

**Development of a Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)
Implementation Programme on:
Strengthening Economic and Industry Sector Engagements and Action
Along Value Chains**

(Discussion Document, Draft, 5 December 2024)

DEADLINE FOR COMMENT: as soon as possible and not
later than 15 January 2025

COMMENTS TO BE SENT TO: cwm@unitar.org

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1. Background and introduction

1.1 About this discussion document

This discussion document features suggestions for a Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) Implementation Programme on “Strengthening Economic and Industry Sector Engagement and Action Along Value Chains”.

The proposed Programme comprises, stimulates and supports results-oriented activities by industry and other stakeholders to implement the GFC, in particular target D6 which calls upon economic and industry sectors to develop and implement Sustainable Chemicals and Waste Management Strategies. Work undertaken in the context of the SAICM Chemicals in Products programme would also be relevant in this context.

As a contribution to the consultative process to develop the programme, this document provides some initial ideas on the following questions:

- What is scope, focus, and potential value added of the Implementation Programme?
- How can the Implementation Programme be designed in a manner that relevant stakeholders are fully engaged in and develop ownership for the Programme?
- How can the Implementation Programme help catalyze further implementation action concerning specific GFC targets?
- How can issues of concern be addressed in the Implementation Programme?
- How can linkages be ensured with the GFC measurability framework?

Since there are many different economic and industry sectors with a wide range of stakeholders, the GFC Implementation Programme aims to accommodate and provide space to allow initiation of specific industry sector programmes. It is therefore proposed that the Programme comprises two main components:

1. A global programme component would focus on overall outreach, guidance, oversight, and addressing issues that cut across specific industry sectors.
2. The second component would include specific economic and industry sector programmes that have their own TORs and workplans, and are aligned with the guidance provided through the global programme component.

1.2 Brief overview of the consultative process to develop the Programme

In preparation for the GFC Open-ended Working Group Meeting (OEWG) in June 2025 and the next International Conference in late 2026, a suite of preparatory activities will be undertaken to help develop the programme, its mandate, TORs, and workplan.

Following a dedicated webinar on 10 December 2024, further discussions will take place at a global IOMC multi-stakeholder workshop scheduled for 24-26 February 2025 in Paris to discuss the programme's mandate, TORs, and workplan. The OEWG meeting in 2025 provides a milestone to provide further input for programme development, with possible adoption at the first International Conference on the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) in 2026.

1.3 A recap on the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)

At the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 5), held in September 2023 in Bonn, Germany, close to one thousand delegates from around the world representing governments, industry and civil society adopted a new “Global Framework on Chemicals: For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste” (GFC).

A core element of the GFC are 5 Strategic Objectives and 28 Targets that guide stakeholders at all levels to take measurable action to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste. Other outcomes adopted by ICCM5 include the [Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste](#) and [12 Resolutions](#).

Through [Resolution V/8](#) on “Implementation Arrangements” the Conference urged “Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and organizations and stakeholders representing civil society and the private sector to comprehensively implement the GFC as a framework for national and international action and cooperation on chemicals and waste”. Stakeholders are thus encouraged to already take action, independently of the process working towards adoption of the Programme at the next International Conference.

1.4 Implementation programmes under the Global Framework on Chemicals

Mechanisms to support implementation of the GFC

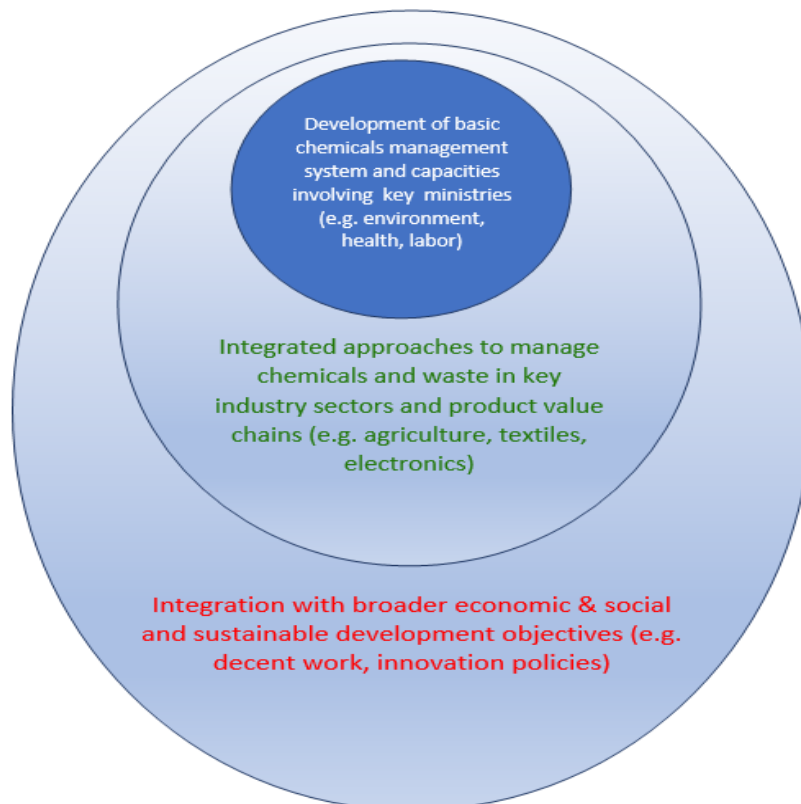
The Global Framework on Chemicals specifies in Para 24 that the International Conference on the GFC “may adopt programmes to support the implementation of the Framework in order to achieve its strategic objectives and targets”. It also stipulates that “Such programmes should have their own focus and engage relevant sectors and stakeholders, and could include, in a flexible and dynamic format, the actions that the stakeholders intend to initiate or contribute to at the national, regional, and/or international levels in order to successfully meet the relevant GFC targets”. Furthermore, “programmes should also include any necessary mandates, terms of reference, workplans and/or other mechanisms, including actions to address identified issues of concern where relevant, to contribute to the success of the overall Framework and its strategic objectives”.

The GFC also specifies that participation in each of the programmes should be open to all relevant stakeholders and sectors and that the International Conference may establish ad hoc working groups to provide direction and momentum for the work, as well as to mobilize engagement. In addition to the actors specifically identified in the targets, the International Conference should “invite the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and intergovernmental organizations to contribute actively to the implementation programmes to support the Framework and to further strengthen international cooperation and multisectoral engagement in the sound management of chemicals and waste.”

Resolution V/8 on “Implementation arrangements”

Resolution V/8 on “Implementation arrangements” invites the IOMC, governments, stakeholders, as well as other international organizations “to collaborate on, and develop proposals for implementation programmes (...) for further consideration at the next session of the Conference”. The proposals should address “respective mandates, terms of reference, workplans and other mechanisms”.

In its preamble, Resolution V/8 refers to the value and various dimensions of integrated chemicals and waste management, including related preparatory activities undertaken by the IOMC together with diverse stakeholders prior to ICCM-5. The integrated management concept was introduced by IOMC during the intersessional negotiations for the GFC. It comprises three interrelated areas of action as shown in the following figure.



Taking this work into account, Resolution V/8 refers to the following areas of work for possible implementation programmes, among others, to be considered:

1. Developing integrated national chemicals and waste management systems and capacities at the national and regional levels;
2. Integrating sound chemicals and waste management in economic and industrial sectors along value chains;
3. Integrating sound chemicals and waste management in sustainable development decision-making processes, as appropriate; and
4. Addressing issues of concern, as appropriate.

Finally, Resolution V/8 also stipulates that the possible adoption of implementation programmes at the next International Conference in 2026 should not delay immediate stakeholder action to implement the strategic objectives and targets of the Global Framework, and “welcomes and encourages the undertaking of further activities concerning all areas of work during the intersessional period until the next session of the Conference”.

Benefits of the implementation programmes

Participating In the GFC Implementation Programme provides stakeholders with access to a collaborative framework which fosters regular interaction, tracking of progress, and promoting achievements. Specific benefits of participation may include, for example to:

- join global/ regional exchanges with peers in geographical contexts in which your business operates
- gain insights into emerging and innovation approaches across the value chain and sustainable alternatives/approaches
- link up with like-minded stakeholders to work together to advance the objectives of the GFC
- obtain global recognition for your commitment to implement the GFC and take action to implement its targets
- engaging in discussions to develop harmonized approaches may save resources.
- Learn about opportunities to access financial resources for sustainable investments and action that is compatible with the GFC.

Role of the IOMC

Resolution V/8 extends an invitation to the IOMC and other stakeholders to collaborate on and develop proposals for implementation programmes for further consideration at the next Conference. Responding to this, the IOMC has initiated a global dialogue to facilitate the development of three global implementation programmes which correspond to the mandate provided in Resolution V/8. In this context, it is important to note that other stakeholders may also initiate a dialogue on implementation programmes.ⁱ

2 Elements of a Terms of Reference for the Implementation Programme

This section provides initial suggestions for a draft TOR for the Programme, taking into account the general elements of TORs for GFC Implementation Programmes proposed by the IOMC in a [separate, more general draft discussion document](#) on GFC Implementation Programmes shared with stakeholders earlier in 2024.

2.1 Proposing stakeholder(s)

The Implementation Programme on “Strengthening Economic and Industry Sector Engagements and Action Along Value Chains” is proposed by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in partnership with [.....]. It is designed to be an umbrella programme that features global activities as well as specific industry sector programmes which are initiated by stakeholders (see below).

2.2 Programme rationale

While significant progress has been achieved, chemical releases and pollution continue to occur along value chains resulting in significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment. These releases and related exposures to chemicals occur at all stages of the life cycle, including production, use, and disposal (Global Chemicals Outlook II).

To help address these challenges, the proposed Programme comprises, stimulates and supports results-oriented activities by industry and other stakeholders to implement the GFC, in particular target D6 which calls upon economic and industry sectors to develop and implement Sustainable Chemicals and Waste Management Strategies.

2.3 Programme objectives and scope

This Implementation Programme brings together stakeholders committed to implementing the GFC and advancing the achievement of Strategic Objective D which aspires that “Safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions in product value chains are in place so that benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where prevention is not feasible, minimized.”

Specifically, Target D6 of the GFC stipulates that “by 2030, sustainable chemical and waste management strategies have been developed and implemented for major economic and industry sectors, which identify priority chemicals of concern and standards and measures, such as the chemical footprint approach, to reduce their impact and, where feasible, their input, along the value chain”. Other relevant GFC targets include: A3, A4, A7, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, D1, D4, D7, E2, E3, and E6. Further details are/will be provided in an IOMC guidance document to support implementation of target D6.

Overall programme objectives

Taking into account target D6 and other industry relevant targets, the following overall programme objectives and guiding principles are proposed:

- Data and information on chemicals along supply chains is available and transparent
- Harm to workers, the public, and the environment from hazardous chemicals is avoided

- Compliance with national and international obligations is met, and ideally, exceeded
- Chemicals of concern are identified and replaced with safer alternatives
- A on-going commitment to performance improvement and transparent reporting is upheld.

Scope of stakeholder actions contributing to the Programme

While specific actions to support implementation of the Programme and relevant GFC target(s) are identified, owned, and executed by GFC stakeholders, the following type of initiatives, activities, or projects are proposed to fall within the scope of the Programme:

- Development and implementation of “Sustainable chemicals and waste strategies” called for in target D6, or any other form of corporate policies that aim to achieve GFC targets
- Identification of priority chemicals of concern in industry sectors and use of standards and other measures to reduce their impact and, where feasible, input along value chains (D6)
- Sustainable supply chain policies and practices that stimulate chemical risk reduction and aim to replace priority chemicals of concern in supply chains
- Development of methodologies to assess the chemical footprint along value chains, or other approaches that assess corporate chemical and waste management performance
- Regulatory actions and other enabling measures to reduce the risks of or phase out priority chemicals of concern and stimulate sustainable chemistry innovation
- Further development, and use of sustainability reporting standards that take into account chemicals and waste consideration and GFC targets
- Research and dissemination of information on safe, green and sustainable chemistry innovation to replace chemicals of concern
- Private and public financing initiatives compatible with the GFC including safe, green and sustainable chemistry solutions
- Awareness raising campaigns, guidance development and any other forms of technical assistance to foster sustainable transformation of industry sectors.

2.4 Programme components and activities

The GFC Implementation Programme comprises a suite of global activities to guide the Programme, coupled with specific economic and industry sector programmes:

2.4.1 Global programme component

The global component of the Programme focuses on overall outreach, guidance, general knowledge-sharing, oversight and addressing issues which cut across industry sector programmes. It may also include regional activities, as appropriate. The following activities may take place at the global level. Details will be provided in the overall global workplan:

- Awareness raising to highlight the importance of industry action to implement the GFC
- Guidance for developing sustainable chemicals and waste strategies in economic and industry sectors (D6) and development of specific Industry Sector Programmes
- Supporting/encouraging the development of specific Industry Sector Programmes and their review
- Addressing issues cutting across industry sectors (e.g. data transparency, priority chemicals of concern)
- Ensuring linkages with other aspects of GFC implementation and other Implementation Programmes
- Multi-stakeholder knowledge-sharing and analysis of progress and challenges faced.

2.4.2 Industry sector programmes

The second component of the Programme comprises a series of specific Economic or Industry Sector Programmes. These sector programmes bring together relevant stakeholders and have their own TORs and workplans. Stakeholders interested in establishing a specific Industry Sector Programme are encouraged to work with other stakeholders to develop a TOR and workplan, which should be linked to the GFC and consistent with overall Programme parameters and guidance. The mandate, TOR, and workplan of industry sectors programmes would be reviewed by an global multi-stakeholder steering group for the overall Programme, and a recommendation would be issued to the International Conference to adopt each programme.

Industry sector programmes should consider the following activities as they develop their workplan:

- Awareness-raising and outreach to engage relevant industry sector-stakeholders at global, regional and national levels.
- Baseline study and landscape analysis of GFC implementation in the industry sector
- Identify/compile priority chemicals of concern and innovative solutions to reduce their impacts or their replacement
- Global multi-stakeholder workshop to engage key stakeholders and companies in the industry sector
- Encourage the development of sustainable chemicals and waste management strategies (D6) by industry associations and corporations
- Review of relevant industry sector standards (including reporting standards) and identify opportunities to align them with the GFC
- Knowledge-sharing of front-runner actions and identification of gaps and needs.

Other activities and elements may be added, taking into account sector specific needs and priorities.

2.5 Stakeholder participation in the programme

2.5.1 Stakeholders encouraged to join

Stakeholders encouraged to join the Programme include:

- Industry associations and individual companies committed to and ready to take (or already taking) measures to implement the GFC
- Governments and/or regional inter-governmental organization committed to and ready to take measures to improve the environmental performance of industry
- International organizations, bi-lateral development organizations and other development partners and stakeholder groups offering technical or financial support
- Other GFC stakeholders, such as labor unions, civil society organization, or academic institutions who have significant experience or activities relevant to the Programme.

2.5.2 Process for joining the Programme

Stakeholders interested in joining the Programme should be committed to implementing the GFC and its strategic objectives and targets, be ready to share what they have to offer to the Programme or their need for support, and be ready to report on progress made in implementing the GFC and identifying challenges encountered.

Stakeholder may join the Programme by sending a communication to the IOMC and GFC Secretariat. The communication shall include a statement confirming the commitment of the stakeholder to implementing the GFC and in particular Strategic Objective D, as well as a brief description of relevant activities. In the case where a specific Industry Sector Programme has been established, stakeholders participating in the industry sector programme are by default considered a participant in the overall Implementation Programme. There shall only be one electronic platform to register participation.

2.6 Identifying good practices and knowledge-sharing

An important aspect of the Programme is to elicit information about ongoing and planned stakeholder implementation action and identify good practices which may be of interest to other stakeholders. Structured, transparent, and results-oriented knowledge sharing could also include the systematic identification of needs of stakeholders as well as of stakeholders able to provide support. [*to be further developed*]

2.7 Governance and implementing arrangements

2.7.1 Multi-stakeholder Steering Group ⁱⁱ

Membership

To guide the Programme, a multi-stakeholder Steering Group could be established comprising the following stakeholders:

- 6 governments representatives, of which 4 should originate from developing regions
- 4 representatives from private sector stakeholders
- 3 representatives from civil society, labor and academia
- 3 representatives of international organizations and development partners
- Representative of the GFC secretariat.

Functions

The function of the Steering Group may include the following.

- Provide guidance on all aspects of Programme Implementation
- Review and endorse proposals for Industry Sector Programmes prior to possible adoption of sector programme by the International Conference
- Help identify priorities for funding and possible sources
- Promote of synergies and collaboration amongst sector programmes
- Identification and development of approaches to address cross cutting aspects
- Fostering engagement and stakeholder commitment
- Report to the International Conference on all aspects of Programme implementation
- Promote Partnerships or other mechanisms to support Programme implementation.

Details concerning the appointment of Steering Group members, the duration of the appointments, and chairing arrangements need to be further developed.

2.7.2 Global coordination

As the main proponent for the Programme, the IOMC, with support of POs, is ready to offer services for the overall coordination of the global Programme, working closely with the GFC Secretariat. Some extra-budgetary support may be required to deliver these services and global level activities, such as organizing global workshops and knowledge-sharing.

2.7.3 Industry sector programme coordination

Specific Industry Sector Programmes are driven and coordinated by stakeholders in the sector. This may include industry associations or industry groups committed to implement the GFC, and/or international and non-governmental organizations with a robust activity portfolio. One option is that two or three organizations work together to propose a sector implementation programme, and share the coordination of the Programme, using in-kind resources, or funding mobilized through other sources.

2.8 Opportunities to finance programme activities

Activities to implement the programme and its workplan could be financed through various means, including through in-kind stakeholder resources, as well as through the mobilization of additional financing. These additional resources may come from multi-donor trust funds such as the GFC Fund, the Special Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as funding made available by governments, international and bilateral development cooperation agencies, philanthropic organizations, and industry, including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding. Furthermore, financial and/or technical resources may be available through participating stakeholders, e.g. by assisting stakeholders in developing project proposals.

2.9 Synergies with other Implementation Programmes

- *To be completed*

2.10 Monitoring, analysis, and feedback to the International Conference

Monitoring

To assess the success of the implementation programme, indicators developed under the GFC will be used to monitor progress and assess impact of activities under the Programme. Further process indicators may be proposed by the Steering Group and programme stakeholders to measure intermediate progress against questions, such as the following.

Has the Programme been able to:

- reach out to and engage relevant stakeholders and mobilize new stakeholders?
- catalyze new implementing activities by stakeholders?
- identify and widely share good implementation practices?
- coordinate and create synergies in implementation activities?
- provide access to and/or mobilize additional resources for implementation?
- identify implementation bottlenecks and solutions?

The ultimate benchmark to assess the success of the implementation programme is if it succeeds in accelerating progress towards achieving relevant GFC targets.

Analysis and feedback to the International Conference

The programme creates an opportunity to understand factors fostering success or impeding progress. The programmes will therefore include a “lessons learned” component to inform future implementation action and/or provide feedback to the International Conference.

3 Initial global activities to accompany the Programme development process

While consultations concerning the mandate, TORs, and workplan are ongoing, a number of immediate activities are taking place at the global level. They are summarized in the following section.

3.1 IOMC Survey to engage economic and industry actors along value chains (2024-2025)

Significant awareness and outreach is required to inform economic and industry stakeholders along value chains about the GFC and its objectives and targets. To maintain the momentum from ICCM5, and to stimulate industry and their associations to consider measures to implement the GFC, the IOMC and the GFC Secretariat have disseminated a short survey in 2024 which is continues to be open. The link to the survey can be accessed [here](#). Interim results can be accessed [here](#).

The survey is eliciting:

- feedback from global, regional and national associations on planned activities that may contribute to the implementation of the GFC
- priorities for a global programme of interest to industry and other stakeholders
- industry input on draft guidance to support implementation of target D6, and the organization of a global workshop
- feedback on the possible elements of a GFC Implementation programme which could provide insights from an economic and industry sector perspective.

Identification of relevant industry associations is key. IOMC POs are working collectively and continuously to identify and reach out to relevant stakeholders and to encourage them to disseminate the survey to their constituencies.

3.2 Fostering engagement to initiate economic and industry sector programmes

To create momentum towards developing industry sector programmes and implementing Target D6, the IOMC and individual POs are in a dialogue with certain economic and industry sectors. Relevant industry sectors for which the IOMC and its POs already have close contacts include, for example, the Electronic Industry, Healthcare Industry, Textile Industry, Construction Industry and the Finance and Investment Sector.

Other sectors for which industry sector implementation programmes could be considered, include, but are not limited to the following sectors: Energy, Food and Agriculture, Household and Personal Care Products, Pharmaceuticals, Retail, Textiles, Tourism, Toys, Transportation, as well as the Chemical Industry and Chemical Distributors. Stakeholders from relevant industry sectors who are interested to consider the development of a GFC industry sector implementation programme are encouraged to contact the IOMC.

3.3 Development of guidance to support implementation of Target D 6 (2024-2025)

Target D6 stipulates that "By 2030, sustainable chemical and waste management strategies have been developed and implemented for major economic and industry sectors that identify priority chemicals of concern and standards and measures, such as the chemical footprint approach, to reduce their impact and, where feasible, their input along the value chain."

In 2023, when target D 6 was being negotiated, preliminary work was undertaken by the IOMC to initiate development of draft guidance to support strategy development in economic and industry sectors. An initial outline was discussed at a global IOMC [multi-stakeholder workshop held in June 2023](#).

To ensure that the guidance will be of value to industry, and addresses perspectives of GFC stakeholders, further discussion with stakeholders will take place, in particular at the global IOMC workshop scheduled for February 2025 (see below). Relevant topics for further discussion include:

- Principles, objectives and elements of sustainable chemicals and waste strategies
- Identification/compilation of priority chemicals of concern for specific sectors
- Disclosure, traceability and transparency of chemical information in the value chain
- Approaches to reduce, where feasible, chemical inputs along value chains
- Standards and measures to reduce impact, such as the chemicals footprint approach
- Mainstreaming of gender considerations strategy development

3.4 Global multi-stakeholder workshop, 24-26 February 2025

Prior to the OEWG meeting in mid-2025, IOMC will organize a global multi-stakeholder workshop on “Developing an Implementation Programme to strengthen economic and industry sectors engagement and action along value chains”. The workshop will take place from 24-26 February 2025 in Paris at the OECD.

The workshop will discuss the draft mandate, TORs, and workplan for the Implementation Programme and is open to all stakeholders. Interested participants should indicate their interest by early January 2025. The outcomes of the workshop will feed into the OEWG.

The workshop provides an opportunity to

- Take stock of relevant implementation initiatives and front runner actions, including those identified through the global survey (see above)
- Create momentum for economic and industry sectors to implement the GFC and engage in an Implementation Programme
- Obtain further feedback on draft guidance to develop economic and industry sector strategies
- Provide input to the draft mandate, TOR elements and workplan for an industry Implementation Programme.
- Identify synergies with other possible Implementation Programmes

An important aspect of the workshop is to engage and have a dedicated consultation with private and public sector investors and organization engaged in developing standards for reporting.

3.5 Preparation of an Inf Document for OEWG in June 2025

Following the above workshop, IOMC with input from stakeholders, will prepare an Inf document for the OEWG meeting in June 2025. The document will feature a draft mandate, TOR, and workplan for the programme and summarize relevant activities undertaken to-date and possible next steps between the OEWG and first international conference (late 2026).

ⁱ Resolution V/8 is open concerning the number of GFC implementation programmes. Therefore, other proposals concerning implementation programmes of relevance and corresponding to the criteria found in the GFC documents may be developed by stakeholders for consideration of the International Conference. These current suggestions are not intended to be exclusive, but represent an initial set of proposals from the IOMC.

ⁱⁱ The GFC refers to the establishment of ad hoc working groups to support and guide programmes, thus the term Steering Group may need to be reconsidered.