



**Development of guidance to support implementation of Target D6
of the Global Framework on Chemicals**

**Proposed objectives, principles, and action areas of sustainable
chemicals and waste strategies in economic and industry sectors**

Draft outline, 17 February 2025

About this document/outline

Target D6 of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) reads as follows “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.”

To support companies and associations interested in developing D6 strategies - or integrate GFC considerations into existing strategies - the IOMC has decided to develop, in partnership with interested GFC stakeholders, guidance to support the development of Target D6 strategies. An important aspect of this work is to identify objectives of sustainable chemicals and waste strategies and the specific areas of actions they could address. Initial discussions on this topic took place prior to ICCM5 at an IOMC workshop in Geneva, June 2023.

The proposed objectives, principles, and action areas introduced below seek to be compatible with the call of ICCM5 for more ambitious and urgent action. At the same time, they aim to provide, as recommended at the Geneva workshop, flexibility as various industry stakeholders have different starting points. Therefore, they do not seek to be prescriptive but rather provide a reference to inspire action and encourage continuous performance improvement based on good practices of industry and other stakeholders.

During the Paris workshop, several working groups will take place to inform the development of the D6 Guidance including one on “Defining objectives and action areas/checklist questions for D6 strategies”. Other working groups will focus on:

- Identifying priority chemicals of concern in industry sectors along value chains
- What approaches exist to measure chemical footprints?
- Advancing green and sustainable chemistry solutions and knowledge sharing
- How do we ensure that D6 guidance is user friendly and of value to industry?

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1 Proposed overall objectives and guiding principles for implementing GFC Target D6

The following overall objectives and guiding principles are proposed to guide the development of D6 strategies drawing on various GFC provisions and targets relevant for industry:

- Data and information on chemicals in value chains is readily available and transparent.
- Harm to workers, the public, and the environment from chemicals and waste is avoided along the life cycle.
- Compliance with national obligations and international commitments is met, and ideally, exceeded.
- Chemicals of concern are identified, safer alternatives are introduced and circularity is advanced.
- A commitment to innovation, performance improvement, and transparent reporting is upheld.

2 Proposed action areas and checklist questions to inform D6 strategies

The following 10 areas of action are proposed as reference points for companies and associations to consider in developing their sustainable chemicals and waste strategies.

2.1 Identifying hazardous chemicals in supply chains, production, and products

Checklist questions

- ✓ Does a list of suppliers exist who provide chemicals or products containing chemicals?
- ✓ Are chemicals purchased, used and produced on site known and listed in an inventory?
- ✓ Are all chemicals classified and labelled in accordance with the GHS?
- ✓ Are hazardous waste materials identified and documented throughout the supply chain?
- ✓ Are chemicals regulated by international agreements or initiatives purchased, used, or produced? Relevant agreements include:
 - Stockholm Convention
 - Rotterdam Convention
 - Basel Convention
 - Montreal Protocol
 - Minamata Convention
 - GFC Target A 7 on highly hazardous pesticides
 - PFOAs/PFCs addressed as a SAICM Emerging Policy Issue
 - Managing other chemicals included under SAICM Emerging Policy Issues
 - Other agreements and conventions in health, workplace, agriculture, and other key sectors

2.2 Ensuring health & safety, accident prevention, and response

Checklist questions

- ✓ Are guidelines, best available practices, and standardized tools for assessing chemicals and waste risks available and applied?
- ✓ Are measures and requirements in place concerning:
 - Providing safety data sheets in accordance with the GHS for all chemicals?
 - Handling, safe storage and transportation of chemicals and waste?
 - Monitoring of occupational health exposures?
 - Emergency procedures and responses to spills?
- ✓ Are safety checks implemented on site, including for leaks and waste containment?
- ✓ Are responsibilities to ensure chemical and waste safety assigned? Are managers and workers adequately trained?

2.3 Identifying and assessing priority chemicals of concernⁱ

Checklist questions

- ✓ Have priority chemicals of concern been identified in supply chains, production and products?
- ✓ What criteria have been used in identifying priority chemicals of concern?

2.4 Fostering transparency on chemical information in supply and value chains

Checklist questions

- ✓ Are suppliers requested to report on chemicals in materials and products supplied?
- ✓ Is reliable information on chemicals in production, materials and products made available along the value chain and publicly accessible?

2.5 Assessing the chemical footprint along values chains

Checklist questions

- ✓ Is a system in place to measure the chemical footprint of raw materials and feedstocks, production and products along value chains?
- ✓ Are pollutant releases and transfers to air, water and land from production and products estimated and publicly available?
- ✓ Are monitoring and surveillance data generated (e.g. on concentrations and exposure sources of chemicals in the environment and humans)?

2.6 Reducing or phasing out priority chemicals of concern along value chainsⁱⁱ

Checklist questions

- ✓ Have targets been set to reduce or eliminate priority chemicals of concern in production and products?

2.7 Are measures in place to comply with and reduce the risks or phase out chemicals regulated by international agreements and initiatives referred to under Area 2.1?

Checklist questions

- ✓ Are procurement criteria and minimum standards for suppliers in place (e.g. a code of conduct or code of leadership) to reduce or avoid priority chemicals of concern?
- ✓ Is a Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (MRSLs) used to guide procurement?
- ✓ Are chemicals, materials and products in the supply chain tested?
- ✓ Are chemicals and waste audits of suppliers conducted?
- ✓ Are measures to promote collaboration in place with suppliers and partners to ensure sustainable practices are implemented throughout the supply chain?

2.8 Fostering sustainable product design and sustainable chemistry solutions

Checklist questions

- ✓ Are measures in place to ensure sustainable product design, for example, by:

- designing-out hazardous substances
- avoiding regrettable substitution and negative trade-offs
- designing products in a way that recycling does not cause contamination problems in recycled/upcycled products
- ✓ Are resources invested for research into safer alternatives and/or green and sustainable chemistry solutions?
- ✓ Is a Restricted Substances List (RSLs) used that defines standards for chemicals in finished products?

2.9 Further action to advance the sustainability of production processes

Checklist questions

- ✓ Are systems in place to:
 - advance resource efficiency?
 - reduce emissions to air, water and land, e.g by improving process efficiency?
 - manage wastewater and sludge in an environmentally sound manner?
 - dispose solid waste in an environmentally sound manner?
- ✓ Are good practices applied when disposing chemicals and chemical-containing products (e.g. appropriate contractors)?

2.10 Strengthening corporate management and sustainability governance

2.10.1 Corporate chemicals policy

Checklist questions

- ✓ Is a dedicated policy on chemicals and waste under development, planned, or completed?

2.10.2 Performance assessment and sustainability reporting

Checklist questions

- ✓ Are IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards and Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) Standards reported on?
- ✓ Are the Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI) standards for reporting used?
- ✓ Are reports validated or certified by third parties?
- ✓ What KPIs are used to measure performance?

2.10.3 Other corporate measures

Checklist questions

- ✓ How is regulatory compliance organized and managed?
- ✓ What action are taken on employee training and fostering a culture of responsibility?
- ✓ What is done to raise public awareness and have community engagement?

2.10.4 Implementation of the GFC

Checklist questions

- ✓ How are GFC provisions and targets integrated into corporate sustainability strategies?
- ✓ How is the implementation of GFC targets monitored and reported?
- ✓ Is the sustainable chemicals and waste strategy reported/communicated to GFC stakeholders?

ⁱ Certain jurisdictions have identified priority chemicals of concern, such as the Candidate List of substances of very high concern for Authorisation developed under REACH in the European Union. Priority chemicals of concern also exist for certain industries and/or individual companies, e.g. in the textile or electronic industries (e.g. EU RoHS requirements). Lists of chemicals of concern have also been developed by NGOs, for example, the SIN list developed by ChemSec and the List of Chemicals under the Chemical Footprint Project developed by Clean Production Action.

ⁱⁱ The international community has taken steps to prioritise certain types of substances for regulatory action, based on their hazard profiles and risks to human health and the environment. These include, but are not limited to: carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction substances (CMRs); persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic, or very persistent and very bio-accumulative substances (PBTs/vPvBs); endocrine disruptors (EDCs). Specific chemicals, groups of chemicals and materials receiving specific attention for risk reduction and/or elimination include Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs); Heavy metals; and Plastics.