



# Global Chemicals Outlook-II

## Terms of Reference and Composition of the GCO-II Steering Committee (revised, February 2017)

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### 1. Background and context

At its twenty-seventh session (being its first session with universal membership), held on 18-22 February 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum welcomed the Global Chemicals Outlook, recognized the significance of its findings, and "requested the Executive Director to continue work on the GCO, particularly in areas where data were found to be lacking or inadequate, and to enhance transparency through regionally balanced stakeholder involvement, inter alia, with a view to developing in the future a tool for assessing progress towards the achievement of the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, including the existing 2020 goal, taking into account and building upon other existing sources of information".

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), through Resolution 2/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste "recalled the request to the Executive Director, in Governing Council decision 27/12, to continue work on the Global Chemicals Outlook, particularly in areas where data were found to be lacking or inadequate, to assess progress towards the 2020 goal".

Furthermore, the Executive Director was requested "to submit by the end of 2018 an update of the Global Chemicals Outlook, including a summary for policymakers, addressing inter alia the work carried out particularly in relation to lacking or inadequate data to assess progress towards the 2020 goal, the development of non-chemical alternatives, and the linkages between chemicals and waste, in coordination with the Global Waste Management Outlook, and providing scientific input and options for implementation of actions to reach relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets up to and beyond 2020". The resolution also requested "the Executive Director to ensure that the updated Global Chemicals Outlook addresses the issues which have been identified as emerging policy issues by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as well as other issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment".

### 2. Purpose and Composition

The GCO-II Steering Committee is an advisory body to the UN Environment, Division of Economy, Chemicals and Waste Branch to support the development of the GCO-II. It provides strategic directions and guidance on all aspects of GCO-II development, as well as technical inputs, where applicable.

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from governments, non-government organizations (including civil society, industry/private sector, and academia) and inter-governmental organizations.

In identifying members, all efforts were made to establish a regionally-, gender-, sector- and competence/skills-balanced Committee.

The Steering Committee includes at least two representatives per UN region, and reflects a balanced representation between developed countries and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and a balanced representation between governments and other stakeholders.

The Steering Committee members possess broad areas of expertise or discipline relevant to the preparation of GCO-II.

### **3. Responsibilities of the Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee is responsible for:

- a. reviewing and adopting its Terms of Reference;
- b. providing guidance on all aspects of planning and implementing the GCO-II;
- c. reviewing the proposed outline of the GCO-II and advising on the structure and scope of review papers and the final GCO-II;
- d. seeking to reconcile and resolve differences in opinions and approaches, whenever possible.

### **4. Responsibilities of Steering Group Members**

The role of the individual member of the Steering Committee includes:

- a. participating in Steering Committee meetings;
- b. providing inputs to and reviewing written outputs prepared for the GCO-II;
- c. consulting with other stakeholders, such as developing countries and countries with economies in transition, academic institutions, industry associations, professional organisations, and relevant public interest NGOs in order to broaden the range of perspectives;
- d. Supporting and contributing to Secretariat's communication and outreach efforts to promote and disseminate the GCO-II development and outcomes;
- e. promoting the strategic relevance and outcomes of the GCO-II.

Individual members are committed to:

- a. providing guidance to the Secretariat and authors during and between meetings of the Committee;
- b. checking adherence of project activities to standards of best practice.

### **5. Responsibilities of the Secretariat**

The secretariat for GCO-II is provided by the UN Environment, Economy Division, Chemicals and Waste Branch.

The secretariat will be responsible for:

- a. organizing the meetings of the Steering Committee;
- b. providing suggestions on content and direction;
- c. proposing and implementing a communication strategy to promote and disseminate the GCO-II development and outcomes;
- d. providing timely updates on progress;

- e. informing of any significant changes to the work time line;
- f. editing final content and publishing GCO-II

## 6. Steering Group Meetings

GCO-II Steering Committee meetings are held at least once a year, or when major milestones are reached.

It is anticipated that the Steering Committee will not meet more than four times over the period December 2016 - December 2018. Teleconference calls will be held as needed during this time frame. Careful attention should be held on scheduling the timing of the Steering Committee meeting in light of the expected busy calendar related to the many chemicals and waste related upcoming international events and conferences.

GCO-II Steering Committee meetings will be co-moderated by experts identified by the secretariat. Moderators may include members of the Steering Committee.

To the greatest extent possible, the Steering Committee will achieve consensus. Where Steering Committee members disagree, statements of majority and minority opinions, or dissenting statements will be included in written outputs.

## 7. GCO-II Milestones

October 2016	Steering committee established
15-16 December 2016	First meeting of the Steering Committee
May 2017	Second meeting of the Steering Committee
March 2018	Global GCO-II workshop/ consultation
June 2018	Third meeting of the Steering Committee
September 2018	GCO-II summary report

## Members of the GCO-II Steering Committee

(revised, February 2017)

As recommended by the first Steering Committee, this provisional list should include the following additional representatives whose names should be proposed by the Secretariat to be adopted by the committee at its second meeting:

- A private sector member representing the “downstream user” or companies using chemicals in their products
- A government representative from the Latin American and Caribbean region to be added to increase the regional representation

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