

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

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

1. The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste will be opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 24 June 2025 at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Punta del Este, Uruguay.
2. Opening statements will be made by the President of the Global Framework on Chemicals and a representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

3. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to adopt the agenda for its first meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1).

(b) Election of officers

4. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to elect two co-chairs to guide its deliberations. Co-chairs will be proposed with due regard for geographical and gender balance.

(c) Organization of work

5. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to conduct its work in plenary sessions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 24 June, Wednesday, 25 June, and Friday, 27 June, unless it decides otherwise. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to establish contact groups and in-session breakout groups with a view to addressing certain agenda items, and to specify mandates and time frames for the work of those groups as it deems necessary. Thursday, 26 June will be devoted to multi-stakeholder activities and workshops.

Item 3

Global Framework on Chemicals

(a) Implementation arrangements

6. In resolution V/8 on implementation arrangements, the International Conference on Chemicals Management urged all stakeholders across the life cycle of key economic and industrial sectors to commit themselves to the implementation of the Framework and invited the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to play a facilitating and coordinating role in

encouraging their engagement, and to collaborate on and develop proposals for implementation programmes. In the same resolution, the Conference requested the secretariat of the Framework, in consultation with the Bureau of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals, to define the required arrangements for operationalizing the Framework for consideration by the International Conference at its first session, scheduled for late 2026.

7. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/8 on the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals and the associated information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/11).

(b) Global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides

8. In resolution V/11 on highly hazardous pesticides, the International Conference on Chemicals Management endorsed the formation of a global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides and invited all interested stakeholders to become members of that alliance. The alliance, once established, is requested to support the implementation of relevant targets and to develop and implement an action plan.

9. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/10 on a global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides and the associated information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/14).

(c) Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

10. In resolution V/3 on financial considerations and the annex thereto on the terms of reference of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, the International Conference on Chemicals Management decided to establish a Global Framework on Chemicals Fund to support implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition. In the same resolution, the International Conference also decided to establish an Executive Board for the Fund.

11. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/3 on the Global Framework for Chemicals Fund and the status of contributions and the associated information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/5). In addition, the Open-ended Working Group may wish to acknowledge the activities of the Executive Board and the disbursement of funds in the first round of applications to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.

(d) Gender action plan

12. In resolution V/4 on mainstreaming a gender perspective and promoting gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in chemicals and waste management, the International Conference on Chemicals Management recognized that gender equality was relevant to chemicals and waste management and requested the secretariat, with the participation of interested stakeholders, to develop a gender action plan for consideration by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals at its first session.

13. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/4 on a gender action plan and the associated information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/6).

(e) Emerging policy issues and issues of concern

14. In resolution V/5 on emerging policy issues and issues of concern, the International Conference on Chemicals Management decided that all such issues recognized prior to its fifth session, held in Bonn, Germany, in September 2023, should transition on an interim basis to “issues of concern” under the Framework, and it strongly encouraged all relevant stakeholders to continue their work on such issues. At its first session, the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals will determine their path under the Framework.

15. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/5 on emerging policy issues and issues of concern.

(f) International cooperation and coordination

16. In resolution V/6 on international cooperation and coordination, the International Conference on Chemicals Management invited the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and multilateral agreements to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge and support the

Framework, with a view to considering, within the scope of their respective mandates, the incorporation in their programmes of work of mutually supportive activities.

17. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/6, entitled “International cooperation and coordination: interlinkages and activities to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals”, and the associated information documents (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/8; UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/9).

(g) National focal points

18. In resolution V/7 on the development of guidelines for national focal points, the International Conference on Chemicals Management requested the secretariat to develop draft guidelines for consideration by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals in order to close the gap in guidance for national focal points and to strengthen and prioritize national chemical and waste management capacities.

19. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/7 on national focal points and the associated information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/10).

(h) Measurability structure and indicators

20. In resolution V/9 on the measurability structure, the International Conference on Chemicals Management decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators with the aim of preparing recommendations for the finalization of the measurability structure and a proposal for a set of indicators for annex III to the Framework for consideration at the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

21. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/9 on the measurability structure and the associated information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/12). The Open-ended Working Group may also wish to acknowledge the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators.

(i) Health surveillance systems

22. In resolution V/10 on health surveillance systems for the Global Framework on Chemicals to prevent and protect human health from chemical exposure, the International Conference on Chemicals Management encouraged the strengthening of institutional linkages between poison centres and national agencies, as appropriate, the establishment and strengthening of surveillance systems, and the development of a proposal for the creation of a global network.

23. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider the information provided orally on health surveillance systems.

(j) Capacity-building

24. According to section VIII of the Framework, the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals will develop a strategy for capacity-building and supporting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms. The strategy will include capacity-building tools and other initiatives.

25. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/12 on capacity-building and the associated information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/16).

Item 4

Financial considerations

(a) Assessing the existing financial and investment flows as well as financial needs associated with the implementation of the Framework

26. In resolution V/3 on financial considerations, the International Conference on Chemicals Management requested the secretariat, in collaboration with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, to assess the existing financial and investment flows as well as financial needs associated with the implementation of the Framework, including information on domestic accounting. The assessment will inform stakeholders' discussions at the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

27. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/2 on financial considerations and the associated information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/3) and to take note of the information provided therein.

(b) Costs of inaction

28. In resolution V/3 on financial considerations, the International Conference on Chemicals Management invited relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to update the existing costs of inaction report.¹

29. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/2 on financial considerations and the associated information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/4) and to take note of the information provided therein.

Item 5

Programme of work and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2024–2026

30. In resolution V/12 on the programme of work and budget, the International Conference on Chemicals Management invited the secretariat to further increase cooperation with relevant stakeholders and encouraged all Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to contribute financial and other resources to enable the secretariat to perform its mandated functions.

31. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/11 on the programme of work, staffing and budget, to take note of the information provided therein, and to agree ad interim on the programme of work and draft budget for final consideration by the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Item 6

Preparations for the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals

32. Section X of the Framework, on institutional arrangements, sets out the functions of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals and its modus operandi. According to section X.A, the International Conference will meet every third year, unless it decides otherwise.

33. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider working document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/13 on preparations for the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals and to take note of the information provided therein.

Item 7

Other matters

34. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider other matters raised during the meeting.

Item 8

Adoption of the report of the meeting

35. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider and adopt the report of its first meeting.

Item 9

Closure of the meeting

36. It is expected that the meeting will be closed by 6 p.m. on Friday, 27 June 2025.

¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *Costs of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals* (2013). Available at www.unep.org/resources/report/costs-inaction-sound-management-chemicals.