
**Third meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on
measurability and indicators**

Online, 13 November 2024, 14:00-16:30 CET

Report of the third meeting of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators

1. Opening and welcome

Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) and Ms. Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), Co-Chairs of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators (OEAHGMI) opened the third meeting of the ad hoc group at 14:15 CET on 13 November 2024 and welcomed participants.

2. Organizational matters

a) Adoption of the agenda

The Co-chair presented the provisional agenda for the meeting (GFC/OEAHGMI.3/1) that was posted on the webpage of the [third meeting](#) of the OEAHGMI.

The Co-chair invited participants to raise additional points under agenda item 8, any other business. With no other items raised, the provisional agenda was adopted.

b) Organization of work

The Co-Chair informed participants that the working documents for the meeting were available on the webpage dedicated to the [third meeting](#). With respect to the frequency of meetings, she reiterated that the group was expected to convene every quarter for two to three hours depending on the agenda to advance its work, and that meetings will be held in an online setting. Finally, she noted that meetings will be conducted in English only.

The Co-Chair also informed the meeting that while the website of the Global Framework on Chemicals (www.chemicalsframework.org) is transitioning to a new website (<https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals>), the webpage of the OEAHGMI, including documents posted for the ad hoc group, will remain under www.chemicalsframework.org and further updates will be shared in due course.

3. Updates on the workstreams

The Co-Chairs informed the meeting of the number of registrations per stakeholder group received to date to the task teams of the three workstreams: Workstream 1, Assessment of existing indicators identified in document SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1: 101 participants (of which 40 were from NGO/civil society, 40 from Government/public sector, 7 from private sector/industry, 7 from Academia/research institute, and 7 from IGO); Workstream 2, Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure: 90 participants (of which 36 were from NGO/civil society, 30 from Government/public sector, 8 from private sector/industry, 8 from Academia/research institute, and 8 from IGO); and Workstream 3, Identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific indicators: 103 participants (of which 48 were from NGO/civil society, 30 from Government/public

sector, 10 from private sector/industry, 8 from Academia/research institute, and 7 from IGO).

On the conditional agreement of a participant to be communicated to the secretariat by 20 November 2024, it was agreed that the registration to the workstreams will remain open until 29 November 2024 in order to facilitate the organization of the task teams and aid with a cohesive flow of the work in the upcoming months. The link to register will be available on the website "[Task Team Registration – Measurability and Indicators Workstreams](#)".

a) Thought starter on criteria

The secretariat introduced document [GFC/OEAHGMI.3/2 “Thought starter – On the criteria to select indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals”](#). The document presented a revised version of the thought starter that was introduced at the second meeting of the OEAHGMI ([document GFC/OEAHGMI.2/2](#)) and took into account input and comments that were submitted to the secretariat by stakeholders after the second meeting. All inputs received and how each comment was addressed was posted on the webpage of the third meeting in order to keep the process transparent. The ad hoc group also agreed that new comments to the revised version of the thought starter could be submitted to the secretariat (unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org) no later than 29 November 2024.

b) Thought starter on Factsheet for an indicator

The secretariat introduced document [GFC/OEAHGMI.3/3 “Thought starter – Proposed Factsheet template for indicators of the Global Framework on Chemicals”](#), which was a revised version of the thought starter on factsheet template introduced at the second meeting of the ad hoc group (document [GFC/OEAHGMI.2/3](#)). All inputs received on [document GFC/OEAHGMI.2/3](#) and how each comment was addressed were also posted on the webpage of the third meeting. The ad hoc group also agreed that new comments to the revised version of the thought starter could be submitted to the secretariat (unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org) no later than 29 November 2024.

4. Update on progress of work under workstream 1

The Co-Chair recalled that at the second segment of the first meeting of the OEAHGMI, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) as team leader of workstream 1, introduced a concept note ([document GFC/OEAHGMI.2/4](#)) outlining the working modalities with stakeholders, including in terms of further feedback from the wider group, and the new list of indicators.

IOMC recalled that the task of workstream 1 is streamlining and strengthening the indicators with the aim to reduce the number of indicators and enhance their robustness. IOMC added that the first webinar of the task team 1 was held on 23 September, during which IOMC asked the task team to contribute to refining the proposed list of indicators by participating in a survey. The survey was launched on 24 September and remained open until 13 October. IOMC received 45 submissions. All respondents agreed on the inclusion of 14 unique indicators in the two priority groups (either in group 1 or in group 2), whereas there was one objection for 7 unique indicators and two objections for 4 unique indicators to be included in the two priority groups. A list of targets where no indicators could be identified in the IOMC inventory was also provided and it was proposed that the work on gaps could be done under workstream 1. IOMC also proposed a way to showcase the indicators in the measurability structure for tracking progress in the implementation of the GFC.

A participant noted that the indicator “Number of countries with poisons centres” was not included in the proposed list of indicators and IOMC proposed that the group might want to consider adding this indicator to the list. It was pointed out that the indicators proposed by IOMC are available and already in use by specific entities and, for this reason, IOMC recommended not to edit them. Emphasis was given on the importance to consider proposals for additional indicators. The Co-Chair stressed that the mandate of workstream 2 also includes identifying gaps with new and in development indicators.

If there were an agreement among stakeholders on the proposed list of 14 unique indicators that did not receive any objection, the list could be submitted to the OEWG in June. The Co-Chairs tasked IOMC to continue the work as part of the mandate for workstream 1 and conduct an analysis to identify which targets lack indicators. IOMC will seek input from stakeholders in doing this work which will include verifying global availability of data for each indicator and whether their applicability is relevant to the GFC.

OECD asked to include the indicator “Number of countries adhering to Mutual Acceptance of Data system” (under Target B4) to the list of indicators. The Co-Chair proposed that the decision on whether to include this indicator to the list of priority indicators or not be taken at the OEWG, as well as for the indicators that have received objections in the survey launched by IOMC.

A participant stressed that an indicator is effective only when data is available and that it is important to keep verifying that a good indicator needs to be global, thus it needs to collect reliable data also in low- and middle-income countries.

5. Update on progress of work under workstream 3

The Co-Chair recalled that at the second meeting of the OEAHGMI, the secretariat introduced a questionnaire inviting the task team of workstream 3 to contribute to the identification of indicators (either existing or under development) covering different sectors and themes of relevance to the Global Framework on Chemicals and its implementation programmes. The questionnaire was launched on 24 July and the deadline to submit responses was initially 31 August, then extended to 15 September.

The secretariat informed the meeting that 19 responses were received of which, 10 were from NGO/Civil society, 3 from private sector, and 6 from Government. With regard to the first group of indicators, responses revealed the use of adopted indicators related to chemicals and waste that are already in use in other Conventions and Agreements such as Biodiversity indicators, Basel indicators, IOMC indicators, and SDG indicators in particular SDG12. Responses also highlighted that the industry sector is developing indicators related to chemicals management linked to safety, health and gender. With regard to the second group of indicators, responses showed that the industry sector uses indicators specifically in due diligence, international reporting standards, and roadmaps, milestones and/or pledges, whereas more progress is to be expected in innovation and green and/or sustainable chemistry. With respect to the third section of the questionnaire, respondents agreed on the need to identify new indicators that measure progress in the implementation of the GFC and provided several suggestions. Responses to the IOMC survey on implementation programmes, that was launched in July 2024, also indicated a strong interest of the industry sector in contributing to the development of industry indicators for the GFC implementation.

The secretariat informed the meeting that the draft report outlining the responses of the questionnaire will be shared with the task team of workstream 3 for comments to be submitted to the secretariat (unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org) by 29 November.

6. Update on progress of work under workstream 2

a) High level indicator on global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste

The Co-Chair recalled the concept note ([document GFC/OEAHGMI.2/5](#)) that UNEP, task team leader of workstream 2, introduced at the second meeting of the OEAHGMI. The concept note sets out a possible approach for the development of a high-level indicator on global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste, including organization of work with the task team. Workstream 2 was also mandated to work on the identification of indicators that are not currently available but are needed in order to complete the measurability structure of the Framework. UNEP, with the support of OECD and UNECE and interested stakeholders, will consider the applicability of existing information, data sets, assessments and monitoring systems as well as, amongst others, Targets D6 and B7.

UNEP informed the ad hoc group that the first meeting of the task group was held online on 19 September. The objective of the meeting was to review the key steps in developing the indicator and exchange views on the organization of work, including express views on the first steps proposed in the workplan: 1. Define the primary objectives and scope; 2. Review criteria to be met; and views on sources of information, data sets and assessments /monitoring systems that may be useful to the development of the high level indicator. Several views were shared by participants.

UNEP also proposed that the task team hold a second meeting in December 2024 (date tbc) to call on further input from stakeholders on relevant sources of information and existing databases and suggested further consultations with experts/academics to assist with the development of the indicator.

b) High level indicator on global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste indicator

The Co-Chair recalled that at the second segment of the first meeting of the OEAHGMI the WHO was tasked to lead the work on the development of a high-level indicator on global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste.

WHO summoned back the background information on the burden of disease that was presented at the second meeting of the OEAHGMI and added that the current concept of global burden of disease attributable to chemicals does not cover the waste element of the Framework, and, for this reason, an indicator does not exist yet and will have to be developed. WHO also anticipated that a webinar will be organized around 12-13 December (date tbc) with the task team and with the participation of experts from WHO, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation and others, to bring everyone on the same page of understanding. She added that WHO is planning to submit a written document detailing the background work presented at the second meeting and outlining a workplan.

The Co-Chair acknowledged the difficult task that UNEP and WHO were mandated on the development of the high-level indicators and asked that the two team leaders report back on progress at the quarterly meetings.

7. Next steps

The Co-Chair suggested that the fourth meeting of the OEAHGMI be held on 12 February 2025 (time tbc), and that date was agreed upon by the group.

The Co-Chair requested the following deliverables to be met by the task teams:

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

Finalize the list of priority indicators and conduct an analysis of gaps as agreed with IOMC. The outcome of this work will be presented by IOMC at the fourth meeting of the ad hoc group, with the understanding that the list of indicators will be then put forward at the OEWG in June 2025.

Workstream 3 – (Identification and assessment of thematic and sector-specific work)

The secretariat to post the report “Questionnaire on thematic and sector-specific indicators relevant to the GFC and to the IOMC proposed GFC implementation programme - Results and analysis of the responses”. Input and feedback from the task team of workstream 3 on the report will be requested and based of which the report will be revised and presented at the fourth meeting of the ad hoc group.

Workstream 2 - (Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure: global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste indicator)

UNEP and the task team of workstream 2 will continue the work as proposed, including holding a second meeting of the task team in December 2024 and further consultations with experts. UNEP will report back on progress at the fourth meeting of the OEAHGMI.

Workstream 2 – (Development of additional indicators needed to complete the measurability structure: global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste indicator)

WHO and the task team of workstream 2 will continue the work as proposed including holding a webinar with participation of experts in December 2024. WHO will report back on progress at the fourth meeting of the OEAHGMI.

The Co-Chair reflected upon the additional work under workstream 2 on the development of new indicators including headline indicators, process indicators and impact indicators, that will start based on the gaps that were singled out in workstream 1 and 3. She proposed to invite experts who would help identify which data is available and in use and contribute to the development of new indicators. In this regard, she informed the meeting that a new partnership was launched in September 2024 to address lead pollution, and that there are other groups with expertise relevant to the GFC such as the Global Alliance on HHPs and the Global Group on PFAS that could contribute to this work. Support was expressed for the proposition to engage with the Global Group on PFAS, but it was also noted that the Global Alliance on HHPs might not be launched until ICCM6 in 2026. A participant proposed to consider the Global Alliance on lead in paint. It was suggested that the survey launched by UNEP during the first meeting of the task team might indicate a way forward that will be proposed at the fourth meeting of the OEAHGMI.

Finally, the Co-Chair stressed that comments to the two thought starters can be provided to the secretariat

(unep-gfc.secretariat@un.org) by 29 November 2024.

8. Any other business

No items were raised under any other business.

9. Closure of the meeting

The Co-chairs thanked the participants for their participation and the progress achieved thus far and closed the meeting at 16:15 CET.
