

# Global Framework on Chemicals

## Experts brainstorming and Survey Results on Institutional Capacities

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Developing an Implementation Programme for the Global Framework on Chemicals on  
Strengthening National Chemicals Legislation and Institutional Capacities 21&22 June 2025

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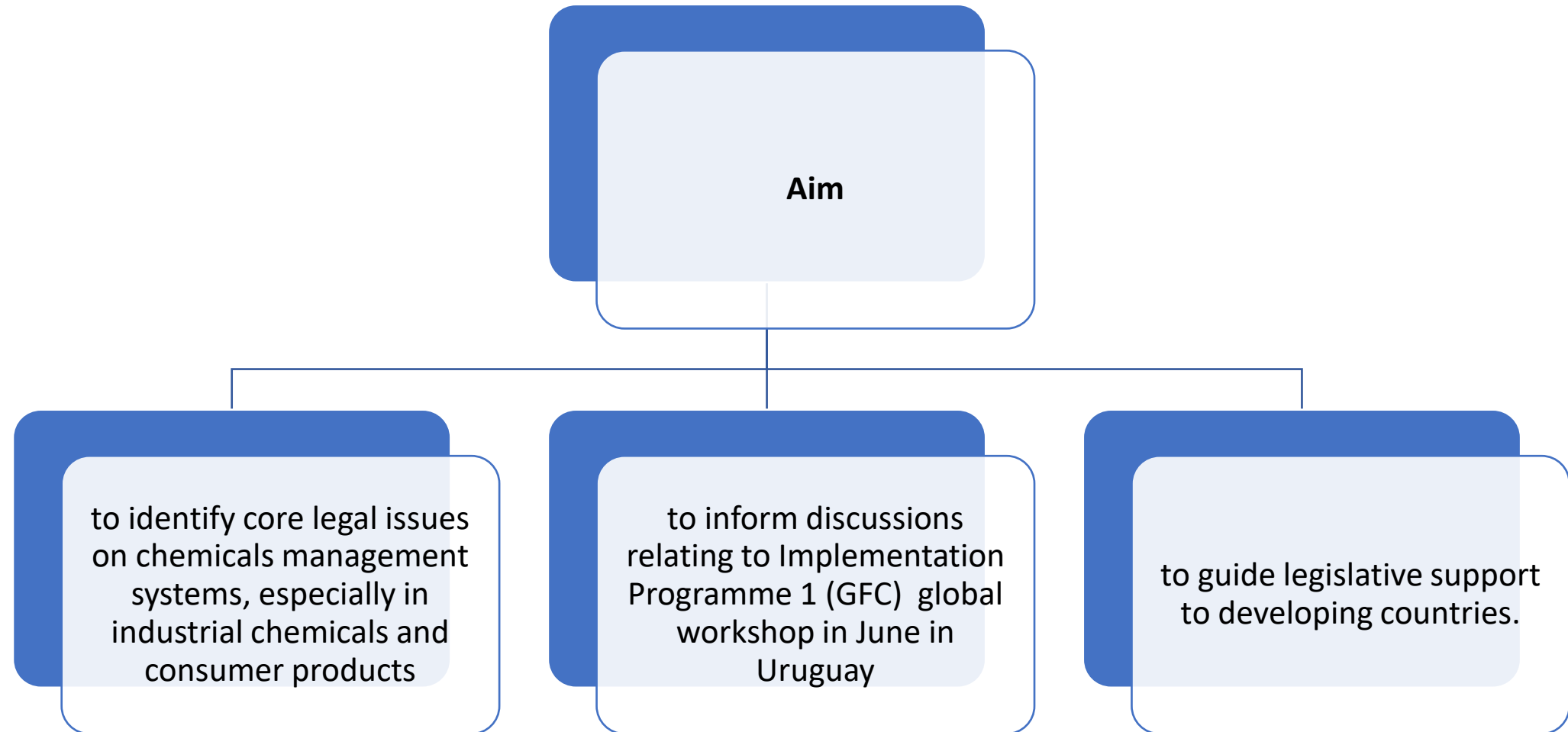
Vito A. Buonsante, Consultant, UNEP Law Division



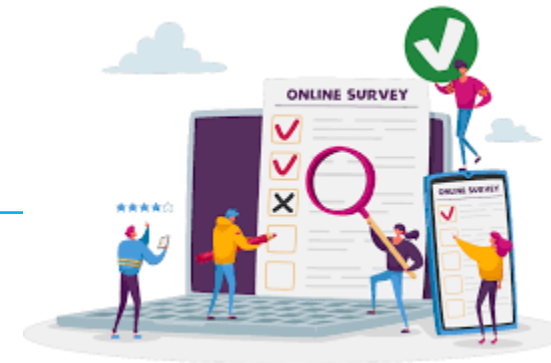
### Legislation and regulatory frameworks (strategic objective A)

- Develop **integrated** national chemicals management systems and capacities
- Focus on **industrial** chemicals and **consumer** product regulatory systems (rather than pesticides)
- Technically challenging and **costly** to ensure a harmonized approach that creates an enabling environment for the private sector operating beyond national borders.
- New approaches and «**fit for purpose**» legislation

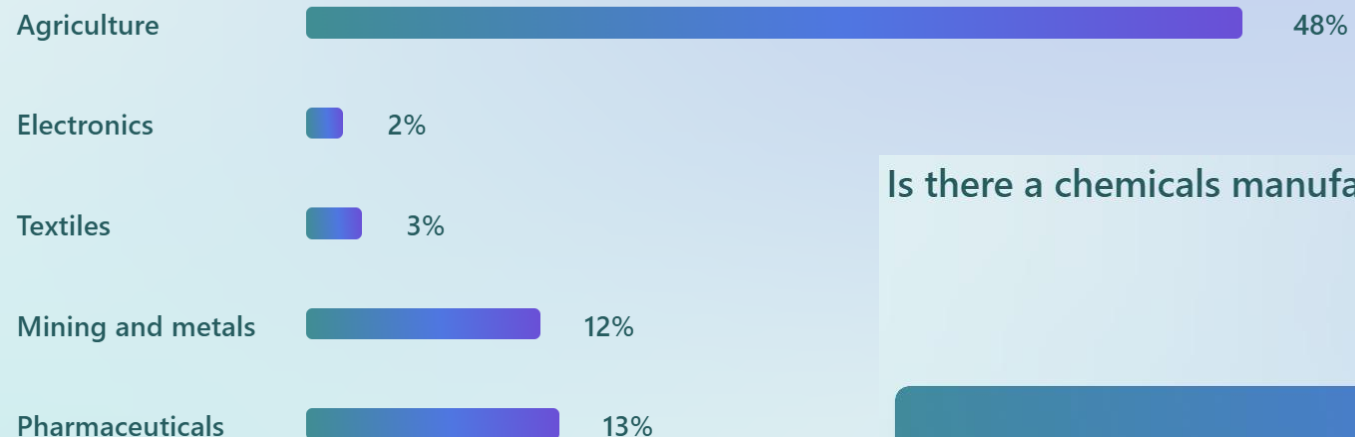
## 2025 Q1: Survey



# Survey Jan-Feb 2025 - Highlights



What is your country's most chemical-intensive economic sectors or value chains (select the two most chemical intensive)



Is there a chemicals manufacturing industry in your country?

66%  
Yes

23%  
No

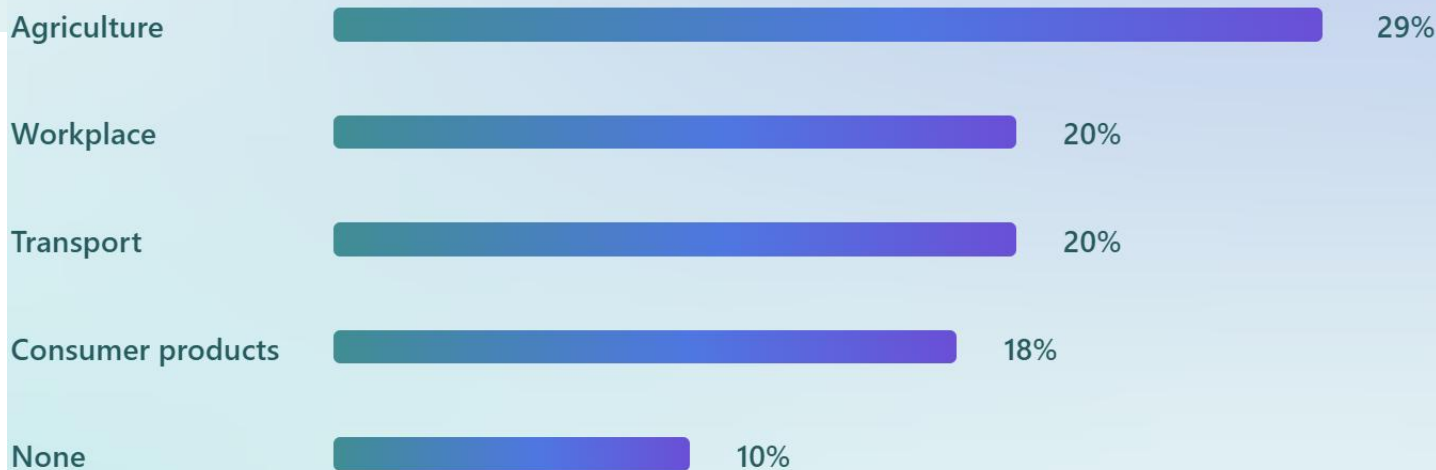
9%  
Maybe

# Survey Jan-Feb 2025

Does your country have sectoral policy framework(s)/strategy(-ies) or legal framework (agriculture, health, labor, industry, water etc.) that addresses the management of chemicals



If your country has regulations or standards in place to implement the GHS, please indicate for which categories/sectors



# Survey Jan-Feb 2025

Does your country have any measures in place to foster green and sustainable chemistry through



Does your country have a centralized institution coordinating chemicals management across different sectors?



## Survey Key takeaways

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- Most respondents indicated the presence of at least one **policy or legal instrument** governing chemical management in their country.
- Most reported active legal reform or policy development
- **Chemicals Manufacturing Exists in Many Countries**
- **Countries have tools for restricting industrial chemicals but mainly related to international instruments**
- Use of global tools is **relatively low**, even among those aware of them, usage remained limited.
- **Implementing the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) differs significantly between countries and sectors, with many indicating partial adoption but lacking enforcement capabilities.**
- Most stakeholders see the need for more technical capacity for institutional strengthening

## Reimagining and strengthening chemicals governance

## Current approaches:

- inadequate governance (law/policy/institutions/capacities)?
- complex and expensive, duplication, divergence?



Is there an opportunity to reimagine/strengthen/leap-frog, especially for developing countries?





# Expert brainstorming on Innovative Approaches to Chemicals Management

## Invited experts:

- Governments
- Non-governmental (Industry, NGOs, independent experts and academia)
- IOMC members



## Expert meeting – 28 January

### Issues highlighted

**Burden of  
proof  
(reversal)**

**Grouping of  
chemicals/read  
across**

**Generic risk  
assessment**

**Essential use  
concept**

**Use of  
alternatives/  
substitution  
principle**

**Green  
chemistry/Safe and  
sustainable by  
design**

**EPR schemes**

**Break information  
silos**

**Use of data and  
prioritization/trusted  
overseas regulator**

**Artificial intelligence  
tools**

**GHS harmonization**

**(No)  
Inventories/registries**

**Sectoral legislation**

## Issues highlighted reflected in the Agenda

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**[Group 1]**

**Risk assessment  
tools**

**[Group 2]**

**Downstream users'  
responsibility**

**[Group 3]**

**Technological  
innovation**

**[Group 4]**

**Financial  
incentives**

# Thank you

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