

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 (h) of the provisional agenda*

Global Framework on Chemicals: measurability structure and indicators

Measurability structure

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 the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. To facilitate the reporting and monitoring of progress and impact in its implementation and contribute to assessing progress towards the vision, the Framework includes a measurability structure that is introduced in section XI of and set out in annex III to the Framework.
2. In resolution V/9 on the measurability structure, the Conference decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators that would work by electronic means to prepare recommendations for finalizing the measurability structure and a proposal for a set of indicators for annex III to the Framework, to be considered at the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals. It also requested the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals to support the group's work and invited the United Nations Statistical Commission, participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the group's work.
3. The activities of and the progress made by the ad hoc group are described in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/12.

II. Activities to implement the resolution

4. The ad hoc group has held four meetings to date. It agreed on its organization of work as described in the scenario note for the first segment of the group's first meeting.¹ Participation in the group's meetings is open to all stakeholders, and there has been broad participation by stakeholder groups and sectors. The group agreed to meet quarterly starting from April 2024, with the first meeting organized in two segments.

* UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/1.

¹ [GFC/OEAHGMI.1/2](#).

5. The group has held a total of four meetings, with a report produced for each meeting,² and has agreed to hold its fifth meeting in April 2025 in anticipation of the June 2025 meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

6. At the first segment of the first meeting of the group, Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) and Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago) were elected as co-chairs of the group.

7. At the second segment of the first meeting, the group agreed on a workplan and endorsed a proposed approach for developing a set of indicators, as outlined in a concept note for the work of the group.³ The group divided its work into three workstreams, to be organized through task teams, as follows:

(a) *Workstream 1: Assessment of existing indicators identified in document SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1, on existing indicators on chemicals and waste management.* The task team for this workstream, led by IOMC, has the task of revisiting and streamlining the existing list of indicators and performing a gap analysis that will inform work under workstream 2;

(b) *Workstream 2: Development of additional indicators that are not currently available but are needed to complete the measurability structure.* The task team for this workstream is tasked with identifying headline, process and impact indicators as well as other indicators that need to be developed on the basis of the outcomes of workstreams 1 and 3. It is also asked to identify process indicators to track progress for multiple targets and may consider establishing cross-cutting indicators. Inclusion of Framework elements relating to issues of concern, implementation programmes and capacity-building may also be discussed. Further, the United Nations Environment Programme, with the support of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe, is leading work on the high-level indicator on the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste, and the World Health Organization is leading work on the high-level indicator on the global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste;

(c) *Workstream 3: Identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific indicators.* This workstream is being led by the secretariat, which has the task of undertaking an additional analysis to identify and assess thematic and sector-specific indicators (either existing or under development).

8. The group has discussed draft thought starters on the criteria for selecting indicators of the Framework⁴ and on a proposed fact sheet template aimed at facilitating the standardization of information on indicators and having an objective approach to their selection by the Conference.⁵ The progress made by IOMC in refining a list of indicators is outlined in the concept note for workstream 1,⁶ along with proposed next steps, and a proposed approach to developing the high-level indicator on the global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste is laid out in the draft concept note for workstream 2.⁷

9. The task teams of the three workstreams have engaged with stakeholders through webinars, online meetings, interviews with experts, and surveys to make progress in carrying out their mandates. A report⁸ on results and preliminary analysis of responses to a questionnaire under workstream 3 has been generated, and the workstream 1 task team has agreed on a refined short list of indicators.

III. Proposed action

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

(a) *Reiterate* the importance of the measurability structure;

(b) *Welcome* the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators to prepare recommendations for the finalization of the measurability structure, and encourage the group to continue implementing resolution V/9 and section XI of and annex III to the Global Framework on Chemicals;

² GFC/OEAHGMI.1/Seg.1/Report/Rev.1; GFC/OEAHGMI.1/Seg.2/3; GFC/OEAHGMI.2/7/Rev.1; GFC/OEAHGMI.3/5; GFC/OEAHGMI.4/4.

³ GFC/OEAHGMI.1/Seg.2/2.

⁴ See documents GFC/OEAHGMI.2/2, GFC/OEAHGMI.3/5 and GFC/OEAHGMI.4/2.

⁵ See documents GFC/OEAHGMI.2/3 and GFC/OEAHGMI.3/3.

⁶ GFC/OEAHGMI.2/4.

⁷ GFC/OEAHGMI.2/5.

⁸ GFC/OEAHGMI.4/3.

(c) *Welcome with appreciation* the work undertaken by the co-chairs of the open-ended ad hoc group and by participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, along with the contributions of all stakeholders.
