

Title Alt 1. Issues of [International][Global] Concern
Title Alt 2. Priority Issues for International Action

A. Definition

1. An issue of concern is an issue involving any phase in the life cycle¹ of chemicals and which has not yet been generally recognized, is insufficiently addressed [by other bodies at the regional or international level] or arises [as a potential concern] from the current level of scientific information which may have [significant] adverse effects on human health and/or the environment [and requiring international action] [or which accelerates the uptake of innovative and sustainable solutions for the sound management of chemicals].

B. Submission of Information

2. To nominate an issue, the following information should be provided:

- a. Why the instrument is best placed to advance the issue;
- b. Impacts on human health and/or the environment related to the issue, taking into account vulnerable and at risk populations (especially women, children, youth and workers), biodiversity, ecosystems and [any] [accessible] [available] toxicological, ecotoxicological, [environmental fate and behaviour,] and exposure data;
- c. How the issue is integral to the vision, is ongoing, and needs to be addressed to enhance basic chemicals and [associated] waste management and/or advance the implementation of innovative and sustainable solutions, particularly taking into account specific national circumstances;
- d. How addressing the issue can assist countries to meet the Sustainable Development Goals;
- e. Extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature including at the sectoral level;
- f. Extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies, at the regional or international level, and how the proposed action to address the issue is related to, complements, or does not duplicate such effort;
- g. Summary of existing knowledge, relevant past activities, scientific uncertainties, and gaps in understanding or action;
- h. [A list of priority actions, related timelines, [and, if possible, a proposed workplan with][potential] targets and corresponding indicators, to guide [the] elaboration and implementation of [the] workplan [, including to assess the progress of implementation;]]
- i. Identification of potential lead organisation(s) and opportunities for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement.

C. *Nomination, selection and adoption process*

i. Nomination of issues

¹ There is a common understanding that the term life cycle includes waste.

3. *The process for nominating issues is open to any stakeholder. The nomination procedure will be made available on the Strategic Approach² website.*

4. *To promote communication about the nomination:*

- a. *Nominations should be communicated widely, including to all Focal Points.*
- b. *Regions may wish to add the subject to relevant regional meeting agendas.*
- c. *Nominations must be submitted no later than six³ months prior to a meeting of the Conference.*

ii. Initial review and publication of nominations

5. *The secretariat will check nominations for completeness with the aim of assisting proponents in completing their nominations. Proponents will be contacted to provide any missing information. The secretariat will compile a list of nominations, annotated with a summary of information from the submission. Similar nominations will be clustered so that similar issues can be considered in together, as appropriate and relevant.*

6. *An invitation to all stakeholders to provide comments will be issued by the secretariat prior to the session of the Conference at which they will be considered. Comments received from stakeholders on the nominations will be made publicly available by the secretariat.*

7. *The proponents of an issue will have an opportunity to revise their nomination to take into account comments or to clarify information provided and to work with other proponents to consolidate nominations that may be similar or complementary.*

8. *The secretariat will consolidate a final list of nominations, annotated with a summary of information.*

iii. Decision-making and adoption

9. *New issues should be selected and adopted by a resolution of the Conference. If several issues are nominated, the Conference when considering nominations may choose to prioritise the issues. In adopting an issue, the Conference should:*

- a. *Agree to a list of priority actions and related timelines;*
- b. *Establish an ad hoc multi-stakeholder committee.*

10. *The ad hoc multi-stakeholder committees will undertake the following tasks:*

- a. *Develop and encourage implementation of a workplan, including propose indicators for relevant targets under different Strategic Objectives of the instrument;*
- b. *Coordinate with other relevant bodies, such as the IOMC organizations and others (e.g. the convention secretariats);*

² This text will be aligned with the name of the new instrument/framework when the name is decided upon.

³ Many of the submissions asked for more time than 6 months. This requires further consideration, including how this timing may link to a possible OEWG in the future.

- c. *Monitor and report on the progress against the indicators⁴; and*
- d. *Make recommendations for consideration of the Conference as appropriate.*

D. Mechanisms for implementation

i. Workplans

- 11. *Implementation of actions to address issues⁵ is guided by a work plan with clear timelines and milestones;*
- 12. *All stakeholders [in a position to do so] are encouraged to take the necessary actions and/or provide [required] funding and necessary assistance towards the implementation of the workplan.*

ii. Tracking progress

- 13. *The ad hoc multi-stakeholder committees, with support of the secretariat, will oversee monitoring and reporting back from stakeholders, and encourage implementation of the workplan, through: reports to meetings of the [of the relevant body] [as determined by][of][the Conference], and at regular intervals as identified in the proposed workplan prepared in accordance with section (i), above;*
 - a. *periodic reviews within intersessional periods, and/or as requested by the Bureau; and*
 - b. *reporting on progress as outlined in the proposed workplan.*

iii. Determining the need for further work on an issue

- 14. *Determining the need for further work on an issue will be based on a full explanation of the rationale on a way forward, provided by the secretariat, in consultation with the multi-stakeholder committees, to the Conference following the progress evaluation of the activities carried out in accordance with the workplan.*
- 15. *The Conference may decide to conclude work on a particular issue.*

⁴ This is further elaborated in part (D) Mechanisms for implementation, section (ii) Tracking progress.

⁵ Once a decision is taken on the name / title of the issue (i.e. issues of concern, issues for common action etc.), the co-facilitators propose to reference that name / title throughout the text.