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First meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators – Segment 2*

Online, 13 May 2024 14:00-16:30 CEST

Item 3 Presentation and discussion on the concept note¹

Concept note for the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators prepared by the co-chairs

Note by the Secretariat

At the first segment of its first meeting held online on 16 April 2024, the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators elected Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) and Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago) as co-chairs.

1. The annex to the present note includes a concept note prepared by the co-chairs with the support of the Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals, setting out their proposal for the implementation of resolution V/9 on the measurability structure of the Framework adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth meeting, with respect to the open-ended ad hoc group.

2. The present document has not been formally edited.

¹ GFC/OEAHGMI.1/Seg.2/1

*The first meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators is being held in two segments. The first segment (Segment 1) of the meeting was held online on 16 April 2024, while the second segment (Segment 2) will be held online on 13 May 2024.

Annex I

Concept note for the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators prepared by the co-chairs

I. Introduction

1. The present concept note, which we have prepared with the support of the Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals, sets out our proposal for the implementation of resolution V/9 on the measurability structure (set out in Appendix I to the present note), which was adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its Fifth Meeting, particularly with respect to the organization of work of the open-ended ad hoc group established thereunder, the scheduling of its meetings as well as its expected outcomes and overall approach to conduct the work.

Background

2. At its Fifth Session held from 25 to 29 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), adopted the “Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste” (hereinafter referred to as “the Framework”), along with a set of resolutions to support implementation.

3. The Framework, which supersedes the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), covers the entire life cycle of chemicals, including in products and waste, with the overall Vision of a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste for a safe, healthy and sustainable future. Amongst others, it establishes five Strategic Objectives and a set of 28 Targets to guide stakeholders in their efforts at all levels to address the sound management of chemicals and waste.

4. In order to facilitate the reporting and monitoring of progress and impact in its implementation and contribute to assessing progress towards the Vision, the Framework includes a measurability structure described in its section XI, to be included in its Annex III. This measurability structure is to be composed of the following types of indicators:

- (a) High-level indicators for measuring progress towards the vision in relation to impacts of chemicals and waste on human health and on the environment:
 - (i) The global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste;
 - (ii) The global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste;
- (b) Headline indicators, when identified, to measure impact against the strategic objectives.
- (c) Process indicators that measure actions taken and impact indicators that measure results achieved against the targets.
- (d) Other indicators, as decided.

5. Resolution V/9 thus specifies that the measurability structure is the basis for measuring progress by and for stakeholders, according to the process outlined in section XI.

6. Further, in Resolution V/9, the Conference decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators (hereinafter also referred to as “the group”).

7. The Conference invited the United Nations Statistical Commission, participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the work of the group and support the development of the measurability structure, considering relevant indicators from the “Inventory and analysis report: existing indicators on chemicals and waste management”.

II. Overall objective of the open-ended ad hoc group

8. In light of the mandate set forth in Resolution V/9, the open-ended ad hoc group will work by electronic means, with the aim of preparing recommendations for finalizing the measurability structure of the Framework. This will include a proposal for a set of indicators for measuring progress by and for stakeholders of the Framework, to be considered at the next session of the International Conference. The group will also make recommendations or suggestions on any further work that may be required for operationalization of measurability structure of the Framework to facilitate the reporting

and monitoring of the progress and impact in implementation of and contribute to assessing progress towards the Vision of the Framework.

III. Proposed organization and schedule of work of the group

9. At the upcoming second segment of its first meeting, the aim will be for the group to agree on its main deliverables and areas of work, key milestones, as well as working modalities.

10. The group will undertake intersessional work, including through thematic task teams, with a defined scope and timeline. This intersessional work will be reported back to the group for its consideration. Stakeholders with relevant expertise are invited to participate actively and efficiently in this work and take a leadership role, as appropriate.

11. The group as well as any task teams under it, are expected to conduct their work in English. Task teams may run their work in parallel. The Secretariat of the Framework will provide administrative and technical support to the work of the group and as deemed necessary to any task team established under it. Relevant documentation will be made available on the webpage of the group at www.chemicalsframework.org/page/open-ended-ad-hoc-group-measurability-and-indicators.

12. Noting, as agreed during the first segment of the first meeting, that the group will meet on a quarterly basis until the meeting of the International Conference, the timeline below in Figure 1 is proposed. *Note-The exact dates indicated are tentative and will be confirmed prior the sessions.*

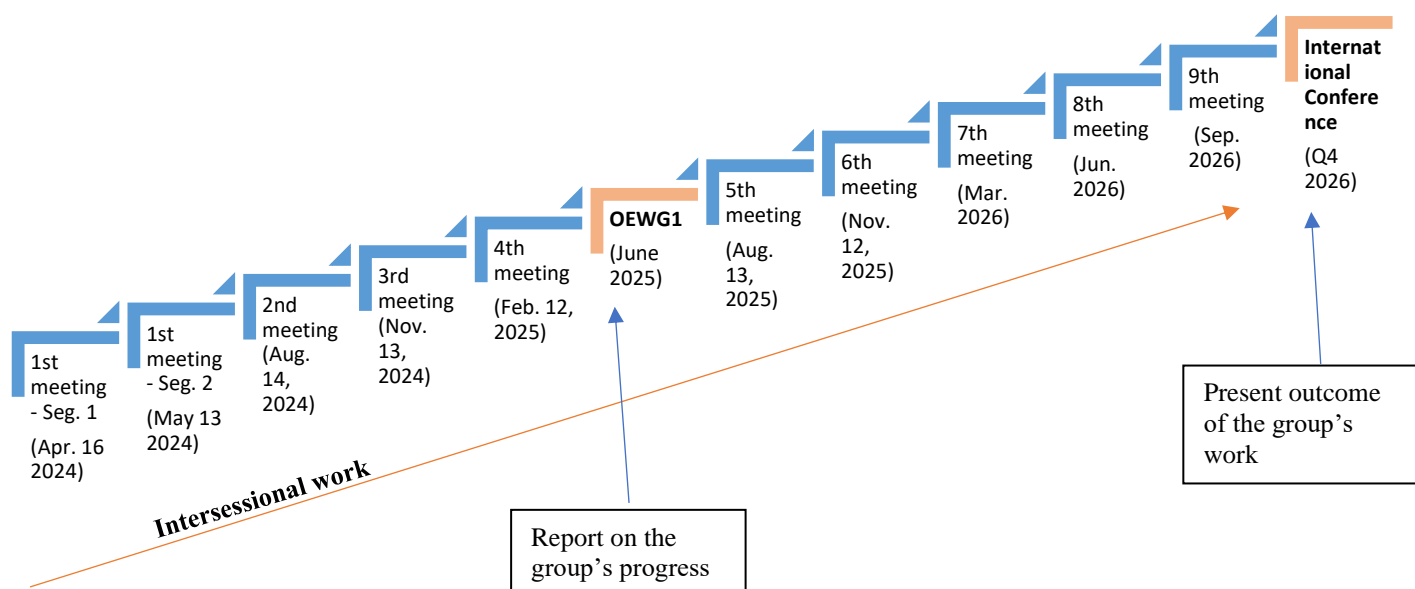


Figure 1: Schedule of work of the group

IV. Expected outcomes and proposed approach to conduct the work

13. In finalizing the measurability structure, the group will develop a proposal for a set of indicators for measuring progress in the implementation of the Framework, and in evaluating overall impact on achieving sound chemicals and waste management. In doing so it may wish to consider existing indicators identified by the IOMC², as well as additional ones that may be required, either already existing, under development or yet to be developed.

14. The group is encouraged to also propose recommendations to facilitate the reporting and monitoring of progress and impact in the implementation of, as well as to contribute to assessing progress towards the Vision of the Framework.

² Updated "Inventory and analysis report: existing indicators on chemicals and waste management" (document SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1) prepared by the IOMC. The document was submitted to the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Proposed approach to develop the set of indicators

15. Annex III of the Framework identifies a set of criteria to be met by the indicators. The group may want to consider the need to discuss the practicalities of applying these criteria, as well as the need for any additional aspects of relevance to the selection of indicators, such as approaches for their prioritization and selection, or availability of key information, including cost aspects.

16. Each proposed indicator should be accompanied by a rationale for their selection, as part of a series of information to be provided in a standardized manner in a “factsheet”.

17. The Figure 2 below outlines the three main workstreams that we would propose for organizing our work of defining the set of indicators for the measurability framework.

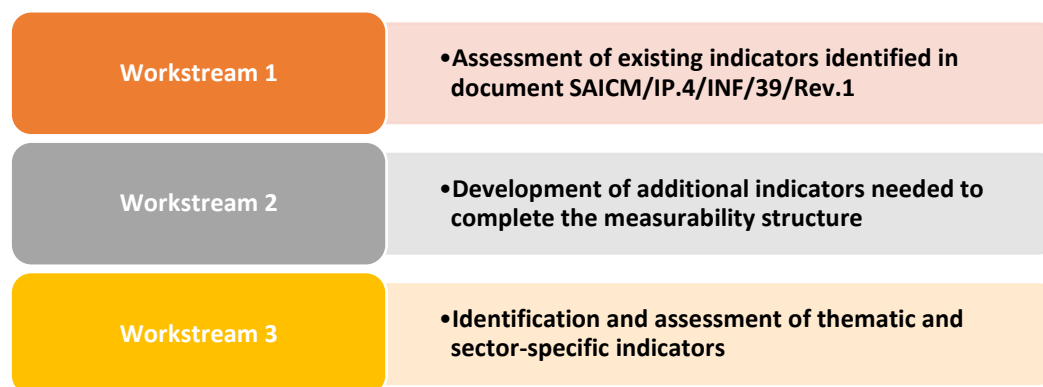


Figure 2: Three main workstreams of the group

Workstream 1: Assessment of existing indicators identified in document SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1

18. This workstream will assess the pertinence of existing indicators identified in the updated “Inventory and analysis report: existing indicators on chemicals and waste management” (document SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1) prepared by the IOMC in light of the Framework's adopted measurability structure. It may entail in particular:

- (a) Revisiting the screened list of 63 indicators that were selected in the report against the targets under the Framework, including:
 - i. Assessing and streamlining the listed indicators against the criteria put forward in Annex III of the Framework.
 - ii. Identifying whether and if so how/where indicators could fit in the measurability structure, also considering some indicators may apply to more than one target.
- (b) Revisiting the “long list” of 279 existing indicators that were identified in the report as relevant and/or meaningful to the chemicals and waste agenda with the aim to identify any additional indicators that could be relevant to the Framework.
- (c) Performing a gap analysis based on the findings from the first two steps above to inform the development of new indicators under Workstream 2. This analysis would allow to identification in particular , of the targets which are not or only partially covered by existing indicators.

19. We propose that this work starts immediately and is finalized by the third meeting of the group in November 2024. Reporting on progress should also be made at the second meeting of the group. The second segment of the first meeting should hence define the practical modalities to conduct the work, including with respect to leadership and participation.

Workstream 2: Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure

20. This second workstream will focus on the development of indicators that are not currently available but are needed to complete the measurability structure, informed by identified gaps. The measurability structure includes the different types of indicators, namely high-level indicators, headline indicators and process and impact indicators for tracking progress in reaching targets, as well as other indicators as deemed necessary.

Regarding high level indicators, we would like to propose the following:

- (a) to consider the need for any adjustment on the “global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste” in the context of the Framework, considering amongst others Target B7³ as well as Resolution V/10⁴ and present to the group.
- (b) to consider the applicability of existing information, data sets and assessments and monitoring systems on the “global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste” (e.g., Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), global monitoring plans under the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements) in defining the elements constituting this high-level indicator. The group may consider, amongst others, Targets D6 and B7.

With respect to high level indicators, we would like to suggest that the work starts immediately and that interested stakeholders, including IOMC participating organizations, take a leading role in this work, for its outcome to be presented to the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for consideration at its next meeting in June 2025.

Regarding headline, process and impact, as well as other indicators:

- (c) the group identifies the headline, process and impact as well as other indicators that need to be developed based on the outcomes of Workstreams 1 and 3.
- (d) the group identify process indicators that may be used to track progress for multiple targets in addition to the indicators identified at workstream 1.
- (e) the group may discuss how to include the Framework elements relating to Issues of Concern, implementation programmes and capacity building in the measurability structure for further deliberation at the OEWG meeting in June 2025.
- (f) the group may also consider establishing cross-cutting indicators (e.g., gender, finance) to be discussed during the OEWG meeting in June 2025.

Workstream 3: Identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific work

21. Under this third workstream, an additional analysis would be undertaken by the Secretariat to identify and assess targets and indicators (either existing or under development) relating to specific economic sectors or themes of relevance to the Framework, building on existing efforts and work. These may be in relation to linkages between pollution from chemicals and waste and climate change, biodiversity loss, labour, health aspects, waste, finance, trade, innovation, and sustainable chemistry as well as relevant economic sectors.

22. We expect this work to start immediately. We would suggest that the Secretariat initiates the scoping exercise, along with the assessment of its results and proposed way

³ Target B7 – By 2030, stakeholders generate, to the extent possible, and make available comprehensive and accessible monitoring and surveillance data and information on concentrations and potential exposure sources of chemicals in humans (disaggregated by sex, age, region, other demographic factors, and other relevant health determinants as feasible), other biota and environmental media.

⁴ [Resolution V/10](#): Health surveillance systems for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to prevent and protect human health from chemical exposure.

forward and present this to the third meeting of the group in November 2024 for its consideration. Reporting on progress should also be made at the second meeting of the group.

23. The work under this workstream may need to be considered as an iterative and evolving process, pending decision by the International Conference related to the implementation programmes and issues of concern under the Framework. The co-chairs and the Secretariat invite submissions from relevant stakeholders.

Proposed approach on any additional work

24. To consider how to operationalize the measurability structure of the Framework, work will be required including on facilitating the reporting and monitoring of progress and impact in the implementation to assessing progress towards the Vision of the Framework; conducting and presenting the analysis of collected information; and ensuring interoperability with other systems and undertaking updates in the future. The group may also wish to consider how to make best use of available techniques and technologies such as artificial intelligence in supporting measurability, for instance the harvesting and mainstreaming of data collection amongst others. The group may also wish to make recommendations or suggestions on any further work and elements that may be required for the measurability of the Framework.

Appendix I

Resolution V/9 on the measurability structure adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth meeting

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance to the success of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste of monitoring implementation, assessing effectiveness in achieving the objectives and targets, and evaluating overall impact on achieving sound chemicals and waste management, and recognizing the contribution of the Framework to protecting human health and the environment,

Appreciating the work undertaken on section XI of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, “Taking stock of progress,” by stakeholders, in particular Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,

Referring to the measurability structure described in section XI of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, “Taking stock of progress”, and to be included in annex III to the Framework,

Specifying that the measurability structure is the basis for measuring progress by and for stakeholders, according to the process outlined in section XI of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

Recognizing with appreciation the existing indicators provided in the “Inventory and analysis report: existing indicators on chemicals and waste management”,⁵

Recalling annex III to the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, which outlines the measurability structure of the Framework and its methodology for assessing progress in the Framework’s implementation and alignment with the Framework’s strategic objectives and vision,

1. Decides to establish an open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators that will work by electronic means with the aim of preparing recommendations for the finalizing of the measurability structure and a proposal for a set of indicators for annex III to the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, to be considered at the next session of the Conference;
2. Requests the secretariat to support the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators;
3. Invites the United Nations Statistical Commission, participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators and support the development of the measurability structure, considering relevant indicators from the “Inventory and analysis report: existing indicators on chemicals and waste management”.

⁵ SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1