

First meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste.

24 – 27 June 2025 Punta del Este, Uruguay

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

(will be updated as necessary)

Version 6 updated 22 June 2025

Introduction

The following practical information is provided for participants that will attend the First meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) – for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste.

The meeting will be held at the Convention and Exhibition Center in Punta del Este, Uruguay from **24 to 27 June 2025** - <https://centrodeconvenciones.com.uy/>

The meeting will be preceded by a global multi-stakeholder workshop to develop a GFC Implementation Programme for “Strengthening National Chemicals Legislation and Institutional Capacities” on **22 and 23** (morning) **June 2025**, convened by the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals please [visit the IOMC website](#). There will be informal regional and stakeholder consultations as well as technical briefings on Measurability and Indicators and on the GFC Fund on the afternoon of **23 June 2025**.

The GFC OEWG and IOMC workshop will be held back to back with the resumed third session of the ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (14 - 18 June 2025), which itself will be back-to-back with the Intergovernmental Meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of the panel (19 - 20 June 2025).

All information regarding the GFC OEWG meeting will be regularly updated on the [OEWG web page](#).

Venue

Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Center
Ave. Pedragosa Sierra corner Ave.
Aparicio Saravia, Punta del Este
Maldonado Department, Uruguay
info@centrodeconventions.com.uy
+598 4247 7477

Schedule of the meeting

The OEWG will be opened on Tuesday, 24 June 2025, at 10 AM. Further information on the tentative schedule of work can be found on the [meeting webpage](#). Please note this schedule may be subject to change.

Registration **NEW INFORMATION**

Participants who wish to attend the meeting are requested to register at the online meeting platform through the link shared in the invitation letter. **Registration is now closed; for self-funded participants still wishing to register please contact the secretariat unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org.**

Please create an account online at <https://indico.un.org/register/>.

Thereafter please register for the event using the following link: <https://indico.un.org/login/?next=/event/1015886/>

Organizations that wish to send their representative to the meetings but have not received an invitation are requested to send an email to unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org. Interested stakeholders who are not already accredited to UNEP can find more information about how to become accredited at the [UNEP website accreditation page](#).

For any questions regarding registration for the meeting, please contact the secretariat at unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org.

On-site registration will open during the science policy panel Open-Ended Working Group. The registration desk will be open from **7.30 a.m. on Monday 23 June 2025 and** will remain open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the following days of the meeting. Attendance at the meeting is limited to registered participants. We strongly recommend that you complete on-site registration as early as possible.

Security identification documentation and badges for meeting participants

Security identification badges are issued to participants upon arrival at the meeting following completion of the relevant registration procedure. Meeting participants may collect their security identification badges at the registration desks upon presentation of one of the following identification documents issued by a government recognized by the United Nations:

- Valid national passport.
- Valid picture identification card, in Latin alphabet.
- Valid picture “residency” card, in Latin alphabet
- Valid picture drivers’ licence, in Latin alphabet.

Security checks will be carried out at the conference centre each time you enter the venue. For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to always wear their meeting badges at the centre. The loss of a meeting badge should be reported immediately to the registration counter.

Sponsored participants

In addition to registering online through the link provided above, any participant requesting financial support for travel and daily subsistence allowance is requested to fill out the relevant travel form through the link in the registration form and attach the documents listed below:

- Signed letter from the organization in PDF nominating the delegate who should be receiving the travel funding.
- Passport copy, valid for more than 6 months from the travelling date (bio-page).

For the necessary travel arrangements to comply with the United Nations rules and regulations, nominations or replacements of delegates received after the initial deadline of 30 April 2025 cannot be guaranteed consideration for funding support. Final decisions on travel requests will be subject to available financial resources.

Visa requirements (NEW INFORMATION)

1. Participants should check whether they require a visa to enter Uruguay. The list of countries subject to visa requirements is available at: <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-interior/comunicacion/publicaciones/regimen-visas-admision>.
2. Participants requiring a visa must indicate this during registration by ticking the relevant box on the Indico form and uploading a clear, legible photo of their passport.
3. As a standard procedure, participants are encouraged to obtain a visa through the Uruguayan consular office in their country. Exceptionally, and as a courtesy for the June 2025 meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Science-Policy Panel and the Global Framework on Chemicals, the Government of Uruguay has offered to issue visa exemption letters for eligible participants.
4. **Requests for visa exemption letters for entry into Uruguay will be accepted until 30 May 2025.** After this date, participants must obtain a visa through their local consulate.
5. The Uruguayan Office of International Environmental Affairs will issue the visa exemption letters, including the participant's full name and passport details. These will be sent by email from visasoewg.spp.gfc@ambiente.gub.uy, along with the Resolution from the National Directorate of Migration. **Participants must carry both documents when traveling.**
6. The Office will also notify the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to inform airlines of the visa exemption applicable to these meetings.
7. Participants are solely responsible for requesting and obtaining their visa or visa exemption letter **and any necessary transit visa.**

Important: Once a passport photo has been submitted for travel, participants may not change their travel document, as the exemption letter will include the passport number. Participants are advised to consult the Uruguayan Embassy or consulate in their country for the latest immigration requirements before traveling.

In case of any questions please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Ms Maureen Bidart, Office of International Environmental Affairs, at the above-mentioned email address (visasoewg.spp.gfc@ambiente.gub.uy).

Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

Financial assistance includes a return air ticket using the most economical fare as approved by the United Nations, to be issued by the travel agency working with the United Nations, and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) for Punta del Este area by means of a debit card. The DSA rate for the Punta del Este area, from April to November, is \$206 per day; that rate is, however, subject to change.

Paperless meeting

The meeting will be paperless and printed documents will not be available at the meeting. Pre-session and in-session documents will be made available on [the meeting website](#).

Making a meeting paperless considerably reduces costs and the carbon footprint. A paperless meeting also makes it easier for participants to access documents and allows for faster preparation and distribution of conference room papers.

To facilitate the paperless nature of the meeting, participants are requested to ensure the following:

- Each participant should bring a laptop computer containing basic applications, including Microsoft Office Word, Excel and PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat Reader and updated antivirus software.
- Laptops should be pre-checked for viruses and confirmed as virus-free prior to arrival at the meeting. Virus free laptops are crucial to the success of a paperless meeting.
- Participants should bring a memory stick that has been pre-checked for viruses for the purpose of transferring documents.
- Participants should bring an appropriate adaptor to enable laptops to be connected to power sockets.
- When completing the registration form for the meeting, participants should include a current e-mail address, so that they can be sent correspondence relating to the meeting.

Internet services

Free wireless internet access will be provided at the meeting venue.

Local SIM cards

Three companies provide sim cards (ANTEL, Claro and Telefónica - movistar) all having the same service. Local sim cards can be purchased at the airport.

Accommodation **New Information**

Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for accommodation. The Secretariat encourages all participants to make such arrangements at the earliest possible opportunity.

Through an agreement with the “Centro de Hoteles de Punta del Este”, special price rates are offered to participants.

Hotel Florinda (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42440022	Single Room: USD 45
	Double Room: USD 50
	Triple Room: USD 70
	Quadruple Room: USD 90

Hotel Milano (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42440039	Single Room: USD 45
	Double Room: USD 50
	Triple Room: USD 70
	Quadruple Room: USD 90
Hotel Marbella (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42441814	Single Room: USD 55
	Double Room: USD 60
Hotel Bonne Etoile (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42440301	Single Room: USD 55
	Double Room: USD 65
Hotel Sunset Beach (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42484353	Single/ double Room: USD 75
Hotel Camelot (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42482006	Single Room: USD 75
	Double Room: USD 94
Hotel Remanso (4-star hotel) Tel. +598 42447412	Single/ double Room: USD 80
	triple Room: USD 90
Hotel Golden Beach (4-star hotel) Tel. +598 42441314	Double Suite: USD 80
	Double Premium Suite: USD 125
	Double master room: USD 155
Park Hotel (4-star hotel) Tel. +598 91355555	Single/ double premium Room: USD 99
	Single/ double Room with balcony: USD 118
	Single/ double Suite: USD 156
	Triple Room: USD 134
	Quadruple Room: USD 153
Hotel 2122 (4-star hotel) Tel. +598 42492122	Single/ double Room: USD 130
	Double Room: USD 160
Hotel AWA (4-star hotel) Tel. +598 42499999	Superior deluxe Room: USD 124 (Single or double)
	Executive Room: USD 154 (Single or double)
	Deluxe Room: USD 234 (Single or double)

All the prices include breakfast.

Additionally, each of the listed hotels will provide a single daily round-trip transportation service to the Punta del Este Convention Center. This service will be scheduled at a specific time, previously arranged with the guests staying at the accommodation. Participants who miss the scheduled departure will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to the venue.

Once a hotel has been selected, the reservation must be confirmed by email to:
reservaschpe@gmail.com

Online booking platforms are recommended as well as information provided by "Centro de Hoteles Punta del Este" to contact the hotel of their choice directly.

Centro de Hoteles Punta del Este
<https://www.puntadelestehoteles.com>
asesor.chpe@hotmail.com
+598 4244 0512

Participants may wish to seek accommodation near the centre of Punta del Este to facilitate easy access to ground transport to commute to and from the Conference and Exhibition Center.

Transportation **NEW INFORMATION**

Air travel:

Most participants may find it more convenient to arrive at the Montevideo airport (Carrasco International Airport) due to a wider offer of flights.

The metropolitan area of Montevideo is well connected to the rest of the country by a modern transportation system that includes a port, buses, taxis etc.

Transport options to Punta del Este are:

- Bus service operated by Copsa (<https://lineaeste.copsa.com.uy/index.php>) or Cot (<https://cot.com.uy>), running daily almost every hour. The bus journey between Montevideo and Punta del Este lasts approximately 2 hours.
- Taxis from the airport (<http://www.taxisaeropuerto.com/>)

Alternatively, the Capitán de Corbeta Carlos A. Curbelo International Airport (also known as Laguna del Sauce International Airport) is located in the neighbouring city of Maldonado, and receives regular commercial flights from Argentina, Brazil and Chile. As of September 2022, Azul and Aerolines Argentinas were the two airlines operating in the airport.

Ground travel:

Mobility platforms working in the city include Uber and Cabify; traditional cab drivers have likewise their own app (A Punta Taxi, Voy en Taxi), which allows passengers to order a car and pay for it through a personal cell phone. Taxi drivers only accept card payments – no cash.

A welcome desk will be available at Carrasco International Airport on June 12th and 13th, operating 24 hours a day and on the 14th from 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1. TRANSPORTATION TO PUNTA DEL ESTE

PRIVATE TRANSFERS: This service takes each passenger from Carrasco International Airport (MVD) to their accommodation in Punta del Este (for centrally located hotels) and it can also be booked for the return trip (Punta del Este – Airport).

The service can be paid in full at the time of boarding, either in cash (USD) or by card using a POS terminal, or pre-paid at the time of booking by credit card through our direct link of PayPal, Bank transfer, Western Union or Money Gram. Please note that these payment methods include commission fees, which must be covered by the participant in addition to the transfer cost.

Car	1-3 pax	USD 308
Van	10 pax	USD 352

The maximum passenger capacity of the vehicles is based on one carry-on per person.

Participants who want to book this service must contact hotels-transfers@congresos-rohr.com, specifying the date and time of their arrival and/or departure flight, the type of vehicle requested and the exact number of passengers. Payments are made through hotels-transfers@congresos-rohr.com

SEMI-PRIVATE TRANSFERS: Passengers will be grouped with other participants, with a maximum waiting time of approximately two hours after their flight arrival. The cost of this service is **USD 20** per person from Carrasco International Airport (MVD) to their accommodation in Punta del Este (for centrally located hotels) and it can also be booked for the return trip (Punta del Este – Airport).

Participants who want to book this service must contact hotels-transfers@congresos-rohr.com, specifying the exact date and time of their arrival and/or departure flight.

Payment needs to be made at the time of booking. It can be made by credit card through our direct link of PayPal, or by Bank transfer, Western Union or Money Gram. Please note that these last three payment methods include commission fees, which must be covered by the participant in addition to the transfer cost. Payments are made through hotels-transfers@congresos-rohr.com

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Two bus companies (COPSA and COT) have daily services from Carrasco International Airport to Punta del Este, with a fare of 446 Uruguayan pesos (approximately **USD 11**). Tickets can be purchased in advance through the official website, or directly when boarding the bus (subject to seat availability, transfer seats will be guaranteed on a pre-booked basis) **using cash in Uruguayan pesos.**

Schedules can be consulted at the following link: [URUBUS | AEROPUERTO CARRASCO \(MVD\) a PUNTA DEL ESTE Ómnibus | Tus pasajes online](#)

For assistance with this, please contact the following email address: hotels-transfers@congresos-rohr.com

Please note that buses do not wait for late passengers.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We strongly recommend participants book and pay these services before their arrival in Uruguay, at least three days in advance.

Catering

Participants may purchase food and drink through the catering services available at the Convention centre. Please note there are no restaurants or shops in the vicinity of the Convention centre. Food ordered through a delivery service may not be brought into the Convention centre.

Medical and travel insurance **New Information**

The United Nations does not cover medical or life insurance of participants. Medical costs incurred in Uruguay will be borne by the participant. It is therefore strongly recommended that participants arrange for their own travel health insurance that covers both health and accident, prior to departure from the country of residence. The organizer will not be responsible for travel or health insurance coverage.

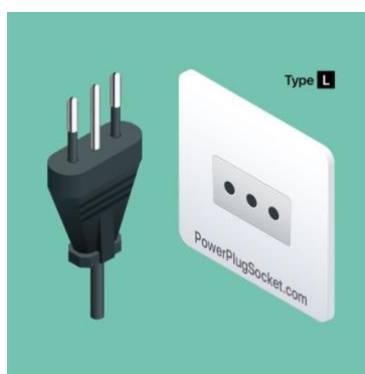
The local emergency number is 911.

The following local hospital/medical centre in the proximity of the meeting venue open 24/7:

- **Sanatorio Cantegril:** Address: Punta Del Este, Uruguay, Punta Del Este, Departamento De Maldonado 20100. Phone number: +598 42489151. Map direction: [Link here.](#)
- **Sanatorio Mautone Maldonado:** Address: Av. Franklin Delano Roosevelt y, 20000 Maldonado, Departamento de Maldonado. Phone number: +598 42225353. Map direction: [Link here.](#)

Electric plugs and sockets

The residential voltage in Uruguay is 220V/50Hz. You will need a transformer in order to use your portable devices if they do not run on 220V/50Hz. Please make sure you bring one along or purchase one in Montevideo if you need it. Plug types in Uruguay are C and L.



Banking facilities, postal services and currency

The Uruguayan Peso (UYU/\$) is the official currency.

Bank notes are available in the following denominations: \$2,000; \$1,000; \$500; \$200; \$100; \$50; \$20 while the coins are denominated \$50, \$10, \$5, \$2, and \$1.

Exchange rates (12 March 2025) 1 USD = 42 Uruguayan pesos; 1 Euro = 46 Uruguayan pesos.

Uruguay imposes no restrictions on the import or export of any local or foreign currency. There is only an obligation to declare sums greater than 10,000 USD or equivalent.

There are many banks and exchange offices where you can exchange dollars, euros, and other currencies in the centre of Punta del Este.

Banks working hours: 1pm - 5pm; Foreign exchange offices: 9am - 7pm.

Some hotels also provide currency exchange service, but it should be noted that these rates are not always favourable. ATMs can be found all throughout the country. Most places accept credit or debit cards.

Distance to Montevideo and Weather

Punta del Este is a city located on the Atlantic Coast of Uruguay, in the Maldonado Department at 130 kilometres from Montevideo. In June, mean temperatures range between 10 and 15°C.

Harassment-free Conference

The organizations of the United Nations system are committed to enabling events at which everyone can participate in an inclusive, respectful, and safe environment. UN system events adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards, and all participants are expected to demonstrate integrity and show respect towards others attending or involved with any UN system event.

Prohibited conduct includes harassment: any improper or unwelcome conduct that might be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation to another person. Harassment in any form, because of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, national origin, political affiliation, age, religion, or any other reason, is prohibited. We encourage reporting any incident directly to any badged UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) officer.

Sexual harassment: any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation. Sexual harassment may involve any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal, or physical nature, including written and electronic communications, and may occur between persons of the same or different genders.

Further information on the Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN system events may be found on the [UN Code of Conduct web page](#).

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