

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

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Open-ended Working Group of the
Global Framework on Chemicals – for a
Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste
First meeting
Punta del Este, Uruguay, 24–27 June 2025
Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Gender action plan

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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/4 on mainstreaming a gender perspective and promoting gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in chemicals and waste management.
2. In the resolution, the Conference, among other things, requested the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, with the participation of interested stakeholders, to develop a gender action plan for consideration by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals at its first session in order to advance towards full, equal and meaningful participation by all women in decision-making, and to promote gender-responsive policies and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals, taking into account progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective.
3. The secretariat was also requested to foster collaboration, as appropriate, with secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and with relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, including UN-Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other relevant partners in the field of gender equality, in relation to the implementation of the Global Framework.
4. Additional information, including on the documents mentioned below, can be found in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/6.

II. Activities to implement the resolution

5. The work to develop a gender action plan to mainstream a gender perspective in the implementation of resolution V/4 is being initiated in two phases:

* UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1.

Phase 1: A stocktaking and gap analysis exercise conducted in 2024

6. This phase included the following activities:

(a) A review of existing gender action plans adopted under processes related to chemicals and waste management, and health, including national-level case studies and reports incorporating gender dimensions into national strategy setting in chemicals and waste management, among other relevant work. The review also considered the gender action plans of the secretariat 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 and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as relevant information from United Nations organizations related to chemicals management and health, such as the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization, and entities such as UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme and OHCHR. The review was completed in February 2025.

(b) A document entitled “Development of a gender action plan: integration and review of existing information” was developed and is set out in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/6.

(c) The secretariat invited interested stakeholders to submit information on the integration of a gender perspective into policies, plans and actions in the framework of their activities in the context of chemicals and waste management. Information on the submissions received by the secretariat, as well as other related information, can be found in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/6 (annex I).

Phase 2: A consultation process and the integration of elements for the first draft of the gender action plan

7. This phase involves sharing documents, brainstorming, collecting comments, and preparing a draft action plan for consideration at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. A webinar was held on 29 January 2025 for experts from the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and from international organizations. A multi-stakeholder webinar will be held in May 2025 to share the potential elements of the gender action plan and collect comments. In the context of phase 2, a document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/6, annex II) setting out elements for the draft gender action plan was prepared. This document will serve as the basis for follow-up on consultations concerning and finalization of the gender action plan. A summary of the discussions at the two webinars, along with additional information on phase 2, is set out in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/6 (annex III).

III. Proposed action

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

(a) *Take note* of the progress made to date in the development of a gender action plan for the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;

(b) *Request* all stakeholders to continue the implementation of resolution V/4 and to share with the secretariat the experiences and good practices derived from that process.
