activities. Rather, a combination of complementary approaches is likely to provide the most realistic basis for supporting the architecture of the Framework while maintaining flexibility.

62. The secretariat considered a "support allocation" model, similar to the one used by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, whereby a fixed proportion of contributions to project implementation is allocated to support the functions of the secretariat and other coordination activities. While that approach provides useful insight into the financing of coordination and implementation support functions, it does not raise sufficient funds to organize global meetings such as the sessions of the International Conference in addition to covering staff costs.

63. Similarly, partnership and support modalities for sessions of the International Conference, outreach activities and other agreed activities were identified but could be viewed only as a potential complementary source of support. Such approaches would include financial and in-kind contributions subject to appropriate transparency, safeguarding and due diligence arrangements consistent with applicable United Nations policies and procedures.

Possible way forward

64. The principal option identified for securing predictable, transparent and equitable cost-sharing included two elements:

(a) Voluntary contributions from Governments, based on the United Nations scale of assessments as an indicative, non-binding reference;

(b) Voluntary contributions from all non-State actors, based on a scale to be developed as a guideline for financial and in-kind contributions. The indicative contributions would be based on factors such as: (a) stakeholder category; (b) organizational size; (c) level of engagement in the Framework; and (d) capacity to contribute.

65. Indicative reference scales can facilitate internal discussions with finance ministries and budget authorities while preserving the voluntary nature of any contributions. Addressing voluntary

contributions from both Governments and non-State actors through indicative scales would allow all stakeholders to contribute according to their capacities and broaden the donor base by providing a clear and transparent basis for voluntary contributions from non-State actors. This could in turn promote more equitable cost-sharing arrangements and provide the secretariat with greater long-term financial sustainability.

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Annex

Draft resolution GFC-1/[--]: Programme of work and budget

The International Conference,

Recalling International Conference on Chemicals Management resolution V/12 on the programme of work and budget for the period 2024–2026,

Recognizing the progress made since the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

Expressing its appreciation to all donors for their contributions and pledges received to date to support the work of the Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund,

1. *Approves* the proposed programme of work and budget of the Global Framework of Chemicals and the staffing structure for the secretariat of the Framework for the period 2027–2029 as set out in [table [--] of the annex] to the present resolution;

2. *Also approves* the proposed programme of work, budget and staffing structure for the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for the period 2027–2029 as set out in [table [--] of the annex] to the present resolution, subject to the availability of resources, and authorizes the Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund to review and adjust the programme of work and allocations within the overall approved budget, in accordance with its terms of reference and in response to evolving operational needs and implementation priorities;

3. *Authorizes* the Coordinator of the secretariat to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that positions remain at the same level or lower than decided by the International Conference and remain within the overall cost for the staff numbers set out in table [--] of the annex to the present resolution for the period 2027–2029, and that staffing does not create any additional budget obligations to be incurred beyond that period;

4. *Decides* that, unless otherwise provided in an applicable contribution agreement, any interest earned on contributions to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund shall be credited to the Fund and may be used to support the operations and governance costs of the Fund, in accordance with its programme of work and budget and the applicable United Nations regulations, rules, policies and procedures;

5. *Also decides* that residual resources transferred from the Quick Start Programme to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund may be used to finance the approved operational and governance costs of the Fund, in accordance with its programme of work and budget and the applicable United Nations regulations, rules, policies and procedures;

6. *Notes with concern* that the secretariat will be unable to perform its mandated functions as set out by the International Conference unless a sustainable long-term funding solution is in place;

7. *Urges* all Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to contribute, as a matter of urgency, financially and with other resources to the Global Framework on Chemicals, its secretariat and the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund;

8. *Agree*s that annual requests for voluntary financial contributions from Governments under paragraph 80 of the Framework will be accompanied by indicative reference contributions based on the United Nations scale of assessments, while maintaining the voluntary and non-binding nature of such contributions;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to develop and implement an indicative stakeholder contribution scale for non-governmental stakeholders, including private sector entities, industry associations, foundations and other stakeholder groups, with a view to establishing a transparent and voluntary methodology to guide financial and in-kind contributions to the Framework;

10. *Also requests* the secretariat to further operationalize partnership and support modalities for conferences, outreach activities and other agreed activities, consistent with applicable United Nations policies, safeguards and due diligence requirements, with a view to broadening partnerships and mobilizing additional voluntary financial and in-kind support for the Global Framework on Chemicals;

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11. *Further requests* the secretariat to develop a budget, programme of work and staffing structure for the period 2030–2032 for consideration by the International Conference at its second session.

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