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English only

**Sixth meeting of the Bureau of the
Global Framework on Chemicals –
For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste**
Thursday, 30 January 2025, 14:00 – 16:30 (CET)

**Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda¹
Implementation of the Framework and ICCM5 Resolutions.**

Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

Note by the secretariat

1. The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session (ICCM5) decided, in its resolution on financial considerations (V/3), to establish a Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for supporting the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.
2. The Executive Board of the GFC Fund has held two meetings and a summary is provided in the Annex to the present note. The GFC Fund launched the first round of applications on 1 October 2024 with a closing date on 31 January 2025. To date, 6 draft or final applications have been received from 6 applicants.
3. The Annex contains a compilation of the project applications received for review at the next meeting of the Executive Board scheduled for 19 – 21 March 2025.
4. For information, the current list of donors and other contributors to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund is also provided in the Annex.
5. The Bureau is invited to consider and agree on the proposed way forward.

Next steps

6. The Bureau is invited to take note of the work of the GFC Fund and its Executive Board.

¹ GFC/IC.1/Bureau.6/1

Annex 1: Overview of Fund's activities as well as the current status of applications

1. The Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals has held two meetings. The first meeting took place on 8–9 April 2024 ([report](#)) and the second meeting took place from 12–14 June 2024 ([report](#)). Key outcomes of these meetings were the agreement on the *ad-interim* composition of the Executive Board, the work plan, staffing and budget of the Fund's Secretariat as well as the adoption of strategic priorities for the Fund and the relevant documents for the first round of applications.
2. The launch of the first round of applications was accompanied by three webinars, organized by the Secretariat. Approximately 200 participants joined each of these webinars. The co-chairs of the Board gave a detailed oral report of the webinars at the Bureau's 5th meeting (cf. GFC/IC.1/Bureau.5/2 - Draft report of the fifth Bureau meeting).
3. Additionally, the Secretariat has raised awareness for the Fund across different sectors and regions, including at the following events:
 - presentation and discussion with a delegation from Central Asian countries (23 October 2024, 6 participants, in-person)
 - presentation at the ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Platform (ARCP) Workshop 2024 (28-29 October 2024, 25 participants)
 - presentation at the Regulatory Summit Asia 2024 (4-5 November 2024, 25 participants)
 - workshop at the Fifth Latin American Meeting on Regulatory Cooperation on Chemical Substances (5-6 November 2024, in-person)
 - presentation for BRS Regional Centres at the BRS Resource Mobilization Clinic (19-20 November 2024, approx. 25 participants)
 - presentation and project discussions with focal points of the CBRN Centres of Excellence at UNICRI's CBRN Academy (20-22 November 2024, approx. 80 participants, in-person)
 - presentation at the Regional meeting on Collaborative Approaches to Environmental Pollution and One Health in the Western Balkans (4-5 December 2024, approx. 60 participants)
4. The Secretariat has supported applicants by providing them with an [FAQ document](#) as well as providing a helpdesk function to support applicants during the project development phase via e-mail as well through 1:1 consultations.
5. Initial feedback that has been received by applicants includes:
 - the timeline for applications is short, especially when taking the December-January holiday period into account.
 - the language barrier as applications must be submitted in English.
 - the current scoping criteria of the Fund are very broad and further clarification is needed to guide applicants on what constitutes high-impact and innovative projects.
 - regional approaches are commonly more complex and require a larger preparatory effort from participants. Furthermore, the current application guidelines are not fully clear about whether regional mechanisms like SICA or MERCOSUR can apply.
 - the need for applicants to be guided towards the appropriate funding mechanism and that fund secretariats could strengthen their cooperation to avoid duplicating efforts given the increasing amount of funding mechanism, such as the Special Programme, the Specific International Programme and the Global Environment Facility.
 - the requirement for applications to be signed and supported by the respective national focal point(s) (NFP). In some cases, the NFP is not engaged, or changes have not been reported to the Secretariat making it difficult for applicants to provide their NFP's support.
 - eligibility: civil society organisations may have their headquarters in a non-eligible country while having a country office in an eligible country; this may give them a competitive advantage over civil society organisations without country offices.

6. As of 14 January 2025, the following countries have submitted a draft or final application: Eswatini, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Somalia. Furthermore, approximately 15 other organisations have consulted with the Secretariat and indicated working on a proposal.
7. As of 14 January 2025, the Fund has received the following contributions and pledges:

	Contributions and Pledges² (USD)
Germany	\$21'762'089.00
QSP	\$2'886'812.00
Netherlands	\$213'605.00
Switzerland	\$465'071.00
Spain	\$345'720.00
United Kingdom	\$187'373.00
ICCA	\$1'069'222.00
Belgium	\$33'259.00
USA	\$150'000.00
Finland	\$15'400.00
European Union	\$221'000.00
Total contribution for the fund	\$27'349'551.00

² For pledges, currency exchange rates of the 14 January have been applied