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**Fourth meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on
measurability and indicators**

Online, 27 August 2025, 14:00-15:30 CET

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Open-ended Ad hoc Group on Measurability and Indicators

1. Opening and welcome

Ms. Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), Co-Chair of the Open-ended Ad hoc Group on Measurability and indicators (OEAHGMI) opened the Sixth Meeting of the Ad hoc Group at 14:00 CET on 27 August 2025 and welcomed the 127 participants that attended the meeting.

2. Organizational matters

a) Co-chair replacement

Ms. Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago) informed that Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) was no longer available to serve as Co-Chair. Following the nomination of a suitable candidate from the CEE Region, Ms. Keima Gardiner proposed to the group Ms. Katerina Sebkova (Czech Republic) serve as a Co-Chair. The group endorsed this proposal with no objections.

b) Adoption of the agenda

The Co-Chair presented the provisional agenda for the meeting ([GFC/OEAHGMI.6/1](#)) that was posted on 22 August 2025 under the Sixth Meeting of the OEAHGMI. The Co-Chair invited participants to raise additional points under agenda item 7, any other business. The representative of the United States expressed her interest to make a request regarding the indicator factsheet template. It was agreed that this point would be taken up under agenda item 4. With no additional items raised, the provisional agenda was adopted.

3. Key takeaways from the Global Framework on Chemicals OEWG (24 - 27 June 2025, Punta del Este, Uruguay)

Mr. Ludovic Bernaudat (UNEP Secretariat) presented the highlights of the discussions on measurability and indicators that were held at the Global Framework on Chemicals OEWG 1 in June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

He stated that stakeholders commented that, while substantial progress had been achieved, considerable work remains in preparation for the upcoming International Conference to ensure effective measurement of the Framework's implementation. These stakeholders emphasized that significant gaps persist, particularly with respect to headline indicators, underscoring the need for a prioritization exercise to determine which indicators must be available from the outset. It was acknowledged that not all indicators may be required by the time of the Conference; however, early clarity on priorities is essential. Given the voluntary nature of the framework and the absence of mandatory reporting obligations, participants stressed the importance of developing a measurability approach that minimizes the burden on stakeholders, drawing on existing data sources and leveraging new technologies wherever possible. Furthermore, it was proposed that a dedicated group of experts be convened to advance work on specific indicators and subsequently present their findings to the broader group.

4. Stocktaking on the work of each workstream

a. Workstream 1

Mr. Oliver Wootton (UNITAR), on behalf of the IOMC, delivered an update on the progress of Workstream 1. He recalled that the IOMC had originally submitted an inventory of 217 indicators to ICCM5, which, through successive rounds of review and refinement, was reduced to 29, including three newly developed indicators reflecting recently adopted targets. A subsequent stakeholder survey resulted in agreement on 22 indicators covering objectives A, B, D, and E, while work under objective C was deferred pending confirmation of issues of concern. Notwithstanding this progress, several targets remain only partially addressed, and significant gaps persist.

To clarify these shortcomings, the IOMC undertook a comprehensive gap analysis. The results demonstrated that only one indicator (B6 on the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System) could be considered as fully addressing a target, while the remainder were assessed as only partially meeting requirements or not at all, leaving several targets without any coverage.

Mr. Oliver Wootton also reported on progress in completing factsheets, noting that despite resource constraints a first draft has been prepared by UNITAR. A second review will be undertaken by mid-September, after which the drafts will be circulated to custodians for input. The feedback will inform an assessment of their completeness and usability, with consolidated results to be provided to the GFC Secretariat and Co-Chairs by the end of September.

b. Workstream 2

i. *High-level indicator on the global burden of diseases*

Richard Brown (WHO) presented the possible use of the global burden of disease (GBD) as a high-level indicator to assess the overall health impacts of chemicals. He noted that GBD can provide an estimate of the selected health impacts due to selected chemicals in the population, which can be important as it can determine a prioritization. He cautioned, however, that the approach has major limitations: it significantly underestimates the true burden because data are missing for most chemicals—including important substances such as mercury—and methodologies evolve over time, making it unsuitable for tracking progress.

The WHO therefore proposed the use of the GBD as an overarching indicator for the overall estimation of the health impact of chemicals, while noting its inherent limitations. A collaboration between the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) and WHO could be put in place to generate and publish such estimates, initially based on four categories with sufficient data: unintentional poisonings, lead exposure, occupational carcinogens, and occupational particulates.

To complement this, WHO proposes further indicators—covering exposure, health impact, and policy measures—to better track various aspects of their use and management. These would build on existing WHO environmental health scorecards, which already include metrics.

ii. *High-level indicator on the global environmental burden*

Joao Santos (UNEP Secretariat) presented the work achieved to date for the proposed high-level indicator on environmental burden. The task force has refined the definition, objective, and scope for this high-level indicator. In specific terms, the environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste has been defined as: *the degradation of the environment and of ecosystem services resulting from activities involving chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle.*

The objective that has been agreed for this high-level indicator is to deliver a comprehensive overview of the impacts, trends, and environmental releases of chemicals and waste; to track and promote response measures; to raise public awareness and engagement; and to demonstrate the links between environmental and disease burdens, thereby supporting progress in sustainable chemicals and waste management.

To advance with this high-level indicator, it was explained that multidisciplinary expertise across different dimensions will be essential, both for refining the indicator and for selecting supporting metrics capable of providing a robust and comprehensive assessment of the global environmental burden.

c. Workstream 3

Felix Herzog (UNEP Secretariat) presented an overview of the progress made by workstream 3. The objective of this workstream was to identify thematic and sector-specific indicators relevant to the economic and industry sectors, supporting the development of the measurability structure. To achieve this, under workstream 3 a survey was conducted in March 2025 involving 31 entities, including 17 from the private sector. This specific survey aimed to assess whether private sector entities are already using indicators related to chemicals and waste and to determine the relevance of these indicators for the GFC measurability structure. From this process, individual contributions obtained will be used to inform the way forward.

d. Request from representative of the United States of America

As agreed under Agenda item 2.b, the Co-Chairs gave the floor to the representative of the United States of America. She raised a concern that the use of the term “Sustainable Development Goals” in the proposed indicator factsheets would be an obstacle for her administration to endorse the factsheets.

Kay Williams from the GFC Secretariat acknowledged the request on the proposed fact sheet, noting it had already been reviewed several times and warning against further consultations due to the heavy Secretariat workload. She reminded participants that the document would be confirmed at the International Conference. She stressed the need to cement the proposal since it was already being used by IOMC organizations and warned that constant revisions risked undermining the process. It was suggested that the U.S. circulates a written proposal for comments, with feedback to be considered at the next meeting, while final changes would be addressed at the International Conference. The group agreed to proceed on this basis.

5. Areas where further work is needed

Based on the description of the progress made by the 3 workstreams, the Co-Chairs presented the overarching measurability structure and highlighted the areas where further work is needed. The Co-Chairs drew the attention to the fact that no headline indicators for the Strategic Objectives have been identified yet. In addition, it was highlighted that for the 28 targets, only one target had an indicator identified as fully addressing this target (target B6 as presented by Oliver Wooton under workstream 1). The remaining 27 targets currently are either only partially addressed or not addressed by the current indicators. The Co-Chairs emphasized that this specific area needs detailed focus to ensure that indicators can be identified at this level. In addition, efforts should be made to mainstream the following cross-cutting themes: issues of concern, sector specific indicators, capacity building, and implementation programmes.

6. Next steps

a. Proposed way forward

Based on the recommendations of the OEWG and the progress made to date, the Co-chairs proposed new working modalities to complete the work before the upcoming International Conference (see also concept note document [GFC/OEAHGMI.6/2](#) for further details).

In place of continuing with the parallel work of the three workstreams, the Co-chairs proposed that the group continues its intersessional work on indicators by establishing a pool of experts from which new small groups of experts and two task forces will be constituted. All three entities will report to the OEAHGMI on their work. In this context, the Co-Chairs proposed to open a call for experts with the support of the Secretariat with the following selection criteria. The experts should have:

- Willingness to participate actively in the development of the work
- Technical, international, regional and/or national experience related to indicators
- Proven experience related to the topics of the strategic objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals
- Proven expertise in the development of proposals for integrated approaches and/or experience of methodological approaches for indicator integration including specific areas relevant to the scope of the high-level indicators

The small groups of experts' work will focus on developing outstanding indicators under each strategic objective. The two task forces will focus on the high-level indicators: one for determining how to assess the global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste and the other for considering the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste. Regional, sectoral and stakeholder balance in addition to expertise and experience will be considered for each group.

The small groups of experts and the two task forces will be expected to conduct their work in English. Experts will conduct their work in parallel and meet virtually on a regular basis. The Secretariat will provide administrative and technical support to the work of the groups as necessary. Relevant documentation will be made available on the webpage of the OEAHGMI: [Open-Ended Ad Hoc Group on measurability and indicators | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#) and notified to participants attending the OEAHGMI.

The Co-chairs highlighted the following action points resulting from this work modality:

- UNEP Secretariat will open a call for the pool of experts in the first week of September with the deadline for registration being mid-September
- Workstream 1 will complete the 22 indicator factsheets by the next OEAHGMI group meeting in November. Once this has been completed, workstream 1 will be discontinued.
- Workstreams 2 and 3 will discontinue their work immediately.

b. Next meetings and milestones

The Co-Chairs proposed 19 November 2025 for the next meeting of OEAHGMI. The proposed date was accepted by the group.

A face-to-face meeting was proposed for January 2026 to focus on the work undertaken by the small group of experts and the task forces.

Comments from participants:

At the end of this agenda item, the floor was opened to questions and comments. Several participants offered reflections on the process for developing indicators and expert input. Sam van de Snepscheut (Netherlands) raised a question regarding the timing of finalizing all 22 indicators, proposing a phased approach. The Co-Chair, Katerina Sebkova, agreed some prioritization would be needed. Mathieu Ortega (UK) welcomed the idea of an in-person meeting but flagged the budget implications of such a meeting, to which Kay Williams (GFC Secretariat) replied that limited funds were available, mainly to support developing countries. Maria Delvin (Sweden) supported prioritization, cautioning that headline indicators may be too difficult to finalize early, while Katerina Sebkova stressed the need for practical indicators to show progress. Chikako Shindo (Japan) raised concerns about transparency and regional balance in expert selection, proposing formal nominations rather than self-nominations. Daniel William Ndiyo (Tanzania) echoed the call for regional representation and careful preparation ahead of discussions. The Co-Chairs confirmed that transparency, balance, and prioritization would guide the process going forward.

7. Any other business

Before the meeting ended, the floor was opened again for final questions and comments. No additional items were raised.

8. Closure of the meeting

The Co-Chairs thanked the participants for their participation and the progress achieved thus far and closed the meeting at 15:30 CET.

Annex 1 - List of participants

Participants	
Anna Tarli	Hemsing Hurrynag
Alberto Rosales- México	ICMM_Claudine Albersammer
Alexander Roeske, IGBCE	IPEN Sara Brosche
Alexandra McPherson	Iman
Ana Car De Carvalho	Irina Talamoni
Angela Pinilla	Isabelle Mayr
Angelina Buchar	JENAN Eqabi
Anna Odur	Jacqueline Alvarez
Anna Shalin	Japan, Emiko Hase, Kao Cor.
Antonio G.	Jasper Kol I SEP Lab Amsterdam
Audun Heggelund	Jimena Berce
Ayumi Kochi	Jing Zhao
Azeb Dagne	Johanna Hausmann
Jouan Sandrine	João Santos (UNEP)
Barbara Blaznik Marc	K.Hashizume_JCIA
Jenna Shields	Karen
Ahmed Tiamiyu	Katka/Kateřina Šebková, CZ
Canada Sarah Coombs	Kay Williams
Carlos López Alled	Keima Gardiner
Cecilia Aburto	Koichi_Ohno NIES_Japan
Chikako Shindo	Kristof Douçot
DU Kexiong	Laura Nazef, USA
Daniel - MMA - Brazil	Lesley Onyon
Daniel William Ndiyo	Lindita Molla
Djamel MEDJAHED	Liudmila Kolomzhanova
Dorothy Ngajilo	Ludovic Bernaudat
EC Aleksandra Malyska	Maciej Saktura
ES Santiago Candela	Maria Paola
ES Santiago Candela	Mariella
EU/EC - Jordane Wodli	Marta Rocío Moreno

Ekaterina Poleshchuk	Mathieu Ortega (United Kingdom)
Ekaterina Poleshchuk	Michel Wildi
El Hadji Amadou SOW	Michèle Kolmitz, MSP Institute
Eugeny Lobanov	Mingyu Qin
Fadhlan Rasyid RIDHO	Miriam Diamond
Florian Schulze EnvMed Network	Mohammed Javed Qureshi
Fredrick Onyango	Magdalena Frydrych
Gabriella Szenderák	Telma Silva
Geovana Dotta Brasil	Pedro Valderrama/Mex
Gohar Khojayan AWHHE	Peter Fantke
Haddy Guisse	Placido Silva
Hamoud Alrougi- Saudi Arabia	Qiaoyun Zhang-BCRC
Nathan Hauch	Richard Brown (WHO)
OECD Naoko Moritani	Rico Euripidou
Rory O'Neill	Takashi Nishida
SE Maria Delvin	Tara Henriksen
SK - Martin Pavlovič	Tom Kurz / Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung
Sarah Sherwood	Tripti Arora
Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o, Gabon	Troy Martin
Shailand Gunnoo	UNEP Secretariat – Felix Herzog
Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh, Jamaica	UNITAR Oliver Wootton
Silvia R.	Vidhi Mathur
Simone Marzeddu	Vladislava Shlenskaia
Sirveena Janvier	Yu Tingting
Sofia Tingstorp	Yves Soriano
Solomon Bona	Shixun
Stéphanie Laruelle	加古 斉 日化協 / Hitoshi KAKO JCIA
Thaoubane Said Ali	河村 泰志
Tadesse Amara: PAN-Ethiopia	