

Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste

Distr.: General
16 April 2025
Original: English

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 (f) of the provisional agenda*

**Global Framework on Chemicals: international cooperation and
coordination**

International cooperation and coordination: interlinkages and activities to implement 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/6 on international cooperation and coordination, in which the Conference, among other things:

(a) Brought the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and multilateral agreements and invited them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge and support the Framework;

(b) Encouraged all relevant international organizations to continue promoting the engagement of stakeholders and sectors; encouraged all stakeholders to consider interlinkages with chemicals- and waste-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; encouraged the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to work closely with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), other relevant United Nations organizations, instruments and frameworks, and the secretariats of relevant multilateral agreements to foster effective cooperation and collaboration;

(c) Stressed the importance of the relationship with the ongoing processes to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, and to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and requested the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals to cooperate closely with the future science-policy panel. The resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution will be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 15 to 18 June 2025, back to back with the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel;

* UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1.

(d) Welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and invited stakeholders to take into account the objectives of that framework in implementing the Global Framework on Chemicals.

2. The following information is provided in response to the requests in the resolution. Additional information on international cooperation and coordination, and on interlinkages and activities to implement the Framework, can be found in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/8.

II. Activities to implement the resolution

3. The activities described below have been carried out in response to the invitation extended at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and multilateral agreements to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge and support the Global Framework on Chemicals.

4. At the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, held from 30 October to 3 November 2023, the Conference was informed of the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals. At their forthcoming meetings, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to be held from 28 April to 9 May 2025, will also appropriately acknowledge the Framework. The outcomes of those deliberations will be included in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/8.

5. In March 2024, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution 6/9 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, in which the Assembly, among other things, acknowledged the voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral Global Framework on Chemicals; requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue providing implementation support to the Framework; and encouraged all stakeholders to provide further resources to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.

6. At a ministerial-level meeting held on 3 May 2024, the Council of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development adopted the Declaration on Supporting the Achievement of the Strategic Objectives and Targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals. In the Declaration, the Council recognized the need for increased cooperation and coordinated efforts at the international level, including through and between international organizations, to achieve the sound management of chemicals, and recognized the pivotal role of IOMC in that regard.

7. In November 2024, the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) welcomed the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals and was pleased to note the engagement and contributions of UNITAR and its Executive Director in the development and final establishment of the Framework. The Board supported the continued active work of UNITAR on the Framework and the commitment to implementing its multiple elements to enhance the sound management of chemicals and waste around the world.

8. On 19 December 2024, the General Assembly adopted resolution 79/202 on promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21, in which the Assembly acknowledged the Global Framework on Chemicals, including its strategic objectives and targets.

9. At its 353rd session, held in March 2025, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office took note of the Global Framework on Chemicals and the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and endorsed follow-up action in line with the specific mandate of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and within the established action areas specified in its Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health 2024–30. Importantly, constituents highlighted the need for the Framework to increase the commitment to a multisectoral approach through the engagement of labour stakeholders in Framework processes and governance, and through dedicated funding mechanisms accessible to ILO and other participating organizations of IOMC.

10. In line with paragraph 8 of resolution V/6, the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, prepared a report on the contributions of the international frameworks and agreements on chemicals and waste to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹ The report highlights those

¹ UNEP/CHW.17/INF/59–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/49.

contributions and includes a series of guiding questions for national target-setting under the Global Biodiversity Framework, serving as a starting point for parties seeking to update their national biodiversity strategies with a view to better integrating considerations related to chemicals and waste. The report has been submitted as an information document to the upcoming conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to be held from 28 April to 9 May 2025, and will be presented at a high-level side event entitled “From invisible threats to visible solutions: integrating chemicals and waste management into biodiversity conservation – the power of synergies”.

11. In addition, the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals, in partnership with the Law Division and Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP and the secretariats of key multilateral environmental agreements, is driving forward an approach to the synergistic implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on biodiversity, chemicals and waste. By providing platforms for capacity-building and the exchange of experience, such as a workshop held in Dakar in November 2024, these efforts are catalysing enhanced national coordination in addressing pollution and biodiversity agendas. Recent efforts have focused on West, Central, East and Southern Africa, strengthening the alignment of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals in those regions. Building on that momentum, this initiative will scale these benefits globally and regionally by fostering a dynamic community of practice and curating holistic guidance on integrating considerations related to pollution into the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. At the national level, the approach will be piloted in selected countries, promoting a more cohesive, resilient and transformative model of environmental governance that bridges the pollution and nature pillars.

12. As part of a draft resolution to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel will consider at its resumed third session the support that such a panel could provide for relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other international instruments, intergovernmental bodies, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in their work. Once the decision is adopted at the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel, the governing bodies of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies may wish to consider the decision establishing the science-policy panel, as appropriate.

III. Proposed action

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

(a) *Take note of and express appreciation* to those international organizations and bodies that have recognized the establishment of the Global Framework on Chemicals;

(b) *Consider* the decision made by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, as appropriate;

(c) *Request* the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals to continue to work closely with international organizations, within their mandates, on activities related to the implementation of the Framework and to reach out to relevant stakeholders, including the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, to enhance the visibility and uptake of the Framework.