Financing GFC Implementation

Thursday 19 November, 2026 13-15 – 14 :45 CET
Plenary Room B, Centre International de Conferences Geneve (CICG) and online

Finance has a critical role to play in advancing the objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), including supporting the transition towards safer chemicals and sustainable chemicals and waste management. Achieving these objectives will require mobilizing additional public and private finance, redirecting existing financial flows, addressing investment barriers and strengthening the enabling conditions for financing the transition. This session will examine emerging financial-sector practices, gaps in integrating chemicals-related considerations into financial decision-making, and opportunities to scale action.

The session will build on the work undertaken by the GFC Private Sector Financing and Investment Workstream, a multistakeholder group convened by UNEP FI under the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) Implementation Programme. The session, organized with co-leads of the Workstream, will bring together representatives from financial institutions, international organizations, industry, civil society, academia and other stakeholders to examine both system-level financing solutions and emerging financial institution practices. It will highlight key findings from the Workstream's report on “Financial Institutions’ Role in Driving the Transition to Safe and Sustainable Chemicals”, alongside practical examples of how financial institutions are integrating chemicals-related considerations into their financing and investment activities. It will also consider how policy coherence, regulatory clarity and improved access to information can help address investment barriers and create an enabling environment for financing the transition. The session will also showcase the GEF FARM Programme as an example of translating chemicals management objectives into sectoral implementation and efforts to accelerate transition towards safer alternatives in agriculture. The discussion will consider progress and persistent barriers in financial-sector action, particularly the need to strengthen the integration of chemicals-related considerations into financial decisions and improve the availability of reliable, decision-useful data and disclosure. It will also identify opportunities for the GFC to support and scale financial-sector action, including potential next steps for the Private Sector Financing and Investment Workstream and broader GFC implementation.

Session flow:

Time	Duration	Segment	Speaker
13:15 - 13:25	10 min	**Opening remarks**	Tsitsi Griffiths, Federated Hermes
13:25 - 13:35	10 min	**Keynote address**: The role of finance in GFC implementation	Eric Usher, UNEP FI
13:35 - 13:45	10 min	**Policy perspective:** Creating enabling conditions for financing the transition	Eeva Leinala, OECD
13:45 - 14:05	20 min	**Financial institutions in action**: Emerging practices and lessons learned	• Arthur van Mansvelt, Achmea • Yan Dong, Research Institute for Environmental Innovation (Suzhou), Tsinghua University • Eve Gleeson, Share Action • Benjamin Warr, UNEP FI, GEF-FARM
14:05 - 14:25	20 min	**What broader evidence reveals**: Financial-sector progress, gaps and opportunities	• Rachel Crossley, BNPP AM • Alexandra McPherson, CPA
14:25 -14:40	15 min	**Discussion**	Moderated by Rory Sullivan, Chronos Sustainability
14:40 - 14:45	5 min	**Closing reflections**: Key messages and way forward	Peggy Lefort, UNEP FI