

TG2 Mechanisms to support implementation

OUTCOME
3rd March 2023

VI. Issues of Concern

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 cycle of chemicals [and waste⁷] which has not yet been generally recognized, is insufficiently addressed 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. Nomination, selection, and adoption of Issues

2. To nominate an issue, the nominating stakeholder should submit the information laid out in Part 1 of Annex A.
3. In accordance with Part II of Annex A, nominations will be reviewed by the Secretariat and circulated to all stakeholders.
4. Nominations will be considered by the Conference at its regular meetings.
5. The Conference should:
 - a. select and adopt [Issues of Concern] [Priority Issues for International Action] by a resolution of the Conference. If several issues are nominated, the Conference, when considering nominations, may choose to prioritise the issues [that are most important to protect human health and the environment and where the most progress can be made under this instrument, taking into account the precautionary approach, as appropriate¹];
 - b. establish an ad hoc multi-stakeholder working group for each issue, unless decided otherwise by the Conference. The Conference should consider whether specific sector engagement should be encouraged and the potential for lead organisations and/or contributing stakeholders for the work (see B(2)(i));
 - c. identify, where possible, specific activities or actions and related timelines for each issue adopted that the Conference believes likely to contribute to the success of the work under this issue and instrument based on the submission of information and recommend consideration of such activities or actions and related timelines to the ad hoc multi-stakeholder working group; and
 - d. carefully consider, when identifying the proposed deadline, the information provided in the submission of information, in particular in any proposed workplan (see B(2)(h)).

¹ The brackets in this paragraph belong to one stakeholder

6. The ad hoc multi-stakeholder working groups are to:
 - a. develop, if not already available, a workplan to achieve the proposed timelines for action agreed to by the Conference. Such workplan should include targets and indicators specific to each issue to allow for results to be assessed. If the submitted information includes a workplan, the ad hoc multi-stakeholder working groups may, as needed, further refine such workplan;
 - b. encourage effective implementation of the workplan by stakeholders;
 - c. coordinate, as appropriate, with other relevant bodies to maximize efforts to achieve the proposed timelines for action established by the Conference and to avoid duplication of work;
 - d. [monitor and] report on progress to the Conference at regular intervals, taking into account any targets or indicators present in the workplan; and
 - e. make recommendations, as needed, for further consideration by the Conference

C. Mechanisms for implementation

7. Workplans to guide implementation of issues of concern are addressed in Part III of Annex A.
8. The ad hoc multi-stakeholder working groups, with support of the secretariat, should oversee monitoring and reporting back from stakeholders and encourage implementation of the workplan through regular reports on progress to meetings of the Conference and periodic reviews within intersessional periods, as identified in the workplan or as requested by the Conference.
9. The International Conference may determine the need for further work on an issue based on a full explanation of the rationale and recommendations on a way forward, including options on how to reach the defined targets for the Issue of Concern, provided by the ad hoc multi-stakeholder working group, with support by the secretariat, following the progress evaluation of the activities carried out in accordance with the workplan for the Issue of Concern.
10. The Conference may decide to conclude work on a particular issue.

ANNEX A

Part I

Submission of Information

1. 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 workplan, including potential targets, indicators and timelines for implementation of the proposed issue.
 - i. Identification of potential lead organisation(s) and opportunities for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement.
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Part II**(i) Nomination of issues**

2. The process for nominating issues is open to any stakeholder. The nomination procedure will be made available on the website.
3. To promote communication about the nomination:
 - a. Nominations should be submitted to the secretariat no later than six months prior to a meeting of the Conference.
 - b. Nominations should be communicated by the secretariat to all stakeholders, including to all Focal Points.
 - c. Regions may wish to add the subject to relevant regional meeting agendas.

(ii) Initial review and publication of nominations

4. The secretariat will check nominations for completeness with the aim of assisting proponents in their nominations, if possible. Proponents should be contacted to provide missing or additional 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The secretariat [will invite further comments on the revised nominations and] [make available the] nominations [, annotated with a summary of information]. The secretariat will make [available the] [nominations] and the comments provided by stakeholders publicly available at least six weeks in advance of the international conference.

Part III

Workplans

8. Implementation of actions to address issues is guided by a work plan with clear timelines and milestones;
9. 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.

