

Chemical Footprint Approaches

Date: Thursday 26th June, 2025

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Modality: Hybrid

Convened by: UNEP in collaboration with Clean Production Action, substitute ApS | Goethe University Frankfurt, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Cradle-to-Cradle Products Innovation Institute, and CIS Center.

Context and Background

The International Conference on the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste may adopt programmes to support the implementation of the Framework to achieve its strategic objectives, as presented in part V, “Strategic objectives and targets”. Following adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste in 2023, resolution V/8 was agreed on implementation arrangements, inviting “stakeholders... to collaborate on and develop proposals for implementation programmes”. The IOMC convened a multistakeholder workshop to further this in Paris, on 24-26 February 2025. The workshop identified cross-cutting thematic workstreams that would provide support to specific industry sector programmes. “Chemical Footprint Approaches” was identified as a thematic workstream, and along with five other topics, will be addressed in a dedicated event during the GFC-OEWG Multi-Stakeholder Day.

The Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) sets objectives and targets to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste and to reduce their impacts on human health and the environment. Achieving these goals requires strong indicators to track management actions and measure outcomes. Several approaches linked to the concept of “chemical footprint” have been developed to assess impacts across the life cycle of chemicals. This workshop will clarify the differences between these approaches and identify opportunities for greater alignment to support the safe and sustainable management of chemicals.

The event directly supports Target D6 by contributing to the development of chemical footprint approaches that sectors can use to identify priority chemicals and reduce their impacts along the value chain. It also supports Target A3 by helping companies implement better measures to prevent or minimize adverse effects from chemicals

throughout their life cycle. In addition, the event aligns with Target B3 by promoting better data generation and sharing on chemical production, use, and emissions, and with Target B4 by encouraging the application of standardized tools and best practices for risk assessment and chemicals management.

Session Objectives

The objective of the event is to discuss different approaches to chemical footprint methodologies to advance the understanding that various indicators measure different elements of the impact pathway between human activities (e.g. manufacturing or using a chemical) and their impacts on human health or the environment.

By recognizing the strengths of different metrics and tools, participants can better inform management responses, support GFC targets, and combine methods to strengthen chemicals management. The next steps to implement progress on chemical footprint approaches in the Implementation Programme workplan, in the run-up to the International Conference will also be discussed.

The discussion is open to stakeholders, including experts in chemical footprinting, and technical participants from the GFC OEWG who are interested in metrics, tools, and indicators to measure progress. It also includes participants from industry sectors such as chemical producers, formulators, goods manufacturers, and users who are already applying tools for chemicals management.

Agenda

Time	Program
11:30 – 11:35	Welcome & Objectives Brief introduction to session, objectives and format Moderator: Llorenç Milà i Canals, UNEP
11:35 – 11:45	Recap Chemical Footprint Approaches Overview of approaches and how they map to a set of criteria Chemical Footprint Project; Cradle to Cradle; EPDs / LCA USEtox; WBCSD PSA Speaker: Llorenç Milà i Canals, UNEP

Time	Program
11:45 – 11:55	Reflections from Industry Representatives Short interventions from industry representatives on how they apply the approaches in practice (e.g., eco-design, target setting, etc.) Speakers: Myriam Tryjefaczka, Tarkett; Clariant; Philips; Case Medical; others TBC
11:55 – 12:05	Q&A on Approaches presented Resolving questions from audience to clarify elements from the matrix Speaker: Representatives from each of the approaches
12:05 – 12:40	Group Discussion with guided questions: - Which GFC targets can each approach inform? - Where are the overlaps, gaps or complementarities? - Are there other approaches to be considered? How would they contribute? Opportunities & next steps - What are priority areas of overlaps, gaps and alignment opportunities among chemical footprint approaches? - What kind of support or guidance would help implementation to deliver GFC targets? - Suggest next steps for the Implementation Programme; Actions by different stakeholders, related to chemical footprint approaches Moderator: Llorenç Milà i Canals, UNEP
12:40 – 12:45	Wrap-up & Closing Summary of key points discussed, confirm next steps, and invite follow-up input for inclusion in Implementation Programme workplan. Call to Action Speaker: Llorenç Milà i Canals, UNEP