

IOMC



INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A cooperative agreement among FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD

Identifying opportunities for the electronics industry to engage in international chemicals and waste management and a transition to sustainable chemistry

Online consultation to contribute to a global multi-stakeholder process on a future global framework on chemicals and waste management beyond 2020

Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 2:30-4:30 pm CEST

Draft note

Opportunities for the electronics industry to engage internationally

The global community is currently negotiating a future global framework on the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (“Beyond 2020”). The new framework is expected to be adopted at the 5th International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), Bonn, Germany, 25-29 September 2023. The engagement of the private sector and industries, including the electronics industry, has emerged as an important topic in the negotiations.

While progress has been made, significant amounts of hazardous chemicals and waste continue to be released to air, water and land during the production, use and disposal of electronics products. Reducing these releases is an integral aspect of addressing broader sustainability and circularity objectives in the global electronics sector. To address these challenges, a number of international initiatives and partnerships have been established, such as the Circular Electronics Initiative and activities under Responsible Business Alliance. The development of a future international chemicals and waste frameworks beyond 2020 provides an opportunity to promote knowledge-sharing, scale-up existing efforts, and help address remaining challenges.

Invitation to the electronics industry to join a global virtual consultation, 20 June 2023

On 20 June 2023, electronics industry and other stakeholders engaged in the value chains are invited to participate in a two-hour virtual session which will contribute to a broader two-day face-to-face global multi-stakeholder expert workshop organized by the Inter Organization

Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals ([IOMC](#))¹ from 20-21 June 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The two-day workshop focuses on the development of global guidance to support economic sectors and industry strategies to advance chemicals and waste management. It will also explore the elements and activities of a possible Implementation Programme being considered under “Beyond 2020”, including for the electronics industry (further detail provided at the end). It builds on the [IOMC workshop](#) on “Advancing Chemicals and Waste Management in Chemical Intensive Economic Sectors and Industries” which took place from 17-18 January 2023, in Paris, hosted by OECD. Draft documentation will be shared with all participants in advance of the workshop (expected to be 10 days prior). For the topics discussed please see Annex 1.

Guiding questions for interested electronics industry leaders

The online consultation will take place on day 1 of the workshop in the afternoon, Geneva (CEST) time. Feedback and results from this consultation will inform workshop discussions on day two. Guiding questions for the online consultation include:

- How can the future global framework on chemicals and waste management “Beyond 2020” spur engagement and enable action in the electronics industry?
- How can a possible Global Implementation Programme under the future “Beyond 2020” framework be shaped to help advance chemicals and waste management in the electronics industry?
- What are perspectives of the electronics industry and stakeholders on draft the guidance to support strategies to advance the sound management of chemicals and waste and sustainable chemistry in economic sectors and industries?
- What actions could be considered by leaders in the electronics industry and relevant stakeholders in advance of ICCM5 and during ICCM 5?

Are you interested in joining and engaging?

Stakeholders with an interest in sustainable chemicals and waste management in the electronics industry are encouraged to participate in the online consultation. Stakeholders may also express an interest in attending the full two days in person.

If you are interested in joining the online consultation, please contact Oliver Wootton, UNITAR (Oliver.WOOTTON@unitar.org) by 10 June 2023.

¹ The nine Participating Organizations of the IOMC: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, the World Bank and the OECD

Annex 1

Workshop topics

1. Guidelines and principles to support chemical and waste strategies in economic sectors and industries – Review of draft annotated outline/draft text

- Which economic sectors and industries are encouraged to engage in “Beyond 2020”?
- Substantive topics covered by the guidelines:
 - Responsible business and sustainability frameworks
 - Corporate chemical and waste policies and targets
 - Chemical footprint assessments and performance reviews
 - Information disclosure and transparency in supply and value chains
 - Sustainable product design and green and sustainable chemistry innovation
 - Corporate management systems and instruments (e.g. product stewardship, sustainable supply chain management)
 - Standards and certification to support economic sector and industry action
- Process topics covered by the guidelines
 - Checklist for self-assessment reviews at the company/industry level
 - Elements and steps for strategy development at the company/industry level
- Enabling action by key stakeholder groups
 - Government (e.g. extended producer responsibility, polluter pays schemes)
 - Civil society and workers groups (e.g. transparency campaigns)
 - Industry and finance sector (e.g. association initiatives, innovative financing)

2. Elements and activities for a possible “Beyond 2020” Implementation Programme

- Knowledge creation and sharing (e.g. sector reviews, good practices)
- Action dialogues (cross-sectoral and sector/industry specific)
- Capacity development

3. Creating momentum in specific sectors and industries in advance and beyond ICCM 5

Possible sectors and industries (the chemical industry is cutting across all):

- Retail, Textiles, Electronics, Building and Construction, Healthcare, Food and Agriculture, and Finance

4. Preparation for ICCM5

- Draft resolution text for a possible Implementation Programme
- Elements of a TOR for an Implementation Programme
- Consideration of an ICCM5 side event
- Specific follow-up activities (e.g. webinar on workshop outcomes)