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**Second meeting of the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals
- For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste**
Online, Tuesday, 5 December 2023, 12:00 – 13:30 (CET)

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK ON CHEMICALS – FOR A PLANET FREE OF HARM FROM CHEMICALS AND WASTE

1. Opening and welcome

The President of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, Dr. Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan, Asia-Pacific) welcomed the Bureau members to the 2nd meeting of the Bureau.

The President informed that for this second meeting of the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, Ms. Andrea Rother (University of Cape Town) will be replacing Ms. Susan Wilburn (Health Care Without Harm) as representative of health and Mr. Liam O’Brien (International Trade Union Confederation) will be representing the trade union in place of Mr. Rory O’Neill (International Trade Union Confederation).

2. Adoption of the agenda

Dr. Abbas presented the provisional agenda for the meeting (GFC/GFC1/Bureau.2/1) that was circulated on 29 November 2023 and stressed that this meeting will focus on the next steps in the implementation of the Framework. He invited Bureau members to raise additional points under any other business. With no further items raised, the agenda was adopted.

3. Adoption of the meeting report of the 1st meeting of the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, held on 25 October 2023

The President asked if there were further comments on the draft report of the 1st Bureau meeting, held on 25 October 2023 (GFC/GFC1/Bureau.1/Report), circulated by the secretariat on 14 November 2023.

Mr. Jose de Mesa (secretariat) explained that the only change to the report was an appropriate reflection in the report the retention of the name of the Framework “Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste” as was requested by the Bureau members. With no further comments, the report was adopted.

4. Implementation of the Framework and ICCM5 Resolutions. Next steps

a) Status of post-ICCM5 meeting documents.

Dr. Abbas asked the secretariat to provide an update on the status of the ICCM5 outcome

documents.

Mr. Pierre Quiblier (secretariat) provided the following update:

- The advance English version of the Bonn Declaration and the texts of the ICCM resolutions (except the Framework) are already published and are available on the website of the Fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management ([ICCM5](#) | [SAICM](#)).
- The advance English version of the Framework is planned be posted by the 8th of December 2023.
- The advance English version of the ICCM5 report, including all the ICCM5 resolutions, are to be posted by the end of 2023.
- The versions in languages of the report are to be posted by the end of January 2024.

Mr. Quiblier communicated that on 4 December 2023 ICCA informed the secretariat that the annex to ICCM Resolution V/12 may include a factual mistake, as follows:

“Supporting the establishment and maintenance of a capacity-building platform, including compilation of the information provided by the recipients and suppliers of the identified needs and assistance, and making them available.”

Mr. Quiblier explained that ICCA had withdrawn the proposed draft Resolution during ICCM5 and suggested to remove this text from Resolution V/12 under finalization of the ICCM5 report as part of the necessary consequential amendments to the text. No objection was raised to this proposal.

b) Focal Points of the Global Framework on Chemicals - For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

Mr. Jose de Mesa (secretariat) presented the document GFC/GFC.1/ Bureau.2/2. He proposed to provisionally maintain and use the existing focal points database for communication with the focal point under the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

Mr. de Mesa also proposed that the secretariat may prepare and send a letter to all stakeholders with the request to update information in the existing database or to submit new nomination of focal points as appropriate.

He also proposed that the secretariat will adapt, as appropriate, the existing documents relevant for the nomination process, to reflect the new Framework as well as will develop a draft of guidelines for national focal points to be presented at the next Bureau meeting for consultation and gathering feedback from all Bureau members.

The secretariat also suggested that, after the period of consultation and incorporation of comments, the Bureau members may consider to start implementing the guidelines for national focal points provisionally until their adoption at the next International Conference.

Ms. Andrea Rother and Ms. Sara Brosche (International Pollutants Elimination Network public interest group) highlighted the importance of stakeholders involvement in this work. Ms. Brosche, supported by Ms. Magdalena Frydrych (Poland, Bureau member for Central and Eastern Europe) proposed that input to the draft could be provided by stakeholders who are already working on the guidelines.

Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP) added that the first draft prepared by the secretariat would be shared only with the Bureau with the purpose of helping inform all new Bureau members in an inclusive way. Mr. Audun Heggelund (Norway, Bureau member for Western Europe and Others) and Ms. Moleboheng Juliet Petlane (Lesotho, Regional Focal point for Africa region) supported the proposal from the secretariat.

c) Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

Mr. Didier Salzmann (UNEP) explained that UNEP has initiated the work to address the establishment of a time-limited voluntary fund.

Mr. de Mesa provided an update on the received pledges to the fund. At the time of the meeting, the contributions were pledged from Germany France, The Netherlands and Switzerland. The QSP Trust Fund left over is the only available fund at this moment and it does not include the interests. The total sum, converted to USD, would be USD 23'251'588. Ms. Alvarez clarified that from the moment the fund is established, it will be available for five years which means that at the next International Conference in 2026 the next steps will have to be decided.

Mr. Quiblier presented the document GFC/GFC.1/ Bureau.2/3 proposing that until the first International Conference in 2026, the membership of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund Executive Board may be composed as follows:

- President and four Vice-Presidents of the Bureau elected by and from among the representatives of the governmental participants at ICCM5;
- Five Regional Focal Points;
- Representatives of all the bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.

Mr. Quiblier stressed on the need to operationalize the Fund as soon as possible and ensure the continuation of the mandated activities until the First International Conference convenes in 2026.

The President thanked the secretariat for the proposal. Ms. Rother suggested to include other stakeholder representatives to the Bureau. Ms. Brosche and Mr. Heggelund inquired about the procedure to identify contributors among stakeholders.

Ms. Alvarez explained that the proposal from the secretariat mirrors provisions of ICCM resolution V/3 para. 19 and, according to the Rules of Procedure, the Fund may receive funds from donors but also from other types of contributors. She added that according to the ToR of the fund, part C, it will be open to receive voluntary contributions for five years from the date it is established by the Executive Director. Funds may be disbursed for a maximum of seven years from that date. She also mentioned that if agreement is reached on this proposal, it will need to be validated via a silent procedure, as the composition of the Executive Board remains the authority of the International Conference.

The President asked the Bureau members to adopt this proposal. No objection was raised.

d) Measurability structure

Mr. Rafal Brykowski (secretariat) presented the document GFC/GFC.1/Bureau.2/4 proposing initial steps to operationalize the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators. He noted the significant involvement of stakeholders in the work on measurability structure prior to and at ICCM5 and introduced Rule 23.2. of the Rules of Procedure, dealing with subsidiary bodies, where a subsidiary body may opt for a chair or co-chair arrangement in lieu of a Bureau. He noted that the work of the group would be supported by the secretariat.

He noted that the Secretariat tentatively considers holding the first virtual meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group at the end of first quarter of 2024.

Ms. Brosche highlighted that the IOMC have worked extensively on the measurability structure in the past years, and together with Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola, Bureau member for Africa region) and Mr. O'Brien supported the IOMC to co-chair the open-ended ad hoc group. Mr. Ivo de Zwaan (The Netherlands, Regional Focal Point for Western Europe and Other Groups) welcomed the work of the open-ended ad hoc group starting in the first quarter of 2024.

Mr. Johannes Heister (World Bank, IOMC) confirmed the availability of IOMC to continue its support to the work of the open-ended ad hoc group and, if possible, to co-chair it.

Requests for clarification on the nomination of the co-chairs of the open-ended ad hoc group were raised by various extended Bureau members.

Ms. Alvarez explained that in view of the fact that the open-ended ad hoc group is a subsidiary body, any nomination has to come through the regions of the United Nations. She added that, according to the Rules of Procedure, nominations should be considered at the first meeting of the ad hoc group who decides ad interim until the decision is confirmed by the first International Conference.

Ms. Alvarez also mentioned that during ICCM5 it was suggested that Japan could also lead this open-ended ad hoc group. Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan, Regional focal point for Asia-Pacific) confirmed the availability of Japan to support the process as proposed.

Ms. Brosche asked to include the consideration for IOMC to co-chair. Ms. Alvarez reminded of the Rules of Procedure and suggested that Japan would chair the group and IOMC could continue to be involved and work together.

The President asked if Bureau members were willing to approve this proposition.

It was agreed that the secretariat will send a letter calling for expression of interest to co-chair an open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators.

e) Voluntary contributions for financing the secretariat

The President invited the secretariat to inform Bureau members on the status of voluntary contributions.

Mr. de Mesa presented an update on the status of funding for the secretariat and listed the pledges received. He added that in line with section X of the Framework, it is requested that before the start of each calendar year, the secretariat invites each Government and other stakeholder groups via their focal points to make a voluntary financial contribution. He informed that a joint letter from the President and the UNEP Executive Director is under preparation.

f) Gender action plan

The secretariat presented the document GFC/GFC.1/Bureau.2/5 and initial steps to operationalize the work of the gender action plan. Mr. Brykowski informed that the secretariat will be preparing a concept note on the way forward for a gender action plan and will update the Bureau accordingly at its next meetings.

With no further comments, the President confirmed that this is agreed.

g) Date and venue of the Open-Ended Working Group and first International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste

Mr. de Mesa informed on the ICCM5 decision that there will be an Open-Ended Working Group in 2025 and the first meeting of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste will take place in 2026. The secretariat will send a letter on behalf of the President inviting the transmission of offers from governments by 30 June 2024, with regards to hosting the OEWG meeting and/or the International Conference and, if no offers will be put forward, the secretariat has arranged that the OEWG would be hosted in Nairobi between 21 and 27 June 2025 (there is no availability in Geneva in 2025). The President confirmed the approval of this proposal.

He also informed that the secretariat is aiming to send a communication to all stakeholders with a summary of resolutions and expected intersessional work by end of December 2023.

5. Next meetings of the Bureau

The secretariat proposed to have five Bureau meetings in 2024, three of which would be virtual, one hybrid and one face-to-face due to budget restrictions.

The secretariat proposed the next meeting of the Bureau to take place in February 2024 as a hybrid meeting back-to-back with UNEA 6 that will be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The secretariat would arrange the necessary logistics. It was then proposed an in-person meeting of the Bureau that could take place in June 2024 in Geneva, back-to-back with the meeting of the Science Policy Panel. All online meetings will start at 2 pm Geneva time.

Ms. Brosche stressed the importance that all Bureau members have the same opportunity to participate in the meetings; she informed that there will be a labour conference in June 2024 and asked to check if dates suite well also with the schedule of the trade union as well as the health representative.

Ms. Alvarez proposed that the in-person meeting could be a three days meeting (two days Bureau meeting and one day Global Framework on Chemicals Fund Executive Board meeting).

Mr. de Zwaan pointed up that there will be a GEF council meeting in June 2024 and indicated his preference for a hybrid Bureau meeting.

The President confirmed the agreement on a three days face-to-face meeting in Geneva.

In answer to Mr. Heggelund request of clarification on the status of capacity building and implementation plan, Mr. Quiblier explained that the work on the capacity building strategy will continue as planned. Ms. Alvarez added that the work on the implementation plan is ongoing and she emphasized the need for a programmatic thinking.

6. Closure of the meeting

The President thanked the secretariat for organizing the second meeting of the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and all Bureau members for their participation. He closed the meeting at 13h35.

Annex

Participants

Bureau Members: Dr. Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan, Asia-Pacific, President), Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola, Africa), Ms. Magdalena Frydrych (Poland, Central and Eastern Europe), Ms. Vanesa Aliaga (Peru, Latin America and the Caribbean), and Mr. Audun Heggelund (Norway, Western Europe and Others).

Regional Focal Points: Ms. Moleboheng Juliet Petlane (Lesotho for Africa), Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan for Asia - Pacific), Ms. Suzana Andonova (North Macedonia for Central and Eastern Europe), Mr. Napoleon Garcia (El Salvador for Latin America and the Caribbean), and Mr. Ivo de Zwaan (The Netherlands for Western Europe and Other Groups).

Representatives of non-governmental participants and the IOMC: Ms. Andrea Rother (University of Cape Town) Ms. Chrysanthi Sofokleous (International Council of Chemical Associations, industry), Ms. Sara Brosche (International Pollutants Elimination Network public interest group), Mr. Liam O'Brien replacing (International Trade Union Confederation, trade union), Mr. Johannes Heister (World Bank, IOMC).

Secretariat: Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, Mr. Pierre Quiblier, Mr. Rafal Brykowski, Mr. Jose de Mesa, Ms. Meera Laurijssen, and Ms. Eleonora Simeone.

Observers: Mr. Didier Salzmann (UNEP).

Regrets: Ms. Susan Wilburn (Health Care Without Harm, health), Mr. Rory O'Neill (International Trade Union Confederation, trade union),
