



Declaration on Supporting the
Achievement of the Strategic
Objectives and Targets of the
Global Framework on Chemicals
- For a Planet Free of Harm
from Chemicals and Waste

**OECD Legal
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Background Information

The Declaration on Supporting the Achievement of the Strategic Objectives and Targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (the Declaration) was adopted on 3 May 2024 by 38 OECD Members, the European Union and 5 non-Members in the context of the OECD Council meeting at Ministerial level. The Declaration reaffirms Adherents' commitments to improve the safe and sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and outlines a shared position on how to support implementation of the [Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste \(GFC\)](#).

Long-standing role of the OECD in supporting the sound management of chemicals and waste

For more than 50 years, the OECD has assisted countries by developing and supporting the implementation of international standards and best practices that make their systems for managing chemicals as efficient and robust as possible, while protecting human health and the environment. Over this time, the OECD has developed a [solid body of legal instruments](#) to assist countries in establishing and strengthening national regulatory frameworks for chemicals. It has also developed harmonised technical tools, such as test methods, principles of good laboratory practice, and guidance documents for risk assessment and risk management that countries use to implement their chemicals management policies and legislations and ensure the safe use of chemicals.

Following the adoption of the GFC in September 2023, the Declaration is an opportunity to highlight the commitment of OECD Members, the European Union and several non-Members to implement it and to outline the OECD's willingness to support the GFC vis-à-vis its long-standing partners, such as other participating organisations of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

Scope of the Declaration

The Declaration was developed through the Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee (CBC). Its preamble provides the context in which it was adopted, in particular it recalls the 2020 goal for sound management of chemicals articulated at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and inclusion of that goal in the adoption of SAICM by the First International Conference on Chemicals Management, and in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The preamble also recognises the role of sound management of chemicals and waste in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It recognises the need for increased international co-operation and coordination, including through and between international organisations, to achieve the sound management of chemicals. Finally, the preamble acknowledges the adoption of the GFC and the call to international organisations to support the implementation of this newly adopted framework, as stated in the Bonn Declaration, and makes clear that the Declaration is fully aligned with the scope of the GFC which "covers the life cycle of chemicals, including products and waste" (see section III, para. 8, including footnote 6 of the GFC).

Against this background, the Declaration reaffirms Adherents' commitment to strengthen the sound management of chemicals, including through robust and comprehensive national chemicals management systems. It also encourages industry stakeholders to ensure the sound management of chemicals across value chains. The Declaration also reiterates support for the OECD's role in facilitating efforts towards sound management of chemicals and waste and supporting the implementation of national chemical management frameworks, and therefore calls on the OECD, through the CBC, in consultation with other relevant OECD policy communities, to continue its ongoing work, with the aim of contributing to meeting the strategic objectives and targets of the GFC; to serve as a forum for collaboration on chemical safety policy, including on GFC objectives regarding issues of concern, safer alternatives and sustainable solutions; to assist in the development of and act as a custodian of certain indicators; and to support efforts to mainstream chemicals management into all relevant sectors and policies. It also calls on the OECD to pursue its efforts to collaborate with other international organisations in the context of the IOMC to support the implementation of the GFC.

*For further information please consult: <https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/>.
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WE, THE MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union;

HAVING REGARD to the goal articulated by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in paragraph 23 of the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, to achieve, by 2020, the use and production of chemicals in ways that lead to the minimisation of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

HAVING REGARD to the 2006 Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) adopted at the First International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1), and its objectives contained in the Overarching Policy Strategy referenced in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management;

RECOGNISING that the 2020 goal for sound management of chemicals was not achieved;

RECALLING the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda target 12.4 to "By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water, and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment";

HAVING REGARD to the Resolution of the Council on Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) which was adopted by Council on 28 March 2008 [[C\(2008\)32](#)] and welcomed at the Environment Ministerial meeting on the 28-29 April 2008 at the OECD Headquarters;

HAVING REGARD to the standards and tools developed by the OECD related to the management of the risks associated with chemicals and pesticides; as well as its role as a forum for sharing information, knowledge and experience on these issues;

CONSIDERING the planetary and interrelated crises of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss and the need to address them in a comprehensive and integrated manner;

RECOGNISING the critical role of sound management of chemicals and wastes in addressing these planetary crises, including through its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on 25 September 2015 [[A/RES/70/1](#)] and to the achievement of the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

NOTING United Nations General Assembly Resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and its importance for the promotion of human well-being and the full enjoyment of all human rights;

RECOGNISING that pollution from chemicals can transcend national and regional boundaries;

MINDFUL that the production of chemicals is expected to increase significantly, that the global value chain is putting strains on the efficiency of national approaches for the sound management of chemicals and that concerted action is needed to address these strains and ensure that new chemicals management systems do not lead to duplicative testing and assessments or to new non-tariff trade barriers;

RECOGNISING the need for increased co-operation and coordinated efforts at an international level, including through and between international organisations to achieve the sound management of

chemicals and the pivotal role of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) in this regard;

CONSIDERING the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (GFC) and the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste at the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in Bonn, Germany on 25-29 September 2023; and the call to international organisations to support the implementation of the GFC as appropriate;

RECOGNISING the GFC vision of a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste for a safe, healthy and sustainable future, its strategic objectives and targets, and the unique multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach upon which it is based;

CONSIDERING that the references to “chemicals and waste” and “chemicals throughout their life cycle” in the Declaration are fully aligned with the scope of the GFC which “covers the life cycle of chemicals, including products and waste” (see section III, para. 8, including footnote 6 of the GFC).

WE ARE COMMITTED to strengthen the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle in line with the vision, strategic objectives and targets of the GFC;

WE REAFFIRM the need to:

- Set-up, implement and enforce robust and comprehensive national chemical management systems and to take national actions to achieve this collective goal;
- Strengthen international and multisectoral co-operation, coordination and collaboration across countries as well as international organisations and in the context of multilateral environmental agreements for the successful global management of chemicals, including through exchange of information and experience;
- Collaboratively improve the generation of knowledge, data and information on chemicals and make them available and accessible to enable informed decision-making and action;

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE industry stakeholders across global value chains to ensure safe and sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle by developing and implementing safer, innovative and sustainable solutions;

WE REITERATE our support to the important role of the OECD in facilitating efforts towards the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and across supply chains, including by supporting the development and enhancement of national legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities for chemicals management;

WE CALL on the OECD, through its Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee, in consultation with other relevant OECD policy communities, to:

- Continue its on-going activities as an integral part of contributing to meeting the strategic objectives and targets of the GFC, including by developing, supporting implementation and updating OECD standards and tools, in particular in the area of risk assessment and management of chemicals, and ensure outputs are as accessible, gender-responsive, relevant and useful as possible for all relevant stakeholders;
- Serve as a forum for collaboration on chemical safety policy through the exchange of information, experience and capacity building, in particular in the context of the GFC strategic objectives, including addressing issues of concern and supporting the uptake of safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions;

- Assist in the development and act as a custodian of certain indicators in relation to chemicals management and support efforts in view of mainstreaming chemicals management and pollution prevention into other sectors and policies;
- Pursue its efforts to enhance actions and collaborate with other international organisations in the context of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to support the implementation of the GFC.

About the OECD

The OECD is a unique forum where governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to understand and to help governments respond to new developments and concerns, such as corporate governance, the information economy and the challenges of an ageing population. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The OECD Member countries are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Union takes part in the work of the OECD.

OECD Legal Instruments

Since the creation of the OECD in 1961, more than 500 legal instruments have been developed within its framework. These include OECD Acts (i.e. the Decisions and Recommendations adopted by the OECD Council in accordance with the OECD Convention) and other legal instruments developed within the OECD framework (e.g. Declarations, international agreements).

All substantive OECD legal instruments, whether in force or abrogated, are listed in the online Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments. They are presented in five categories:

- **Decisions** are adopted by Council and are legally binding on all Members except those which abstain at the time of adoption. They set out specific rights and obligations and may contain monitoring mechanisms.
- **Recommendations** are adopted by Council and are not legally binding. They represent a political commitment to the principles they contain and entail an expectation that Adherents will do their best to implement them.
- **Substantive Outcome Documents** are adopted by the individual listed Adherents rather than by an OECD body, as the outcome of a ministerial, high-level or other meeting within the framework of the Organisation. They usually set general principles or long-term goals and have a solemn character.
- **International Agreements** are negotiated and concluded within the framework of the Organisation. They are legally binding on the Parties.
- **Arrangements, Understandings and Others:** several other types of substantive legal instruments have been developed within the OECD framework over time, such as the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits, the International Understanding on Maritime Transport Principles and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendations.