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International cooperation and coordination

**Report on activities undertaken within the Global Framework
on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and
Waste****

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out a report on the activities of the Global Framework on Chemicals secretariat. The document was submitted by UNEP's Global Framework on Chemicals secretariat. It is presented as received, without formal editing.

* UNEP/MC/COP.6/1/Rev.1.

** This document has not been formally edited.

Annex

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

I. Introduction

1. This report presents an update on Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) Secretariat and Fund activities. The Global Framework on Chemicals, adopted at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), builds upon the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) by shifting to a target-driven model focused on achieving the vision of a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste. Its five strategic objectives and 28 internationally agreed targets promote systemic change through robust governance, cross-sector collaboration, and measurable outcomes.

2. To ensure the successful implementation of the Framework, emphasis has been on strengthening foundational capacities, engaging with high impact sectors, promoting strategies to include innovative approaches, developing a strong sustained stakeholder engagement and mobilising the finance sector. There has been a focus on developing measurable indicators, engaging key industrial sectors, making the Framework Fund operational, integrating gender and social equity, and securing voluntary financial contributions.

II. Effective governance and secretariat services

3. Throughout the reporting period, the secretariat provided effective governance by preparing and organizing seven meetings of the Bureau of the Framework. These meetings took place on 25 October and 5 December 2023, 26 February, 15 June and 12 November 2024, and on 30 January and 19 May 2025. In addition, the secretariat organized the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) which took place in June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

4. To support technical dialogue and progress, the secretariat convened five intersessional meetings of the ad hoc group on measurability and indicators. These were held between April 2024 and April 2025 and were complemented by surveys and task team engagements. Financial oversight remained a priority, with ongoing monitoring of the secretariat's budget and donor contributions, alongside the coordination of regular reports to funding partners.

5. A communications strategy was developed to raise awareness and visibility of the Framework. This multi-stakeholder strategy was implemented through presentations and contributions at over 30 events, contributing significantly to outreach across diverse stakeholder groups.

III. Strengthening international collaboration

6. The secretariat actively contributed to the global chemicals and waste agenda by submitting key outcomes to major forums, including the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the World Health Assembly (WHA) and various chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements. These efforts were part of broader work to foster multisectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement, particularly in implementing the programmatic elements of the Framework.

7. Collaboration on the organization of the first meeting of the OEWG of the Global Framework on Chemicals 1 in June 2025 back-to-back with the resumed third session of the ad hoc Open-ended Working Group and Intergovernmental Meeting to establish a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution helped strengthen links between science and decision-making for chemicals and waste management. The secretariat has participated in multiple activities of the IOMC, working to deepen connections with the finance, economic, and industry sectors and to advance implementation programmes.

8. Jointly with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions, an information document (UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/9) was developed highlighting the contributions of the international chemicals and waste framework to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In addition, the secretariat assessed the functionality of the existing SAICM Knowledge Management Platform, with a view to adapting it for the broader needs of stakeholders under the Framework.

IV. Promoting a network of stakeholders

9. Efforts undertaken to build a strong stakeholder base included proactive outreach to encourage the nomination of national focal points. As a result, there has been a noticeable increase in nominations although further work to encourage participation from a wider range of sectors remains essential. To guide engagement, the secretariat drafted initial guidelines for national focal points. These guidelines provide advice on how focal points can promote and coordinate multisectoral collaboration, as well as foster effective risk communication and public awareness.

V. Mainstreaming gender considerations

10. Gender equity was integrated into various activities of the secretariat. This included efforts to incorporate gender perspectives into relevant policies, plans, and actions concerning chemicals and waste management. An initial gender action plan has been drafted and shared for consultation, laying the groundwork for a more gender responsive implementation approach.

VI. Establishment of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

11. ICCM5 also established the GFC Fund to support implementation in developing countries, least developed countries, Small Island Developing States, and countries with economies in transition. The Fund aims to finance projects that deliver transformative change to prevent, or where not feasible, minimize harm from chemicals and waste—particularly for vulnerable groups and workers.

12. The Fund is governed by an Executive Board composed of representatives from regions, donor countries, and other contributors. It operates with a transparent application and selection process, guided by a set of eligibility and assessment criteria. Funding is allocated to projects that demonstrate strong potential for sustainability, replication, and contribution to the objectives of the GFC.

13. The secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals has provided administrative services and other support to the Fund, including facilitating meetings of the Executive Board, launching the first round of applications, screening applications for eligibility and completeness and conducting a high-level review of each application.

14. The Fund's first call for applications was launched on 1 October 2024, with a closing date on 31 January 2025. A total of 105 applications were received from 77 countries, covering government and non-government applicants across all regions. The Executive Board approved 4 regional projects, providing support to 11 countries, and marking a major milestone in operationalizing financial support for national and regional implementation efforts. Further information on these activities is provided in a separate information document submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention at its sixth meeting (UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/17) as well as in documents UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/3 and UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/4.¹

VII. Next Steps

15. To support the effective governance and implementation of the Framework, the secretariat will coordinate key strategic activities and meetings. This includes organizing seven Bureau meetings, regional consultations (resource-dependent), and intersessional meetings of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators where the secretariat will lead the development of thematic and sector-specific indicators. The secretariat will oversee the planning of the next International Conference in 2026. In parallel, a resource mobilization plan is underway to seek innovative routes for funding, broaden the donor base, maintain budget oversight, and support related initiatives. Progress reports on new activities will be presented at the next session, while targeted communication with sectors and awareness campaigns aim to raise awareness and increase stakeholder engagement.

16. Further, the secretariat will strengthen collaboration with international organizations, including participating organizations of the IOMC align efforts with global platforms like the UN Environment Assembly and Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions. Partnerships will also be developed with the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework and the new global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides. At the national level, the secretariat will promote early implementation of national focal point guidelines, encouraging diverse representation from sectors like health, labour, and business. A gender action plan will be finalized for adoption at the first session of the International Conference,

¹ Documents are available at: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/k25/005/56/pdf/k2500556.pdf> and https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/47693/UNEP_GFC_OEWG.1_INF_5_GFC_Fund.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

and financial assessments including the cost of inaction will continue with IOMC participating organizations. Finally, the secretariat will manage the Framework Fund's governance, launch a second call for proposals, and support applicants in aligning with strategic funding priorities.
