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

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** • **Ms. Inger Anderson,** Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); (Video) • **Dr. Bruce Aylward,** Assistant Director-General of Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Care, World Health Organization (WHO) • **Mr. Gilbert Houngbo,** Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO) (Video) and **Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary,** Federal Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Pakistan
15:20 – 15:30	**Keynote Speech** • **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.*

	• **Marcia Frieze**, Chief Executive Officer, Case Medical • **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 • **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.* • **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 • **Dr. John Warner,** Leader in Green and Sustainable Chemistry • **Ravi Kapoor,** Chairman, Sustainability Expert Committee, Indian Chemical Council
	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.* • **Kenji Shundo,** Chief Risk Manager, United Nations Capital Development Fund • **Ruchi Tripathi,** Director Climate and Nature, Global Alliance for the Future of Food • **Dr. Wesley Brooks,** Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, United States
17.45 – 18:00	**Final remarks and closing of session** • **Karen S. Carter,** Chief Executive Officer, DOW • **Dr. Tadesse Amera,** Executive Director, PAN-Ethiopia
High-Level Dinner – by invitation only **Restaurant Vieux Bois, Ecole Hôtelière de Genève, Av. de la Paix 12, 1202 Genève**	
19:00 – 21:00	Remarks from: • **Dr. Kay Williams,** Head, GFC Secretariat

	• **Marco Mensink,** Director General of the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) & Council Secretary, International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)
Thursday, 19 November 2026 – Closed roundtable session (by invitation) **InterContinental, Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 7, 1209 Geneva**	
9:30 – 10.00	**Welcome** • **Femi Oke,** Master of Ceremonies **Remarks and leadership experiences** • **Iury Valter de Sousa Santos,** Secretary of State for the Environment, Angola • **Dr. Rachel Clausing,** Special Advisor to the Vice President; Head of Initiatives, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation • **Liam O'Brien**, Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions • **Professor Seong-Kyu Kang,** President, International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) • **Dr. Markus Kamieth,** ICCA President and Chief Executive Officer, BASF **High-Level Photo**
10:00 – 12:45	**Multisectoral Roundtables, and interactive discussions** *The 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. Please refer to the High-Level Dialogue webpage for the guiding questions.* The round table discussions will include: • Opportunities and priorities • Challenges, enablers and incentives • Committing to action **Moderator: Dr. Rolph Payet,** Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
12:45 – 13:00	**Closing of session** • **Femi Oke,** Master of Ceremonies

Note: There will not be any formal statements during the High-Level Dialogue agenda. Representatives may submit statements to gfc-submissions@un.org for uploading to the Conference website. Kindly refer to the International Conference website for further details.