

**IOMC Webinar Report**

# **Developing a GFC Implementation Programme**

**on Strengthening National Chemicals  
Legislation and Institutional Capacities**

Convened by the IOMC

20 March 2025



**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 fourth webinar in the series focuses on [“Developing a GFC Implementation Programme on Strengthening National Chemicals Legislation and Institutional Capacities”](#).

The topic for the programme was proposed at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5), Bonn, Germany, 25 – 29 September 2023 in [Resolution V/8](#).

The webinar presented suggestions for a set of terms of reference for the programme as well as a possible list of intersessional activities to support the programme development, including a global multi-stakeholder workshop provisionally scheduled to take place from 22 to 23 June 2025, back-to-back with the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the GFC. Furthermore, an outline for a high-level document on a Strategic Approach to a Modular Chemicals Management System, was presented.

In advance of the workshop, [a draft discussion document](#) was made available to webinar participants and GFC stakeholders via the webinar website.

The webinar began with opening remarks from the IOMC. The webinar included a series of short presentations on the Introduction to the IOMC discussion document, Strategic Approach to a Modular Chemicals Management System, and Innovative thinking and chemicals regulation: summary of the outcome of an expert brainstorming session (organized by UNEP Law Division). Following the presentations was time for stakeholders' input in which participants had an opportunity to provide feedback, ask questions, share ideas, and help further develop the suggestions contained in the discussion document. The webinar was moderated by the IOMC Chair, Bob Diderich (OECD).

# Agenda

Time (CEST)	Session	Speaker/Moderator
13:00	Welcome and introduction	Bob Diderich (IOMC Chair, OECD)
13:05	GFC Implementation Programme on “Strengthening National Chemicals Legislation and Institutional Capacities”: Introduction to the IOMC discussion document	Achim Halpaap (advisor to IOMC)
14:00	Strategic Approach to a Modular Chemicals Management System (presentation of a document outline)	Bob Diderich (OECD)
14:10	Innovative thinking and chemicals regulation (summary of the outcome of an expert brainstorming session organized by UNEP Law Division)	Aphrodite Smagadi (UNEP)
14:20	Summary of discussion and next steps	Jorge Ocaña (UNITAR)
14:30	Close of webinar	Bob Diderich (IOMC Chair, OECD)

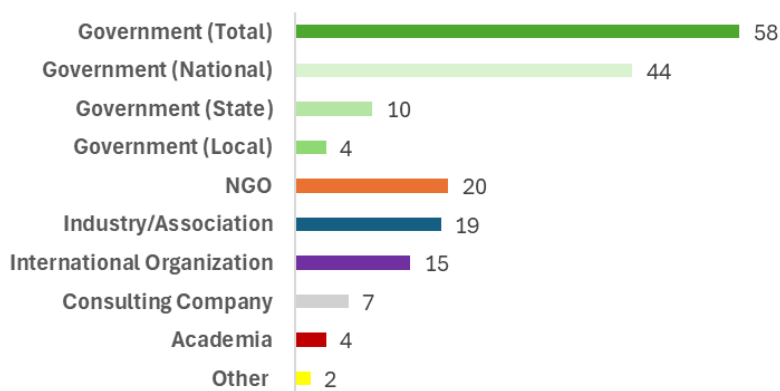
## Links to available resources

0. [Website](#)
1. [Flyer](#)
2. [Information Note and Agenda](#)
3. [Draft IP1 Discussion Document](#)
4. [Introduction to the IOMC Discussion Document](#)
5. [Strategic Approach to a Modular Chemicals Management System](#)
6. [Innovative thinking and chemicals regulation](#)
7. [Recording](#)

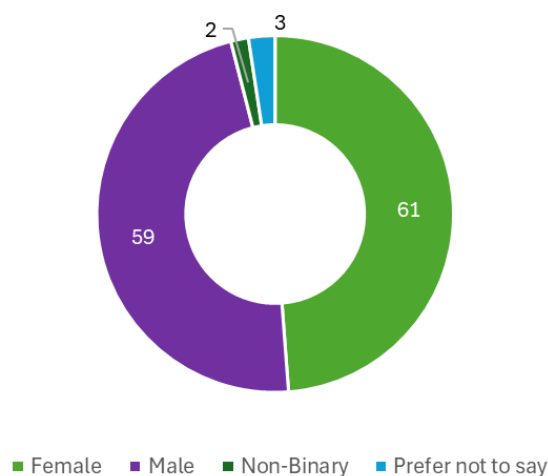
# Attendance breakdown and representation

There was a total of **125 participants** in the webinar<sup>1</sup>

## Sectors



## Gender



## Regions



## Satisfaction Survey Results\*

- Webinar rated as “Excellent” and “Very good”
- Speakers presented the information “Extremely well” and “Very well”
- 100% suggested to continue with same methodology (short presentations and space for stakeholders’ input).
- Important takeaways:
  - “The GFC provides the essential building blocks for a future in which humanity benefits from chemicals in a safe and sustainable manner, while avoiding their negative impacts. The IOMC is developing implementation programs (IPs) for the GFC, in collaboration with stakeholders, to be considered by the first International Conference in 2026.”
  - “I was really pleased to see the efforts made to maximise the IOMC toolbox and the initial thinking around the strategic approach to establishing effective and holistic national regulatory systems”

\*7 respondents

<sup>1</sup> Participants connected for more than 60 minutes. The total number of participants was 227.

## Key Messages

A range of very useful comments and issues were raised, regarding both the approach that the Implementation Programme might take as we go forward, as well as for some of the specific work areas, sectors, and topics that might be focused on. Key aspects discussed during the webinar are listed below.

- The webinar addressed several GFC targets (A1–A4) focused on strengthening national legislation and institutional capacities. It was noted that "business as usual" is not an option; instead, Implementation Programmes (IPs) provide an opportunity to rethink our approaches;
- **Modular Approach:** The conversation highlighted the modular approach presented in the IOMC toolbox, which outlines components of a GFC Implementation Programme. This approach includes modules on chemicals management, facility management, and enabling policies, such as economic instruments, value chain strategies, and stakeholder engagement;
- **Innovative Regulatory Approaches:** There was significant discussion on innovative thinking in chemical regulation. For instance, integrated regulatory frameworks, sustainable (green) chemistry initiatives, and EPR schemes were cited as key to driving progress;
- **Survey Insights and Gaps:** Survey results revealed that while Agriculture is the most regulated area, only about 10% of respondents indicated an existing framework for GHS implementation. This gap underscores the need for enhanced coordination and the development of new modules where necessary;
- **Data and Harmonization Challenges:** The need to overcome challenges related to data inventories, registries, and breaking down silos was emphasized to better prioritize and support effective implementation.
- A platform for exchanging information and best practices amongst countries was viewed as an important need to be addressed.

Next steps:

- Final comments on the [Draft IP1 Discussion Document](#) can be submitted until **31 March 2025**.
- **INF Document:** Preparation of an INF document for the upcoming open-ended working group meeting in June 2025.
- **Stakeholder Workshop on National legislation and institutional capacity: 22-23 June 2025**
- The first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) will be held from **24–27 June 2025** at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Punta del Este, Uruguay.