

## Developing an Implementation Programme for the Global Framework on Chemicals on Strengthening National Chemicals Legislation and Institutional Capacities

*A multi-stakeholder expert meeting and workshop  
Punta del Este, Uruguay, 22–23 June 2025*

### Annotated Agenda (13 June 2025)

#### Global Framework on Chemicals, Target A1

“By 2030, Governments have adopted and are implementing and enforcing legal frameworks, and have established appropriate institutional capacity to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste as appropriate for their national circumstances.”

#### Objectives of the workshop

This multi-stakeholder workshop aims to inform the development of a Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) Implementation Programme focused on strengthening national chemicals legislation and institutional capacities. The workshop will involve two components:

- (1) an expert meeting on day 1 (Sunday 22 June), and
- (2) a larger workshop on day 2 (the morning of Monday 23 June)

Specifically, the workshop will:

- Provide a **platform to reflect** on existing legislation and institutional mechanisms with a view to contributing to efforts for **innovative** approaches (Day 1).
- Gather concrete input to inform the development of the IP1 to be discussed at the **Open-ended Working Group (OEWG)** session (24-27 June 2025) (Day 2).

Due to resource constraints, the expert meeting component will involve approximately 100 invited participants, taking account of regional and stakeholder balance; additional participation will not be possible. The outcomes of the expert meeting will be reported to day 2 of the workshop.

The larger workshop component on day 2 will focus on shaping the mandate, TORs, workplan, and other aspects of the implementation programme. It will take place at the OEWG conference venue and be open to a larger audience. Outcomes of the workshop will be communicated to the OEWG later in the week.

## Day 1 – Sunday, 22 June 2025

### 9:00 – 9:30 Opening and Setting the scene

- Bob Diderich, IOMC Chair
- Kay Williams, Head, GFC Secretariat

### 9.30 –12:15

### Session 1 – Ongoing initiatives on innovative approaches to chemicals management (upstream and downstream)

#### 9:30 – 10:00

- **Introduction to the session** Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP Economy Division
- **Summary/Outcome of the expert brainstorming meeting** (Jan 2025) – Vito Buonsante, UNEP Law Division
- **Organization of the breakout groups**, Oliver Wootton, UNITAR

#### 10:00 – 11:45 Breakout groups (*11:00am Health Break*)

<b>Group 1</b> <b>National Experiences with Innovative legal instruments on risk assessment</b> Facilitation: <b>Matthias Wolf</b> , Germany	<b>Group 2</b> <b>Downstream Users as Drivers of Chemicals Management along value chains</b> Facilitation: <b>Helga Schrott</b> , Austria
<p>This session focuses on real-world experiences from different countries in developing and implementing national chemicals legislation. It highlights innovative legislative models, policy tools, and practical approaches that can inform the programme's structure and scope, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reversal of the burden of proof <b>Jordane Wodli</b>, European Commission</li><li>• Generic risk assessment, <b>Jordane Wodli</b>, European Commission</li><li>• Grouping of chemicals, <b>Jordane Wodli</b>, European Commission; <b>Miranda McPherson</b>, Canada</li><li>• Use of available data/ trusted overseas regulator; <b>Graeme Barden</b> AICIS/Australia (<i>video presentation</i>)</li></ul> <p><b>Discussant:</b> Laska Sophal (Cambodia), Daniel Ndiyo (Tanzania) and Thaianne Fábio (Brazil)</p>	<p>This session explores the role of non-traditional enablers, such as downstream users. It highlights tools that shift the decisions on chemical use and its responsibility to chemical users, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essential use approach and Chemicals Authorization, <b>Juergen Helbig</b>, European Commission</li><li>• Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA), <b>Baskut Tuncak</b>, Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI), former Special Rapporteur</li><li>• Chemical leasing, <b>Rodica Ivan</b>, UNIDO</li></ul> <p><b>Discussant:</b> Jonah Ormond (Antigua &amp; Barbuda)</p>

#### 11:45 – 12:15 Facilitators report back to plenary

**12:15 – 13:30 Lunch**

**13:30 – 16:15**

**SESSION 2 – New technologies and financial innovative tools for “smarter” chemicals management**

**13:30 – 13:45**

- **Introduction to the session** – UNEP Law Division Vito Buonsante
- **Organization of the breakout groups**, Oliver Wootton, UNITAR

**13:45 – 15:45 Breakout groups (15:00 Health Break)**

<b>Group 3</b> <b>Harnessing technology innovation</b> Facilitation: <b>Andrea Rother</b> , University of Cape Town	<b>Group 4</b> <b>Harnessing financial incentives</b> Facilitation: <b>Johannes Heister</b> , The World Bank
<p>This session will explore how emerging technologies can support and transform national chemical management systems, especially in the context of strengthening legislation, improving transparency, and enhancing decision-making. By focusing on three distinct but complementary areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Artificial Intelligence, <b>Monica Brown</b>, Canada</li><li>• New approach methodologies (NAMs), <b>Bob Diderich</b>, OECD</li><li>• Blockchain technology, <b>Lies Heylen</b>, Global Product Safety, LyondellBasell</li><li>• AI Pilot Tool to Access Regulatory Data (Copenhagen University) - <i>tbc</i></li></ul> <p>The session will highlight how innovation can drive cost-effective, scalable, and science-based solutions for assessing and managing chemical risks.</p> <p><b>Discussant:</b> <i>tbc</i></p>	<p>This session will explore how innovative financing mechanisms can enable and sustain the implementation of national chemicals legislation and support the long-term goals of the GFC Implementation Programme. It will highlight policy models and instruments that link polluter responsibility, regulatory cost recovery, and investment in institutional capacity. The discussion will also consider opportunities for resource mobilization through public-private partnerships and donor engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, <b>Llorenc Mila I Canals</b>, UNEP Economy Division</li><li>• Cost recovery mechanisms and chemicals regulation, <b>Graeme Barden</b> AICIS/Australia (<i>video presentation</i>)</li><li>• Available financing mechanisms and innovative financial tools (cost recovery and ensuring (financial) sustainability (with examples from GEF projects); GEF work that has funded legislative development and implementation (and lessons learned), <b>Anil Bruce Sookdeo</b>, GEF</li><li>• Pesticide taxes, <b>Marie Claire Lhenry</b>, France</li></ul> <p><b>Discussant:</b> Santos Virgilio (Angola)</p>

**15:45 – 16:30 Facilitators report back to plenary**

**16:30 – 17:00 Close of Day 1 and preview of Day 2**

## **Day 2 – Monday, 23 June 2025 (am only)**

**8:30 – 8:45 Welcome and Opening**, Ludovic Bernaudat, UNEP Economy Division

- Summary of Day 1
- Focus of Day 2 – from ideas to design

**8:45 –11:30**

### **Session 3 – Shaping the Implementation Programme 1 (“IP1”)**

**8:45 – 9:30**

- **Introduction to the session** — Kay Williams, Head, GFC Secretariat
- **Strategic approach to a modular chemicals management** - Bob Diderich, OECD
- **Survey Results on Institutional Capacities, presentation of draft IP1 discussion document, linkages to other IPs, and organization of the breakout groups** – Vito Buonsante, UNEP Law Division

**9:30 – 11:30 Breakout groups (10:30 Health Break)**

<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Group 3</b>	<b>Group 4</b>
Objectives Scope Governance  Facilitation: <b>Nolozuko Gwayi</b> , South Africa	Knowledge-sharing Collaboration Effective capacity Development  Facilitation: <b>Laska Sophal</b> , Cambodia	Benchmarking Tracking process  Facilitation: <b>Itsuki Kuroda</b> , Japan	Development of a global workplan  Facilitation: <b>Thaianne Fábio</b> , Brazil

**11:30 –12:00 Facilitators report back to plenary - discussion**

**12:00 – Close of the workshop**