

IOMC Webinar Report

Preparation of the IC-1 Report on Existing EPIs and other IOCs

IOMC Webinar Series in support of GFC
Implementation (webinar #6)

Convened by the IOMC with the support of the
Government of Switzerland

19 March 2026

UN 
environment
programme

Global Framework
on Chemicals

 **IOMC**
Inter-Organization Programme for the
Sound Management of Chemicals

A cooperative agreement among FAO, ILO,
UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, WORLD
BANK, OECD, and BRS Conventions

Report Prepared by: UNITAR

Webinar Report

INTRODUCTION

The [Global Framework on Chemicals \(GFC\)](#), adopted by the ICCM5 in Bonn, Germany in 2023, provides a vision for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste, for a safe, healthy and sustainable future.

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) is committed to supporting the implementation of the GFC and has accepted the invitation in [ICCM5 Resolution V/8](#) to work together with stakeholders in developing mandates, terms of reference, and workplans for possible “Implementation Programmes” (IPs) for consideration by the first International Conference in 2026.

The IOMC initiated a [series of webinars](#) in 2024 as a contribution to the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals. The webinars are open to all interested stakeholders participating in the GFC, as well as other stakeholders active or interested in the chemicals and waste management area.

This sixth webinar in the series of IOMC webinars supporting the development of the Global Framework on Chemicals provided an update on the preparation of the report on existing emerging policy issues (EPIs) and other issues of concern, in response to the invitation in ICCM-5 [resolution V/5](#):

4. Invites the responsible Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals organizations, in consultation with stakeholders and taking into account the Inter-Organization Programme’s report on Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, [2] the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern and the Global Consultation on Chemicals and Waste Issues of Concern, [3] to submit to the Conference at its next session, under the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, a report including:

- a) An update on progress achieved in relation to the existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern recognized before the fifth session of the Conference indicating how the work done contributes to achieving the strategic objective(s) and targets of the Framework;*
- b) An analysis of opportunities to further address the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern recognized before the fifth session of the Conference;*
- c) A recommendation on the future of each of these emerging policy issues and other issues of concern as an “issue of concern” under the Framework, including workplans, targets and indicators, and timelines, if relevant.*

This webinar provided an opportunity for the responsible IOMC organizations to present the status of the development of the report for IC-1 and for dialogue with stakeholders for the following:

- Lead in paint
- Chemicals in products
- Hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products
- Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials
- Endocrine-disrupting chemicals

- Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants
- Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives
- Highly hazardous pesticides

The related June 2025 OEWG meeting document can be found [here](#).

The webinar began with opening remarks from IOMC and an introductory presentation by the GFC Secretariat. The session then continued with a series of eight short presentations delivered by IOMC organizations. Stakeholders then provided views and input, asked questions, and shared ideas. The webinar was moderated by IOMC Chair, Bob Diderich (OECD).

Agenda

Time (CEST)	Session	Speaker/Moderator
13:00	Welcome and introduction	Bob Diderich (IOMC Chair, OECD) Kay Williams (GFC Secretariat)
13:10	Lead in paint (UNEP, WHO)	Mihaela Paun (UNEP)
13:15	Chemicals in products (UNEP)	Mihaela Paun (UNEP)
13:20	Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (UNITAR, OECD)	Oliver Wootton (UNITAR)
13:25	Hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (UNIDO)	Maren Mellendorf (UNIDO)
13:30	Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (OECD, UNEP, WHO)	Stéphanie Laruelle (UNEP)
13:35	Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (UNEP, OECD)	Stéphanie Laruelle (UNEP)
13:40	Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives (OECD, UNEP, WHO)	Eeva Leinala (OECD)
13:50	Highly hazardous pesticides (FAO, UNEP, WHO)	Gu Baogen (FAO)
14:00	Discussion and next steps	All
14:30	Close of webinar	Bob Diderich (IOMC Chair, OECD)

Links to available resources

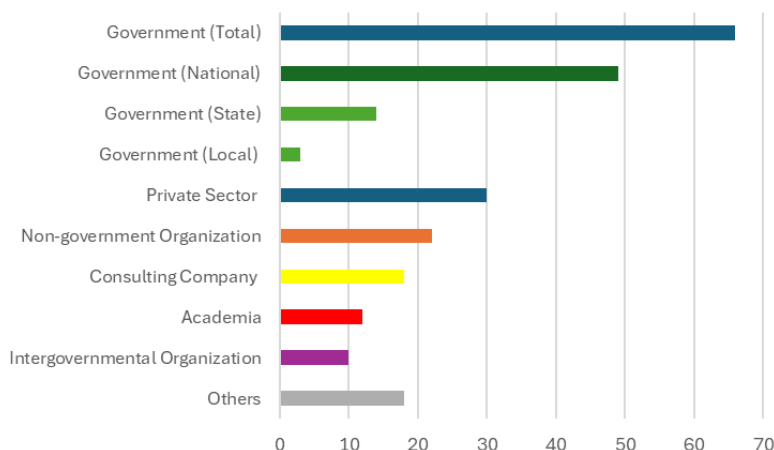
1. [Website](#)
2. [Flyer](#)
3. [Information Note and Agenda](#)
4. [GFC OEWG-1 report on Existing Emerging Policy Issues and other Issues of Concern \(June 2025\)](#)
5. [IOMC Webinar 6 EPIs IOC Welcome Slides](#)
6. [GFC Secretariat Introductory Presentation](#)
7. [Compilation of the EPIs presentations](#)
8. [Recording](#)

Attendance breakdown and representation

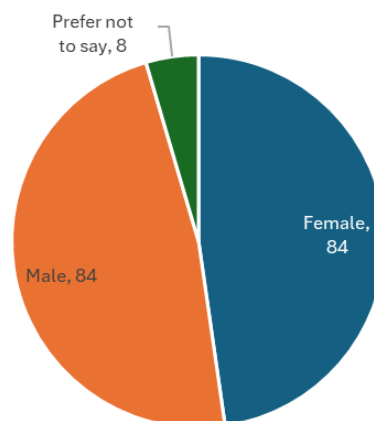
There was a total of **176 participants** connected for more than one hour¹

¹ The total number of participants was 308.

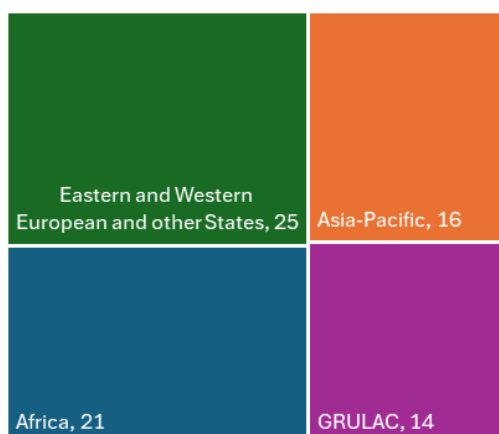
Sectors



Gender



Regions



Satisfaction Survey Results*

*12 Total responses by 7 April 2026

- Overall rating predominantly “Excellent” and “Very good” (11/12). Speakers’ performance largely rated “Extremely well” (10/12).
- Almost unanimous positive feedback on the usefulness of participation opportunities (10/12 “Very useful”).
- Strong preference to continue with the same methodology for the event (10/12). One respondent suggested complementing with more interactive formats (in-depth sessions, discussions, or self-paced trainings).
- Highlight:

“The webinar helped me better understand the purpose and structure of the IC-1 Report, it also showed the importance of coordination, data consistency, and practical reporting methods.”

Key Messages

A range of useful comments and issues were raised, both about the existing EPIs and the steps towards IC-1. Key aspects discussed during the webinar are listed below.

- The webinar focused on existing EPIs and IoC as defined under SAICM, with a clear emphasis on their substantive content and future work plans. It *did not* address the identification of new issues or procedural aspects for the International Conference. Instead, discussions centered on the potential continuation and development of work under these existing issues within the GFC, contingent on decisions to be taken at IC-1.
- The GFC Secretariat highlighted that existing EPIs remain a central and evolving component under the new framework, with a need to reassess how these issues are addressed to ensure effectiveness. A call for stronger alignment and strategic positioning with other GFC implementation mechanisms, including the implementation programmes (IPs) and sectoral initiatives (e.g. electronics, healthcare, textiles, construction), as well as linkages with platforms such as the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides and other initiatives. Critical enabling factors were also underscored, including clear, actionable workplans (with defined roles, milestones, and timelines), sustainable funding pathways, and strong multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral engagement to ensure tangible progress and impact.
- The Q&A session reflected a demand for technical clarity and practical implementation support across a wide range of priority issues, including PFAS, microplastics, nanomaterials, endocrine disruptors, and other hazardous substances in products and waste streams. Participants highlighted data and harmonization challenges (e.g. definitions, indicators, alignment with GHS), and the need for cost-effective alternatives and monitoring methods, particularly in low and middle-income countries. There was also interest in transparency tools, global databases, best practices, and stakeholder engagement mechanisms. In addition, questions highlighted the need to avoid duplication across international frameworks, strengthen conflict-of-interest safeguards, and ensure adequate financial and capacity-building support.
- The webinar demonstrated strong engagement and relevance, with nearly 600 registered participants and 308 attendees (176 for more than one hour), reflecting sustained interest in the topic. Interaction levels were notably high, with approximately 40 comments and questions submitted in advance and a similar number raised during the session, enabling a rich and dynamic exchange. This level of participation highlights both the timeliness of the issues discussed and the demand for inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue, reinforcing the value of the webinar as a platform to

gather diverse inputs to inform the ongoing development of work under the GFC.

Next steps:

- Participants have an opportunity to provide feedback, ask questions, and share ideas by submitting written contributions by email (iomc@unitar.org) or completing an [Online Form](#) by **2 April 2026**. Contributors are encouraged to clearly indicate the relevant EPI or IoC in their inputs. The IOMC will prepare a summary of the feedback received.
- The feedback received will be considered in the report submitted by the IOMC to the International Conference, supporting possible decisions on the way forward under the GFC.