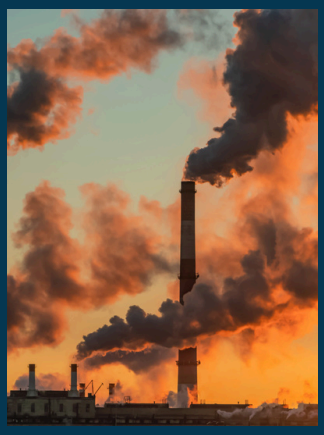
IOMC

Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals

WORKING TOGETHER TO END CHEMICAL POLLUTION







Photos: Shutterstock

*The IOMC vision is to shape a sustainable future through **coordinated global action** to achieve the **sound lifecycle management of chemicals and waste** for healthy lives and the environment.*

WHAT IS THE IOMC?

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) brings together intergovernmental organizations working to advance chemical safety and the sound management of chemicals and waste worldwide. Established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, the IOMC now has 10 participating organizations including the BRS Conventions, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, the World Bank Group, and the OECD.

WHAT WE DO

IOMC organizations help countries strengthen chemicals and waste management through:

- Scientific and technical expertise;
- Policy and legislative support;
- Tools and standards;
- Training and capacity-building; and
- Financing and implementation support

The IOMC aims to strengthen international cooperation and help increase the effectiveness of participating organizations' chemicals programmes through coordinated policies and activities that protect human health and the environment. The IOMC promotes coordinated action to reduce chemical risks, prevent pollution and support sustainable development.

Its work reflects collaboration across the health, environment, workplace, agriculture, development, industry, and finance sectors.

30 YEARS OF GLOBAL COOPERATION

For three decades, the IOMC has supported international efforts to strengthen chemical safety and improve the sound management of chemicals and waste worldwide.

Its work has evolved alongside major global frameworks — from Agenda 21, the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

The IOMC has contributed to global action on pollution and hazardous waste, supported the phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides, and advanced innovation in areas such as nanotechnology, pollution monitoring, and environmentally sound waste management.

It has also strengthened international data systems and indicators, helping improve transparency, accountability, and cooperation in chemicals governance.

The IOMC Toolbox is a problem solving tool that enables countries to identify the most appropriate and efficient national actions to address specific national problems related to chemicals management.

HOW DOES THE IOMC OPERATE?

The IOMC enables participating organizations to coordinate their work on chemicals and waste management through regular meetings, ongoing collaboration, information exchange, and joint planning.

By aligning activities and expertise across organizations, the IOMC helps strengthen international cooperation, reduce duplication, identify gaps and overlaps in international activities, and improve support for countries.

The IOMC also promotes coordination on policies related to the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

UNITAR serves as the administering organization of the IOMC and provides secretariat support. The IOMC Chair rotates annually among participating organizations. Observer organizations are often invited to attend IOMC meetings.

BASEL | ROTTERDAM | STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

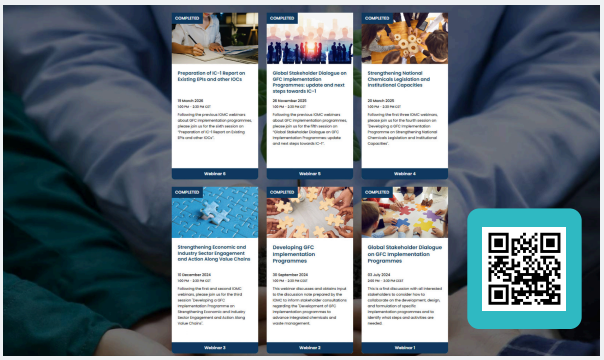
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Labour Organization

OECD BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

UNDP

Visit iomcwebinars.org or scan the QR code to access **IOMC webinars**



Visit iomctoolbox.org or scan the QR code to explore the **IOMC toolbox**



GFC IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMMES

The IOMC and its participating organizations accepted the invitation in ICCM5 Resolution V/8 to develop "Implementation Programmes" (IPs), in close collaboration with stakeholders, for consideration by the first International Conference in 2026.

IP1 Legal frameworks and institutional capacities for chemicals management

- Terms of Reference (TOR) and a workplan have been developed for consideration and possible adoption at the first International Conference (IC-1) in November 2026.
- Stakeholder consultations included webinars (November 2025 and March 2026), a global workshop (June 2026), and regular meetings of an informal reflection group (April-June 2026).
- A cross-cutting Labour Programme is proposed under IP1 to integrate occupational safety and health into GFC implementation. The Programme will also support implementation under IP2.

IOMC Resources:

- Building Blocks towards an Effective National Chemicals Management System (2025)
- Pilot testing in Latin America (2025) and Asia (2026)
- UNEP Leapfrogging Guidance on Chemicals Regulation (draft, 2026)
- Chemical legislation country self-assessment and benchmarking tool (forthcoming)

IP2 Industry engagement and action along value chains

- Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) and a workplan have been developed.
- Stakeholder consultations included webinars (December 2024, November 2025, November 2026) and a global workshop (February 2025).

IOMC Resources:

- IOMC industry sector outreach survey (July 2024)
- Supporting activities for industry sectors and workstreams:
  - Healthcare, textiles, electronics, construction
  - Transparency, traceability, disclosure
  - Identification of Priority Chemicals of Concern
  - Chemical footprint approaches
  - Green and sustainable chemistry innovation
  - Reporting standards and frameworks
  - Private sector financing and investment
  - Occupational safety and health

UN environment programme · UNIDO · unitar United Nations Institute for Training and Research · WORLD BANK GROUP · World Health Organization

IOMC CONTRIBUTIONS

- Advancing implementation programmes under the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)
- Supporting globally harmonized systems for chemical classification and labelling
- Providing global access to information on chemical substances
- Leading international work on emerging policy issues and existing issues of concern
- Supporting countries in implementing the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Strengthening international cooperation on chemicals and waste management
- Providing convening power for dialogues with governments, workers, the private sector, and civil society.



LOOKING AHEAD

With the Global Framework on Chemicals now in place and growing international attention on pollution and waste, the IOMC is entering a new phase of increasing partnerships, innovation, and implementation.

In the years ahead, the IOMC will continue supporting countries, strengthening collaboration across sectors, and advancing practical solutions for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

A major milestone will be the first International Conference of the GFC in November 2026 in Geneva, where proposals for the first implementation programmes will be considered.

As the IOMC begins its fourth decade, it looks forward to working with governments, industry, civil society, and international partners to accelerate action towards safer and more sustainable chemicals and waste management worldwide.

> ***For 30 years, the IOMC has been a cornerstone of international cooperation on chemicals and waste. This highlights the importance of a formalized structure enabling UN and intergovernmental organizations to work together, demonstrating that multilateralism delivers. Anchored in Geneva, the heart of the global chemicals, waste and pollution governance cluster and home to many IOMC organizations, the IOMC's work benefits from strong synergies and efficiency, resulting in enhanced impact.***
>
> **Katrin Schneeberger,**
> Director of the Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland

> ***Germany is pleased to support the IOMC to lead the development of the GFC implementation programmes towards the first International Conference in November 2026 and undertake key implementation activities in the period following the Conference.***
>
> **Carolin Zerger,**
> Head of Division "International Chemicals Safety, Sustainable Chemistry"
> German Ministry for Environment

Visit iomc.info or scan the QR code to learn more about the IOMC

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