

The Global Framework on Chemicals

A blueprint to overcome the pollution crisis

Chemicals are a ubiquitous part of modern life and a multi-trillion-dollar industry, and their sound management is vital to prevent and minimize the adverse impact chemicals have on human and planetary health. Central to this effort is the **Global Framework on Chemicals**, a milestone international agreement adopted in September 2023 for the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and

waste. This agreement presents a plan for governments, non-governmental organizations and private sector to manage chemicals and waste sustainably, and support innovation to ensure chemical products are safer by design. The framework's **five strategic objectives and 28 targets** complement global goals to achieve sustainable development, stop biodiversity loss and curb pollution.

Why support the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals?

Chemicals are a **US\$5 trillion** industry, integral to global food, health and transport, but their improper management can cause environmental degradation and affect human health causing everything from cancer to birth defects.

The **cost of inaction** on curbing chemical pollution could be as high as

10% of global GDP (2010)

are expected due to antimicrobial resistance, which is significantly driven by chemical pollution.

It is **estimated** that minimizing the adverse impact of chemical pollution can save

US\$ tens of billions annually

from exposure to hazardous chemicals in the workplace. This means every 30 seconds a worker dies from work-related chemical exposure.

Deaths associated with chemical pollution **have reportedly increased** by

66% since 2000

by leaded fuel bans, while helping the global economy avoid US\$2.4 trillion in healthcare expenses and other costs.

40M deaths between 2025 and 2050

1M workers die annually

1.2M lives saved annually

Advancing the sustainable development agenda

The safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste supports the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



A supporting mechanism: the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

The Global Framework on Chemicals Fund aims to build long-term capacity of eligible countries for the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste. Administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by contributions from countries and the private sector, the fund provides financial support of US\$300,000 to US\$800,000 for an implementation period of up to three-years. Governments from developing countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition can apply for funding. Civil society networks may also apply, subject to an agreement with the respective government. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Get involved

Find out more about the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Contact your national focal points on the framework to receive more information.

Visit this page for news and events on the development of the implementation programmes supporting the framework.

Contribute to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and become a board member or apply to receive project funding.

Check for announcements and be part of the next International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

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unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org