

Global Framework on Chemicals Update

November 2024

Message from the Secretariat: Celebrating a year of progress and partnership

As we reflect on the first year of the Global Framework on Chemicals (the Framework), I'm thrilled to join you in recognizing all that we've accomplished together. Since the Framework's launch, your hard work has laid a solid foundation for meaningful progress in global chemical safety. This inaugural *Global Framework on Chemicals Update* highlights achievements over the past year and our shared goal of living and thriving in a world free of harm from chemicals and waste.

Looking ahead, the GFC Secretariat will keep you informed through regular updates on our initiatives, upcoming events, and opportunities for involvement. Thank you for your invaluable contributions as we move forward into another year of impactful work. Here's to continued success for the Framework!



Kay Williams
Head of the GFC Secretariat



Executive Board Members
of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.

be given to medium-scale projects in the world's most disadvantaged countries that strengthen national and regional capacities on chemicals and waste management; support national policies and regulations; advance solutions along the value chain; and work collaboratively with ministries, regional centers, health networks, major industry sectors, investment and development banks, civil society, and other potential stakeholders. [*Learn more*](#)

GFC Fund launches first call for projects with USD \$28 million in funding

On 1 October, the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund launched its first call for projects focused on the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste. Two [webinars to promote the Fund](#) and to allow potential applicants to ask questions were hosted by the GFC Secretariat, UNEP, and the Geneva Environment Network on the 29 and 30 of October.

In the months to come, the newly appointed [Fund Executive Board](#) will continue to shape the Fund and encourage contributions to support eligible projects.

As noted in the Fund's initial [press release](#), priority will



Advancing implementation programmes

The [Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals](#) (IOMC) has been responding to the invitation in ICCM-5 resolution V/8 to work with stakeholders to prepare GFC implementation programmes (IPs). In addition to facilitating discussions about possible features of IPs, IOMC will develop specific IPs in two areas (and considering IOCs as cross-cutting issues): (1) developing integrated national chemicals and waste management systems and capacities at the national and regional levels, and (2) integrating sound chemicals and waste management in economic and industrial sectors along value chains.

The IOMC welcomes stakeholders to continue to engage in this work, and also encourages additional work to be undertaken in other identified areas. These include (1) integrating sound chemicals and waste management in sustainable development decision-making processes, as appropriate; and (2) addressing issues of concern, as appropriate.

Advancing implementation programmes (continued)

A draft discussion document, a global survey about industry, and two [webinars](#) have been held to date. A third webinar will take place on 10 December 2024 (Topic: “Developing a GFC Implementation Programme on Strengthening Economic and Industry Sector Engagement and Action Along Value Chains”). More information about the IOMC work related to IPs is available [here](#).

Well Noted . . .

The Open-Ended Ad Hoc Group on Measurability and Indicators has agreed on the approach and a set of indicators essential to measure the implementation and success of the Framework.

Three workstreams were identified to guide the work: Workstream 1: Assessment of existing indicators; Workstream 2: Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure; and Workstream 3: Identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific indicators. Several meetings have taken place to shape the work of this group.

Tracking GFC progress towards a safer planet

Acting on key resolutions for Framework implementation

The GFC Secretariat continues to mobilize stakeholders’ expertise in response to resolutions adopted to implement the Framework. Progress to be reported at the OEWG meeting in June 2025 will include:

- ☑ A Gender Action Plan to promote gender responsive policies and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of the GFC.
- ☑ An interlinkages report between the Framework and the Global Biodiversity Framework outlining complementarity implementation efforts to address the triple planetary crisis.
- ☑ Draft guidelines that delineate the role of national focal points, including their potential responsibilities and capacity-building mechanisms to support their coordination role.
- ☑ An assessment of existing financial and investment flows as well as financial needs associated with the implementation of the Framework.
- ☑ Updates on the Costs of Inaction Report.
- ☑ A recruitment campaign to support the GFC Secretariat.

The Framework is supporting a multi-stakeholder pilot project to expand and strengthen the implementation of the [Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals \(GHS\)](#) in Africa by first targeting Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Côte d'Ivoire. This EU-ICCA funded project was launched in April 2022 and is coordinated by the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch.

Thus far, national implementation roadmaps have been developed, recipient countries have provided interim reports, and work towards drafting and reviewing legislation in each country is under way. The goal is to create a ripple effect by inspiring neighboring African countries to adopt the GHS, using the lessons learned from the pilot countries.

Supporting GHS Pilot Project in Africa

Key 2024 Outreach Activities

The GFC Secretariat and partners promoted the Framework at various in-person, virtual, and hybrid events in 2024. These include:

- Regulatory Summit Asia 2024, held on 4 and 5 November in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Platform (ARCP) Workshop, held on 28 and 29 October in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Hamburg Sustainability Conference on Chemical Safety and Innovation, held on 7 and 8 October in Hamburg, Germany.
- 3rd Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability, held online on 5 and 6 September.
- Webinar #1 for the IOMC Global Stakeholder Dialogue on GFC Implementation Programmes, held on 3 July 2024.
- Webinar #2 for the IOMC Global Stakeholder Dialogue on GFC Implementation Programmes, held on 30 September.
- Conference on Tomorrow's Chemicals Policy, held on 23 and 24 April in Brussels, Belgium.
- Bern III Conference on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, held 23 to 25 January.

For information related to this update, or to share your activities related to the Framework, contact the GFC Secretariat via unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org

For general information on the Global Chemicals Framework, visit: <https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals>