First International Conference

Global Framework on Chemicals

Tracking progress | Accelerating action | Investing for impact

16–20 November 2026 | Geneva, Switzerland

High-Level Dialogue

18 November – 19 November 2026

Provisional Programme

Together for a Better Future by Design

Overview: The High-Level Dialogue will commence on Wednesday, 18 November at 15:00 and conclude at 13:00 CET on Thursday, 19 November 2026. It will consist of themed conversations and roundtable discussions on the Conference themes, framed around the Framework's Strategic Objectives. The outcome of the Dialogue will be an understanding of the urgency, opportunities and shared responsibility for advancing implementation of the Framework and will produce a concise document highlighting priority areas, as well as where political, corporate and civil society attention, cooperation, and acceleration are required.

Wednesday, 18 November 2026 – Open session in plenary Plenary Room A, The International Conference Centre, Geneva	
15:00 – 15:05	Welcome • **Femi Oke,** Moderator
15:05 – 15:20	**Opening remarks – UNEP, WHO and ILO** • **Ms. Inger Anderson,** UNEP; (Video) • **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,** WHO (TBC); and • **Mr. Gilbert Houngbo,** ILO (TBC)
15:20 – 15:30	**Keynote** • **Joseph Nguthiru,** UNEP Young Champion of the Earth
15:30 – 17:45	**Themed conversations:** *A series of three conversations designed to surface differing-perspectives among stakeholders, including trade-offs and barriers to advancing implementation, with a view to identify practical pathways, shared priorities and constructive solutions. Each conversation will include opportunities for audience interaction.* **Conversation 1: Transparency without overload** *A conversation on the product information and data needed to track progress credibly and determining what product and chemicals information flows across value chains are needed without overwhelming key stakeholders.* • **Karen S. Carter,** CEO, DOW Inc. • **Dr. Marcus L. Natta,** Cabinet Secretary and GEF Political Focal Point, Saint Kitts and Nevis • **Veronica Manfredi,** Director for Zero Pollution, Water Resilience & Green Urban Transition, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission • **Marcia Frieze**, CEO, Case Medical

	• **Yuliya Lobuntsova,** Deputy Executive Director, Center for Cooperation for Sustainable Development (Center CSD)
	Conversation 2: Green and Sustainable Chemistry: solution or pipedream? *With global chemical production projected to double by 2030, preventing harm by design is becoming increasingly important. This conversation explores how green and sustainable chemistry can accelerate safer alternatives, product redesign and pollution prevention, while strengthening innovation, competitiveness, and resilient value chains, and what is needed to scale these approaches.* • **Dr. John Warner,** Leader in Green and Sustainable Chemistry • **Ravi Kapoor,** Chairman, Sustainability Expert Committee, Indian Chemical Council • **Amber Wellman,** Vice-President, Sustainability, Qnity • **Dr. Bethanie Carney Almroth,** Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes
	Conversation 3: De-risking the Future: Investing beyond hazardous chemicals *Building on the outcomes of the Berlin Forum, this dialogue focuses on how public policy, development finance and private capital can be better aligned with safer chemicals, circular value chains, and pollution prevention. It examines the enabling policies, partnerships, and market conditions needed to unlock investment and scale practical solutions.* • **Pradeep Kurukulasuriya,** Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund (TBC) • Minister (TBC) • **Ruchi Tripathi,** Director Climate and Nature, Global Alliance for the Future of Food
17.45 – 18:00	**Closing of session** • Mr. Diego Mesa Puyo, CEO, Global Environment Facility (GEF) (TBC)
18:30 – 21:00	**Dinner (by invitation only)**
Thursday, 19 November 2026 – Closed session (by invitation only) InterContinental, Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 7, 1209 Geneva,	
9:30 – 10.00	**Welcome and opening remarks** **High-level photo**
10:00 – 1:00	**Leadership experiences, roundtables, and interactive discussions** • *Introduction to the roundtables* • *Multisectoral roundtables will discuss the urgency of acting now, acknowledging the opportunities and challenges ahead, with a view to finding partnership solutions and identifying priorities. These discussions will highlight the priorities for action given the different regional and sectoral realities.* • *Reporting back and synthesis of roundtable discussions and outcomes*

Note: Representatives may submit statements to gfc-submissions@un.org *for uploading to the Conference website as there will not be any formal statements within the agenda. Kindly refer to the International Conference website for further details.*