

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 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Global Framework on Chemicals: implementation
arrangements**

Implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals

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/8 on implementation arrangements.
2. In the resolution, the Conference invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide continued support for the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and to continue assuming overall administrative responsibility for its secretariat. It encouraged the Executive Director to work closely with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and others to foster effective cooperation and collaboration in promoting and implementing the Global Framework. The Conference also welcomed and encouraged the undertaking of further activities concerning all areas of work during the intersessional period until the next session of the Conference. Furthermore, the United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution 6/9, on the sound management of chemicals and waste, requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue providing implementation support to the Global Framework.
3. IOMC and its participating organizations accepted the invitation in resolution V/8 to develop proposals for implementation programmes for consideration by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals at its first session, to be held in 2026.
4. Additional information submitted by IOMC relevant to the implementation of resolution V/8 can be found in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/11.

II. Activities to implement the resolution

5. To respond to the requests addressed to the Executive Director of UNEP, a dedicated trust fund was established to ensure the effective management, coordination and use of funding for the secretariat and to fund activities. Furthermore, a wide range of corporate resources were mobilized to facilitate the establishment of the secretariat and the initiation of activities under the Global Framework.

* UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1.

Approximately \$2.6 million has been received in funding for the operation of the Framework and \$28.3 million for the fund itself. These contributions are being administered in accordance with United Nations and UNEP regulations, rules and directives. Furthermore, the following six secretariat staff positions have been filled: Coordinator of the Secretariat; Health and Labour Liaison Officer; Operations and Organization Officer; Administrative Assistant; Coordinator of the Fund; Junior Professional Officer for the Fund.

6. UNEP continues to promote joint approaches that demonstrate the economic, environmental and health advantages of the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste. Extensive cooperation and collaboration to implement the Global Framework have taken place, including with the other participating organizations of IOMC, the secretariats of chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements, other multilateral environmental agreements and relevant stakeholders. This approach is helping to support collaboration across sectors.

7. IOMC has supported or is planning to support the activities described below, in cooperation and consultation with Global Framework stakeholders.

A. Webinar series supporting the implementation programmes of the Global Framework

8. As a contribution to the implementation programmes of the Global Framework, IOMC is holding a series of webinars. The webinars are open to all interested stakeholders participating in the Global Framework, as well as other stakeholders active or interested in strengthening chemicals and waste management, including those developing legislation or engaged in the financial and investment, economic and industrial sectors.

B. Global surveys

9. A global survey was conducted in 2024 to support the development of a Global Framework implementation programme on industry engagement and action along value chains.¹ A survey to evaluate the status of chemicals management legislation and systems in countries was conducted in early 2025.

C. Draft discussion documents on Global Framework implementation programmes

10. IOMC has developed the following three draft discussion documents to support the consultation process and provide a means of developing proposals for implementation programmes:

- (a) “Development of Global Framework on Chemicals implementation programmes to advance integrated chemicals and waste management: national systems, industry engagement, and sustainable development linkages”, presented and discussed at a webinar held on 30 September 2024;
- (b) “Development of a Global Framework on Chemicals implementation programme on strengthening economic and industry sector engagement and action along value chains”, discussed at a webinar held in December 2024 and subsequently at a workshop held in Paris in February 2025;
- (c) “Suggestions for a Global Framework on Chemicals implementation programme on strengthening national chemicals legislation and institutional capacities”, presented at a webinar held on 20 March 2025 and aimed at informing the discussion at the workshop scheduled to take place on 22 and 23 June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

D. Global multi-stakeholder workshops

11. IOMC has already held one global multi-stakeholder workshop and will hold another to deepen the consultation process and make further progress with the concerned stakeholders on drafting the mandates, terms of reference and workplans for the related programmes, as follows:

- (a) “Economic and Industry Sector Engagement and Action to Implement the Global Framework on Chemicals”, held in Paris from 24 to 26 February 2025;

¹ https://partnership.who.int/docs/librariesprovider14/default-document-library/iomc/2024-iomc-gfc-survey-findings-26-9-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=93396f90_4.

(b) “Strengthening National Chemicals Legislation and Institutional Capacities”, to be held in Punta del Este on 22 and 23 June 2025, immediately before the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

12. Other workshops may be organized, subject to the availability of resources.

E. Planned and upcoming activities

13. Planned and upcoming activities include:

(a) Further webinars in 2025 on the proposed implementation programmes (to be confirmed, subject to the availability of resources);

(b) Additional global multi-stakeholder workshops to further develop draft mandates, terms of reference and workplans (to be confirmed, subject to the availability of resources);

(c) Refinement of draft mandates, draft terms of reference and workplans based on the consultations held to date (third or fourth quarter of 2025);

(d) Discussion and possible adoption of the implementation programmes at the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals;

(e) Ongoing work to expand the content of and provide further training on the IOMC toolbox.

14. IOMC will continue to make available the collective expertise and support of its participating organizations as the development of the Global Framework implementation programmes advances. Further details can be found in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/11 and on the IOMC website.

III. Proposed action

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

(a) *Welcome* the anticipated report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session on actions taken to implement resolution V/8 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on implementation arrangements;

(b) *Welcome* the activities undertaken by all stakeholders to date to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;

(c) *Express appreciation* for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in assuming administrative responsibility for the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals, including the progress made in recruiting staff and providing substantive support for the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session;

(d) *Express appreciation* to the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals for its leading role in responding to the resolution.