

The Gender Action Plan of the Global Framework on Chemicals Community Discussion Summary

Title	The Gender Action Plan of the Global Framework on Chemicals
Date & Time	30 May 2025, 14:00 – 15:30 (UTC+2)
Recording	https://youtu.be/bFxJwUlk-5o (Unlisted)
GFC CoP	ggkp.org/ChemAndWasteCoP

The community discussion gathered relevant stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC). The GAP was mandated by ICCM5's Resolution V/4 to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in chemicals and waste management. The consultation aimed to gather input on the draft GAP and foster multi-stakeholder engagement in its development and implementation.

Opening Remarks

Kay Williams, Head of the GFC Secretariat, emphasized that gender equality must be integrated from the outset of GFC implementation—not as an afterthought, but as a core element of achieving transformational change. She highlighted the need for inclusive policy-making, particularly for women and marginalized communities, to ensure effective and equitable chemical safety.

Presentation of the Draft Gender Action Plan

Maria Eugenia Gonzalez Anaya, consultant to MSP Institute, presented the draft GAP, developed in consultation with the GFC Secretariat. She outlined:

- **Objectives:** Aligning the GAP with the GFC's five strategic objectives.
- **Structure:** Actions categorized under legal frameworks, data generation, education, policy development, stakeholder engagement, and resource mobilization.
- **Key Elements:**
 - Gender-disaggregated data and impact assessments
 - Inclusive legal and institutional frameworks
 - Capacity building and gender-balanced leadership
 - Coordination with other MEAs and UN agencies
 - Transparent monitoring and accountability

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She also noted common challenges, including data gaps, lack of dedicated funding, and underrepresentation of women in decision-making processes.

Stakeholder Responses

Government

Miriam Medel Garcia, Head of Health and Environment, Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva, emphasized the GAP as a political and ethical imperative. Key recommendations included:

- Prioritizing gender-disaggregated data and awareness campaigns
- Embedding gender in national regulatory frameworks
- Ensuring meaningful participation of women and girls, including indigenous and marginalized groups

Civil Society

Tripti Arora, Gender Coordinator, International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), commended the GAP and proposed enhancements:

- Align with CEDAW and human rights frameworks
- Institutionalize civil society participation
- Promote gender-aware labeling of consumer products
- Allocate predictable funding to women-led initiatives

Academia

Sherika Whitelocke- Ballingsingh, Caribbean Poison Information Network, stressed the need for robust gender-disaggregated data to assess differentiated health impacts and guide policy. She highlighted occupational health disparities and called for gender-sensitive risk assessments and education.

Private Sector

Alexandra McPherson, Director of the Investor Environmental Health Network (IEHN) for Clean Production Action discussed the following points:

- Support for market-based tools like the Chemical Footprint Project
- Best practices from U.S. states on banning hazardous substances in women-targeted products
- Opportunities to focus on safer, more equitable value chains in retail, agriculture, and personal care

Children and Youth

Shannon Lisa, Representative, Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform called for:

- Intersectional approaches recognizing age, race, gender identity
- Youth inclusion across implementation and monitoring

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- Indicators capturing qualitative impacts and leadership representation
- Avoiding tokenistic inclusion of youth and ensuring substantive roles

International Organization/UN Agency

Ana Paula Souza, Human Rights Officer, Environment and Climate Change Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recommended:

- Stronger integration of human rights and intersectionality
- Specific references to vulnerable groups (e.g., women of African descent, rural communities, LGBTQ+)
- Disaggregated data by age, ethnicity, and disability
- Ensuring access to information and participation in decision-making

Inputs and Comments

Participants raised critical points and questions, including:

- **Non-binary and gender-diverse persons**
 - There was a comment on the need to recognize the exposure risks and specific health vulnerabilities of non-binary individuals who may use more chemical-laden products.
 - *Response:* The drafters acknowledged this gap and referenced efforts to align language with accepted UN frameworks such as “gender in all its diversity” from BRS and Minamata GAPs, while balancing the need for consensus at OEWG.
- **Grassroots capacity building and funding access:**
 - One of the participants shared a proposal for empowering rural women through life skills and environmental awareness programs, requesting guidance on partnerships and funding.
 - *Response:* Participants recommended linking with national ministries and joining knowledge networks such as GGKP for resource mobilization and partnership building.
- **Chemical exposure through plastics:**
 - Attendees raised concerns over widespread use of PET plastic packaging and its risks.
 - *Response:* The importance of focusing on plastics in future implementation activities was acknowledged, especially considering their gender-differentiated impacts.

Next Steps

- Continued consultations and discussions at the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG1) in June 2025 in Uruguay.
- Stakeholders were encouraged to submit written comments to the GFC Secretariat.

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- The GAP will be further refined based on inputs received during this webinar, written submissions, and the OEWG deliberations.
- Coalition-building across stakeholder groups was emphasized as critical to ensure a strong, widely supported GAP for eventual adoption at the next ICCM.
- The consultation demonstrated wide support for the GAP and a shared commitment to ensuring gender equality is embedded in global chemical and waste management. Stakeholders provided actionable insights to strengthen the draft plan and called for inclusive, rights-based, and well-resourced implementation strategies. The webinar reaffirmed the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration in shaping a transformative and inclusive Global Framework on Chemicals.

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