

Main contributions of relevant stakeholders toward National Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)

November 2024

Policy Dialogue on Chemicals and the Environment

In September 2023, the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) – For a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste - was adopted at the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5). The GFC is a voluntary framework by multi-stakeholders (Governments, intergovernmental stakeholders, civil society, industry, academia, etc.) for the management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, from manufacture through use in products to disposal by various stakeholders in multi-sectors (environmental, economic, social, health, agriculture, labor, etc.). The GFC has five strategic objectives and 28 individual targets. For the implementation of the GFC in Japan, each stakeholder must take action and cooperate to achieve these GFC targets.

Accordingly, the Policy Dialogue on Chemicals and the Environment was organized in February ¹⁾ and November ²⁾ 2024 to discuss the GFC and to collect examples of efforts related to chemicals management by participants from various sectors³⁾. Based on the information collected, the contributions of each stakeholder to the implementation of each GFC target within Japan were summarized as follows ³⁾. Although the stakeholders that will play a central role, such as "industry" and "citizen groups," were explicitly indicated, these stakeholders desirably collaborate with other stakeholders.

Strategic Objective A

Legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities are in place to support and achieve the safe and sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.

Target A1	By 2030, Governments have adopted and are implementing and enforcing legal frameworks, and have established appropriate institutional capacity to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste as appropriate for their national circumstances.
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Initiatives (Type of stakeholder)

- Development of local ordinances on chemicals management and implementation of measures based on these ordinances (local governments)
- Dialogues between the government and other stakeholders for more rational enforcement (all stakeholders)

¹⁾ The 19th Policy Dialogue on Chemicals and the Environment (February 28, 2024). Links for proceedings and documents are below: <https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/communication/seisakutaiwa/siryoku/19.html>

²⁾ The 20th Policy Dialogue on Chemicals and the Environment (November 12, 2024). Links for proceedings and documents are below: <https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/communication/seisakutaiwa/siryoku/20.html>

³⁾ The following items were excerpted from "3. Grouping the GFC Strategic Objectives by Efforts undertaken by Each Stakeholder" in Document 2 "Targets and Efforts by Each Stakeholder under the GFC" at the 19th Policy Dialogue on Chemicals and the Environment (held on February 28, 2024) and edited as necessary. (Source: <https://www.env.go.jp/content/000202544.pdf>).

Each of the four types of stakeholders (Governments, intergovernmental stakeholders, companies/the private sector, and relevant stakeholders/sectors) is highlighted.

Target A2	By 2030, intergovernmental stakeholders develop guidelines to support the needs of interested Governments and relevant stakeholders to implement effective chemicals and waste management strategies, building on, among other things, updates of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management.
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Target A3	By 2030, companies implement measures identified to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals throughout their life cycle.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- Promotion of "Responsible Care" activities, which involve voluntary chemicals management throughout their life cycle, publication of results and dialogue with society (Industries).

Target A4	By 2030, stakeholders have effectively prevented all illegal trade and traffic of chemicals and waste.
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Target A5	By 2030, Governments work towards notifying, regulating or prohibiting the export of chemicals they have prohibited nationally, in line with their international obligations.
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Target A6	By 2030, all countries have access to poison centers equipped with essential capabilities to prevent and respond to poisonings, as well as access to training in chemical risk prevention and clinical toxicology.
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Target A7	By 2035, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available, and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives.
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Strategic Objective B

Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions.

Target B1	By 2035, comprehensive data and information on the properties of chemicals are generated and made available and accessible.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- Development of information infrastructure necessary for the management of chemicals and

utilization (Webkis-Plus, etc.) (Research institutions)

Target B2	By 2030, stakeholders make available, to the extent possible, reliable information on chemicals in materials and products throughout the value chain.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- Establishment and operation of information communication systems on chemicals in products throughout the supply chain (chemSHERPA, IMDS) (Industries)
- Preparation, management and disclosure (GPS/JIPS, GADSL, etc.) of information on chemicals in products (information on the content of controlled substances, safety, etc.) (Industries)
- Research and trial on a tracing system for chemicals in products that contributes to realizing the circular economy (Academia)
- Establishment of voluntary standards for disclosure of information on chemicals in products (Industries)

Target B3	By 2035, stakeholders generate data on the production of chemicals, including the use of chemicals in materials and products, in addition to data on emissions and releases of chemicals and waste to the environment, making these data available and publicly accessible.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- Analysis and dissemination of PRTR data in a communicable format (study groups, workshops, etc.) (Citizen Groups)

Target B4	By 2035, stakeholders appropriate guidelines, best available practices and standardized tools for hazard and risk assessment and chemical and waste management.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- Establishment and publication of guidelines for the management of chemicals in products (Industries)
- Publication and management of the Assessment Support Portal Site of Chemicals Risk (JCIA BIGDr) (Industries)
- Promotion of continuous assessments of the safety of their products by (Industries)

Target B5	By 2030, educational, training and public awareness programmes on chemical safety, sustainability, safer alternatives and the benefits of reducing chemicals and waste risks have been developed and implemented, taking into consideration a gender-responsive approach.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)	
	● Disclosure of information on products and risk communication by companies (Industries)
	● Organization of seminars/forums and poster contests on the chemicals management (Industries)
	● Arrangement of public lectures, seminars and study groups to deepen citizens' understanding of chemicals. Creation and utilization of educational pamphlets and posters. Series of columns in institutional magazines (Citizen Groups).
	● Efforts to call vicinal residents' attention based on the results of environmental monitoring (Local Governments)
	● Establishment of a forum for dialogue between industries and consumers. Risk communication in the community (Citizen Groups)

Target B6	By 2030, all Governments have implemented the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in all relevant sectors as appropriate for their national circumstances.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)	
	● Efforts related to product labeling (voluntary trial of the GHS, voluntary standardization of safety symbols) (Industries)

Target B7	By 2030, stakeholders generate, to the extent possible, and make available comprehensive and accessible monitoring and surveillance data and information on concentrations and potential exposure sources of chemicals in humans (disaggregated by sex, age, region, other demographic factors, and other relevant health determinants as feasible), other biota and environmental media.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)	
	● Voluntary monitoring survey on everyday products and environment (Citizen Groups)
	● Survey of ecological impacts related to chemicals of concern (Research institutions)
	● Implementation of periodic environmental monitoring in local governments (Local Governments)
	● Voluntary environmental monitoring and risk assessment, and disclosure of results (Industries)

Strategic Objective C

Issues of concern are identified, prioritized and addressed.

Target C1	Processes and programmes of work including timelines are established, adopted and implemented for identified issues of concern.
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Strategic Objective D

Safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions in product value chains are in place so that benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where prevention is not feasible, minimized.

Target D1	By 2030, companies consistently invest in and achieve innovations towards advancing sustainable chemistry and resource efficiency throughout the life cycle of chemicals.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- Promotion of sustainable chemistry through voluntary certification systems and the development and promotion of products that contribute to the improved resource efficiency. (Industries)
- Promotion of resource efficiency by setting and implementing plastic container reduction targets (Industries)
- Establishment and promotion of voluntary standards and guidelines for environmentally friendly design of containers and other products (Industries)

Target D2	By 2035, Governments implement policies that encourage production using safer alternatives and sustainable approaches throughout the life cycle, including best available techniques, green procurement and circular economy approaches.
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Target D3	By 2030, the private sector, including the finance sector, incorporates strategies and policies to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste in its finance approaches and business models and applies internationally recognized or equivalent reporting standards.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- The sound management of chemicals and waste is properly reflected in non-financial information assessments and conducts appropriate engagement (Finance Industry)
- Investments and loans to promote sustainable chemistry and resource efficiency (Finance Industry)

Target D4	By 2030, relevant stakeholders give priority to sustainable solutions and safer alternatives to harmful substances in products and mixtures, including in consumer products, in their research and innovation programmes.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- Long-range Research Initiative (Industries)
- Promotion of research and development on safety, toxicity assessment tests and ecological

risk assessment of chemicals (Research Institutions)

Target D5	By 2030, Governments implement policies and programmes to increase support to safer and more sustainable agricultural practices, including agroecology, integrated pest management and the use of non-chemical alternatives, as appropriate.
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Target D6	By 2030, sustainable chemical and waste management strategies have been developed and implemented for major economic and industry sectors that identify priority chemicals of concern and standards and measures, such as the chemical footprint approach, to reduce their impact and, where feasible, their input along the value chain.
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Target D7	By 2030, stakeholders implement measures and strive to ensure effective occupational health and safety practices as well as environmental protection measures in all relevant sectors and throughout the supply chain.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- Implementation of chemical risk assessments in workplaces (Industries)
- Establishment of guidelines for initiatives related to occupational health and safety (Labor Organizations)
- Implementation of periodic surveys on occupational health and safety in workplaces to understand the state and identify issues (Labor Organizations)
- Organization of periodic meetings and workshops on occupational safety and health by labor organizations (Labor Organizations)
- Health and safety training for all workers in workplaces (Industries)

Strategic Objective E

Enhanced implementation occurs through increased and effective resource mobilization, partnerships, cooperation, capacity-building, and integration into all relevant decision-making processes.

Target E1	By 2035, Governments have mainstreamed the sound management of chemicals and waste through implementation in all relevant sectoral plans, budgets and development plans and development assistance policies and programmes.
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Target E2	By 2030, partnerships and networks among sectors and stakeholders are strengthened to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

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- Establishment and promotion of a study group for collaboration among stakeholders (Industries)
 - Policy recommendations on various systems for the sound management of chemicals and waste (Citizen Groups)
 - Promotion of communication between citizens, PRTR reporting companies and governments (Citizen Groups)
 - Dissemination of information on initiatives through international conferences, and industrial associations (Industries)
 - International research partnerships (e.g., surveys on the use of chemicals of concern in collaboration with NGOs in Asia) (Citizen Groups)
 - Build partnerships with overseas institutions, including those in Asia (Industries)
 - Promotion of environmental partnerships and support for ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) activities (Citizen Groups)
 - Building partnerships based among pollution reference libraries (Citizen Groups)
 - Consensus building and policy recommendations through the Policy Dialogue on Chemicals and the Environment (All Stakeholders)
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Target E3	Adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources from all sources needed to support achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste are identified and mobilized in alignment with the vision, strategic objectives and targets of the Framework in all sectors by and for all stakeholders , including by leveraging private finance and promoting innovative and blended-finance schemes.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

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- The sound management of chemicals and waste is properly reflected in non-financial information assessments and conducts appropriate engagement (Finance Industry)
 - Educational activities to encourage not only investment but also indirect finance (e.g., Principles for Financial Action for the 21st Century) (Financial Industry)
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Target E4	Funding gaps for the implementation of sound management of chemicals and waste are identified and considered for capacity-building, including through the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

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- Capacity building activities through the ICCA ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Project (ARCP) (Industries)
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Target E5	By 2030, Governments have taken measures to put in place policies to internalize the costs of the sound management of chemicals and waste through different approaches.
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Target E6	By 2030, stakeholders identify and strengthen, as appropriate, synergies and linkages between chemicals and waste management and other key environmental, health and labour policies, such as those related to climate change solutions, biodiversity conservation, human rights protection, universal health coverage or primary health care.
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Initiatives (Type of Stakeholder)

- Forecast of issues and promotion of mainstreaming of the chemicals management in policies on carbon neutrality and resource circulation (All Stakeholders)
- Literacy developing programs on impacts of chemicals on biodiversity (Research Institutions)