

Brussels, 4 July 2025
(OR. en)

11263/25

ENV 659
ENT 122
CHIMIE 63

INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	First Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-1) of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste (Punta del Este, Uruguay, 24-27 June 2025) - Compilation of statements of the European Union and its Member States

Delegations will find in the Annex, for information purposes, a compilation of the statements from the EU and its Member States as delivered during the OEWG-1.

**Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-1) of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a
planet free of harm from chemicals and waste**

(Punta del Este, Uruguay, 24-27 June 2025)

Statements from the European Union and its Member States

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the proponents of the CRP for providing it for consideration.

Considering resolution V/12 and its paragraph 10, which says that the timing of future meetings of the Open-ended Working Group beyond 2025 will be decided on by the International Conference, we believe that the issues contained in the presented CRP should be addressed at the International Conference.

However, before we request the secretariat to undertake any work as proposed in the CRP, we believe that more discussion is needed among the stakeholders to provide more specific guidance to the secretariat. Any inputs on this matter should be made through respective Bureau members in due time during the preparatory process ahead of the first International Conference.

The European Union and its Member States will be happy to engage in discussions on the future and modalities of open-ended working groups, but at the International Conference.

Capacity-building

The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre for providing the additional information on the development of a draft strategy for capacity-building and supporting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

Furthermore, the European Union and its Member States would like to request the Secretariat to synergize with other entities working on chemicals and waste such as the Secretariats of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Special Programme. We would like to encourage coordination of workplans and outcomes of work to avoid duplication of work.

Preparations for the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals

The European Union and its Member States would like to express appreciation for current efforts of the Secretariat to organise the first meeting of the International Conference in 2026.

We will make every possible effort in order to support the organization of the Conference. Moreover, the European Union and its Member States would like to invite other stakeholders to consider providing any form of support.

Agenda Item 3. Global Framework on Chemicals

Item 3(a): Implementation arrangements (V/8)

The European Union and its Member States acknowledge the progress made in advancing the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

The European Union and its Member States thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the continued leadership and support for the Global Framework, as requested in UNEA resolution 6/9. Consistently providing implementation support is pivotal to ensuring the success of our shared vision.

The European Union and its Member States commend the creation of a dedicated trust fund. This instrument allows for coordination, management, and targeted resource use to support the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals and related objectives by governments and civil society. We acknowledge with appreciation the impressive \$28.3 million contributed to the Fund so far. This financial commitment is encouraging and vital in transforming commitments into actions, especially in aid of countries most in need.

Furthermore, we appreciate the \$ 2.6 million for operational support by the Secretariat, while being aware that more means are needed to enable its comprehensive engagement in all relevant work areas.

The European Union and its Member States are equally grateful to the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and its participating organisations for accepting the invitation extended through resolution V/8. Their proactive approach in supporting implementation programmes and other activities like workshops or surveys reflects dedication and an inclusive spirit. These activities will play a vital role in guiding implementation, strengthening cooperation, and building capacity among all stakeholders.

Item 3(c): Global Framework on Chemicals Fund (V/3)

The European Union and its Member States express great appreciation for all contributors to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for their commitment and contributions. Impressive \$28.3 million for the GFC Fund is encouraging and essential in turning words into action, especially in support of countries most in need.

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for its efforts so far to make the Fund work and for its engagement in the first round of applications, which had an impressive number of applications to be analysed.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariats of the GFC and of the Special Programme for their support for the Executive Board, particularly during the first round of applications, when the Secretariats did enormous work to ensure the successful course of the first round.

The European Union and its Member States support in principle the decisions taken by the Executive Board so far and are looking forward to use the OEWG for further discussion amongst stakeholders of needs for modification of the Terms of Reference of the GFC Fund, including the modalities for its implementation at the International Conference, as suggested in document UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/INF/5. We consider that it would be useful to continue the discussion on the specific questions that have been raised in the discussion on the implementation of the Fund and we stand ready to contribute in this work.

Item 4: Financial considerations (V/3)

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and IOMC participating organisations for the activities undertaken to develop a study to assess the existing financial flows and needs associated with the implementation of the Framework.

We also notice and support ongoing efforts of the UNEP Financial Initiative in addressing the pollution crisis in sector-specific value chains by developing valuable studies towards ascertaining financial flows and future financial needs to reach the objectives and targets of the Framework.

The European Union and its Member States appreciate the work done by the Secretariat and participating organisations of the IOMC on developing the terms of reference for the updated report on “cost of inaction”. Taking note of the significant value of this study in reaching objectives and targets of the GFC, the EU and its Member States

believe that finalisation of this work in a quick and effective manner will be a crucial step forward. Thus, gaining some clarification from the Secretariat regarding the plan for raising the funds to carry out the second phase of the study would be appreciated.

Item 3(d): Gender action plan (V/4)

The European Union and its Member States welcome the progress made to date in developing a draft gender action plan and thank the Secretariat for all its efforts to finalise that work and a draft plan for consideration by the International Conference in 2026.

We thank the Multistakeholder Processes for Sustainable Development Institute (MSP Institute) for the preparation of the report on the Development of a Gender Action Plan.

The European Union and its Member States support actions that will lead to the development of the Gender Action Plan, which will aim to achieve equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes and to promote gender-responsive policies, to which the European Union and its Member States attach high importance.

We participated in the call from the first phase of work on the Gender Action Plan and shared information on integrating a gender perspective into policies, plans, and actions related to chemicals and waste management.

Item 5: Programme of work and Budget (V/12)

The European Union and its Member States recognise the progress made since the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals, including the setting up of the Secretariat of the GFC and the GFC Fund.

We recognise that there is still work to be done to ensure proper realisation of the activities of the Secretariat, including ensuring the financial stability.

We would appreciate additional details on plans for how to cover the financial gap for the Secretariat functioning in 2025 and 2026.

The European Union and its Member States would like to encourage stakeholders, who are in the position to do so, to provide financial contributions to the budget or consider in-kind contributions.

Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (V/11)

The European Union and its Member States acknowledges the work done so far towards the establishment of the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides to take effective measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available, and looks forward to the launch of the Alliance in 2026.

We also acknowledge the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides as a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to achieve targets related to highly hazardous pesticides, in particular Target A7 of the Global Framework of Chemicals.

The European Union and its Member States can support the proposed operational framework, which aims to better map the structure of and responsibilities under the alliance, as presented in the INF/14 document. We look forward to wider consultation with interested stakeholders.

We would also like to suggest that the Alliance's work include the development of a proposal for indicator(s) that could be considered as part of the measurability structure and submitted for review at a future IC.

The European Union and its Member States stand ready to support the Alliance and further engage in advancing the achievement of the respective objectives and targets of the framework.

Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern (V/5)

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals for their efforts and engagement in the work on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. We highly appreciate their leadership and work done toward addressing identified emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

We highly appreciate the preliminary proposal of input to the report on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern and look forward to the final report with an update on progress achieved, an analysis of opportunities and recommendations how to further address in the future each of the issues of concern recognized before ICCM5, which is intended to be submitted to the International Conference at its first session under the GFC. The European Union and its Member States are prepared to share initial views on each of the existing Emerging Policy Issues and other Issues of Concern for further development of the report and possible proposals for continuation of the Issues of Concern at the first meeting of the International Conference.

We would like to encourage all relevant stakeholders to continue their work on identified issues according to their urgency, under the Global Framework on Chemicals until the first session of the International Conference.

International Cooperation and Coordination (V/6)

The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for all the efforts towards fostering coordination and cooperation between the GFC and relevant multilateral agreements and international organisations.

We welcome the report on all activities undertaken and encourage the Secretariat to continue its work to increase awareness of the GFC with its objectives, targets and activities to combat pollution. The European Union and its Member States continue to stress the importance of the need for action across all relevant sectors.

The European Union and its Member States also acknowledge the report on the contributions of the chemicals and waste international agreements and frameworks to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, prepared as a joint document for the triple BRS Conferences of Parties.

We commend the establishment of the SPP and are committed to ensuring close cooperation of the Global Framework on Chemicals with the Panel.

The UN General Assembly acknowledged the adoption of GFC and in view of addressing chemicals, waste and pollution, in a cross-sectoral manner, as a matter of priority, the European Union and its Member States propose inviting the UNGA to consider the work done in addressing of pollution under GFC and beyond in a dedicated High Level Dialogue.

National Focal Point Guidelines (V/7)

The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the draft guidelines and checklist for GFC national focal points. We recognise the importance of the work of all national focal points and would like to encourage them to undertake further efforts related to the implementation of the GFC.

The European Union and its Member States thank the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre for their efforts to facilitate the implementation of guidelines for national focal points, which includes the organisation of expert meetings to discuss the structure of the guidelines, a roadmap to support their implementation, and the further development of capacities of national focal points and identification of their capacity-building needs.

As regards the nomination of national focal points, we encourage that national focal points should represent all relevant sectors, including sectors beyond environment, health and labour.

Measurability Structure and Indicators (V/9)

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the co-chairs, the task teams, the Secretariat and all stakeholders involved in the work of the Open-Ended Ad hoc Group on Measurability Structure and Indicators.

We consider finalisation of the measurability structure and having a proposal for a set of indicators ready for consideration by the International Conference as a significant step that will enable monitoring and assessment of progress in achieving the targets and the ultimate aim of the Global Framework on Chemicals. Since most targets are time-bound to 2030 or 2035, we advocate agreeing on a set of indicators for them as soon as possible. At the same time, it will be beneficial to continue the work to develop indicators for the other targets and the strategic objectives.

The European Union and its Member States have strongly engaged in the work on Measurability Structure and Indicators from the start and provided numerous inputs to the work under the 3 Workstreams and we stand ready to continue our support to this important work.

The European Union and its Member States reiterate their opinion that during this OEWG, more time should be given to discuss this topic, benefiting from the presence of stakeholders that have not been involved in the work and may build support for the work so far, as well as provide new ideas for the indicators.

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the organisations engaged in work on the high-level indicators on the global environmental and disease burdens attributable to chemicals and waste, and support their further efforts directed toward the development of these high-level indicators.

Closing statement

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The candidate countries for EU membership Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia align themselves with this statement.

The European Union and its Member States would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Government of Uruguay for its generous hospitality and for hosting this important event.

We wish to express our appreciation to the co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group for their leadership and engagement, as well as to the co-chairs of the contact and informal groups for their dedication and for guiding our discussions.

We also wish to extend our gratitude to the Global Framework on Chemicals Bureau and the Secretariat for their preparation, organisation, and support throughout this Open-Ended Working Group.

We have concluded four days of productive dialogue and exchange of views and experiences, which have been further enriched by the Multistakeholder Day. Our discussions covered highly valuable and important topics that are crucial for the successful implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

We believe that the input collected will assist in further preparations for the International Conference, especially concerning implementation programmes, issues of concern and measurability structure and indicators. These elements are essential for measuring progress and for achieving the strategic objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

We would like to reiterate our support for continuity of work towards establishing the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides and finalizing the Gender Action Plan and the strategy on capacity building.

The European Union and its Member States would like to once again thank the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the participating organisations for their proactive approach in developing implementation programmes, supporting the work on indicators, and leading efforts on Issues of Concern. We highly appreciate this leadership and look forward to further work in these areas.

Recognising the importance of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund as vital for supporting the Framework's implementation at the global level, the European Union and its Member States place their trust in the Executive Board that will employ the input received during this meeting to guide further preparations for the International Conference and subsequent rounds of applications.

We acknowledge the challenges posed by insufficient funding for the Secretariat, which threatens the sustainability of its operations. Therefore, we eagerly anticipate the development and adoption of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy at the first International Conference. We believe that this strategy will play a crucial role in securing future funding for the Framework.

With the major achievement of the establishment of the Science-Policy Panel and the progress towards the first International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals, it will be important to start a focused discussion on pollution in a form of High Level Dialogue on Pollution at the UN General Assembly and we invite all the stakeholders to join us in this effort.

We are confident that the work undertaken by all of us during this Open Ended Working Group will provide valuable guidance for the implementation and further development of the Framework and preparations for the International Conference. We remain optimistic about maintaining momentum on our way to the first International Conference.
