



Division of Environmental Health  
School of Public Health and Family Medicine  
Isikolo Sempilo Yoluntu kunye Namayeza Osapho  
Departement Openbare Gesondheid en Huisartskunde



WELCOME  
TO THE  
SAICM/UCT  
CHEMICALS IN  
PRODUCTS  
COMMUNITY OF  
PRACTICE

This activity is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project ID: 9771 on *Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*.

Introduce yourself (name, job title, organization and country) in the **chat section**.

**Only** the presenter and facilitator will speak. Any comments or questions from attendees should be typed in the **chat section**.

Please kindly keep you microphone muted and cameras off during the **discussion**

**NOTE:**

If you are having **technical issues**, please join the Chemicals in Products WhatsApp group, using this link, and we will assist you:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DVwGix7x04d1Q9b5usaJcr>

**Discussion 3:**

*Topic: Managing PFAS as a Chemical Class in the Textile Sector.*

- Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Time: 16:00pm – 17:30pm (GMT+2)
- Presenter: Yiliqi, National Resource Defense Council
- Facilitator: Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town
- Chair: Maxine Brassell, MPH student, University of Cape Town

# Chemicals in Products Community of Practice

## **Discussion 3:**

### **Managing PFAS as a Chemical Class in the Textiles Sector**

**PRESENTER**

**Yiliqi**

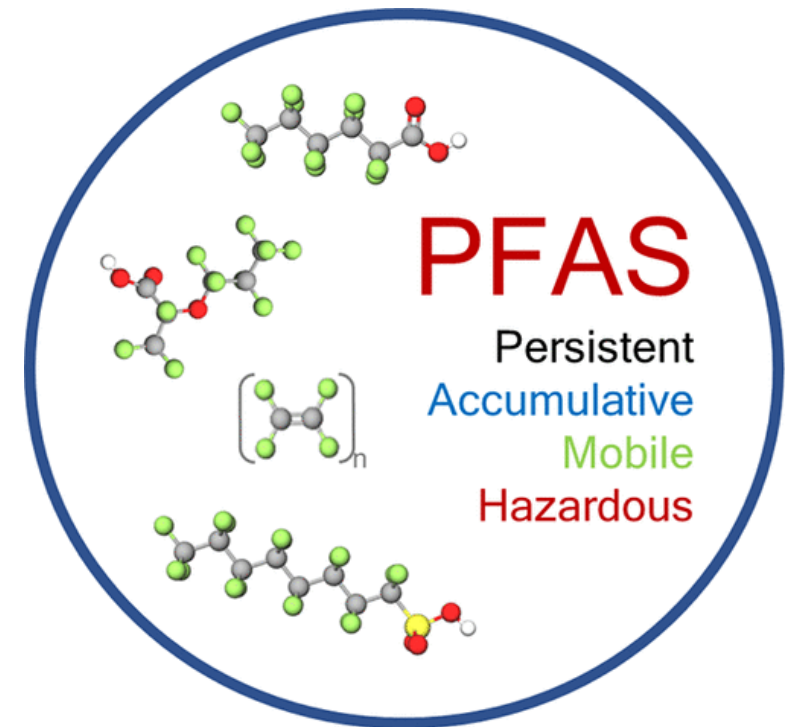
National Resource Defense  
Council

# Introduction:

Presented by: Yiliqi, NRDC

Textile industry, as one of the priority sectors SAICM focuses on, uses huge amount of chemicals across the production stages to achieve various appearance, quality, and functions.

PFAS as one large chemical class that is toxic, persistent, mobile, and accumulative are widely used in this sector. With growing global attention and efforts on eliminating PFAS, a class-based approach is considered efficient and effective.



- Identify the best approach to reducing PFAS exposure and pollution associated with the textile sector
  - Exchange the importance of managing PFAS as a chemical class in the textile industry
  - Share accomplishments, challenges, and recommendations

Aim of this  
discussion



# Background to Question 1:

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are:

- a large family of thousands of synthetic chemicals that are widely used throughout society and found in the environment
  - extremely persistent “forever chemicals”
  - toxic and harmful at extremely low doses
  - highly mobile: spread quickly throughout the environment and cause environmental and health issues globally
  - Extreme persistence and potential toxicity make all PFAS suspect, including the short-chain PFAS that are used as alternatives to substitute well studied long-chain PFAS like PFOS and PFOA
-



# Question 1:

- **How are PFAS actively monitored and managed in your country, regions, or sector? What have been the accomplishments and challenges in your related work?**
- If you have any questions regarding the class-based approach, please put them in the chat.

This question will be discussed for 25 minutes.

Please use chat only, mute your microphone, and turn your video off.

Thank you!

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# Background to Question 2

PFAS are emitted into the environment throughout a products' life cycle, including:

- Chemical production
- Product manufacturing
- Distribution
- Use
- Disposal
- Recycling





## Question 2:

- Who are the stakeholders involved in managing PFAS emissions and exposure either from applying PFAS in the manufacturing process or from using a product containing PFAS?
- What actions have these stakeholders undertaken to deal with this issue?

This question will be discussed for 25 minutes.

Please use chat only, mute your microphone, and turn your video off.

Thank you!

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## Background to Question 3:

- PFAS are widely applied to textile products to achieve water-, oil-, and stain- repellent
  - Some PFAS use in the textile sector is deemed not essential
  - Safe alternative exist for achieving certain functions
  - Critical exemption
-



# Question 3:

## Essential use assessment

- Which product functions that PFAS provide are essential in your country?
- List which safer alternatives are available in your country. What are the barriers to eliminating the use of PFAS in textile products?

This question will be discussed for 25 minutes.

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Thank you!

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**THANK YOU**  
for attending the  
**Chemicals in Products**  
**CoP**  
**Discussion**

Please fill out the following survey to give feedback on today's discussion:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NUNFkk5Wz0ywsCREW4wD92pVK-1gQzNHIYW4qnca1WNUM1Q4Mki5NFdQUIFaSldMWTFOOVZQS0JIMyQIQCN0PWcu>

**This is our final discussion for 2020!**

**Our next discussion will take place in 2021.**

All resources and summaries of previous CiP CoP discussions are available at the following link:

<https://saicmknowledge.org/topic/community-practice>



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