

SAICM/UCT
Chemicals and Sustainable Development Goals (CSDG)
Community of Practice (CoP)

Discussion 2 Guide

Title	Brainstorming implementation of gender mainstreaming into national policies for the sound management of chemicals and waste
Date	30 September 2020
Time	14:00pm – 15:30pm (GMT +2)
Facilitator	Prof Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa
Presenter	Hanna-Andrea Rother, UCT; Brenda Koekkoek, UNEP; Anna Holthaus, MSP Institute
Chair	Ms Maxine Brassell, MPH Student, UCT, South Africa

NOTE:

- ✓ Since this is a discussion, we encourage you to **prepare** or at least think about the questions prior to joining.
- ✓ **This guide** lays out the background to the questions, presents the questions and provides resources if you should wish to read further on the issue.



Details for joining this discussion are below.

- For **technical assistance** on the day of the discussion go to the CSDG CoPWhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/BKTKGwt5cnNCgG9BOzYK1i>
- **Connect** with laptops/PCs rather than phones since the discussion is about typing.

PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES



Hanna-Andrea Rother is Professor and Head of the Environmental Health Division in the University of Cape Town's School of Public Health and Family Medicine. She has worked in the field of chemicals and pesticide risk management for over 30 years researching, teaching and conducting capacity building work (e.g., academic programmes, communities of practices, diverse training) in the areas of exposures, risk management, risk communication, policy development and analysis, and risk perceptions. Andrea holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sociology and has specialized in Environmental Health (including children and women's health) for the past 25 years.



Brenda Koekkoek is a Programme Management Officer at the SAICM secretariat and has worked in a leading role in the secretariat since 2012. Upon joining UNEP in 2006, she worked to establish and manage the Global Mercury Partnership and providing policy support to the negotiation process for the development of the Minamata Convention on mercury. Prior to UNEP, Brenda worked at Environment and Climate Change Canada on air quality and chemical related issues. Brenda holds a Bachelor degree in Environmental Engineering and a Master degree in Environmental Management.



Anna Holthaus is Project Coordinator of the MSP Institute, a small NGO working for high-quality multi-stakeholder processes for sustainable development. Within the project "Gender and Chemicals" she is doing advocacy work for the integration of gender aspects in international chemicals and waste management policies and implementation. Anna has a M.A. in Governing Sustainability and a B.Sc. in Environmental Sciences.

DISCUSSION INTRODUCTION

With the size of the global chemical industry projected to double by 2030, there is a growing concern for people working in chemically intensive sectors such as agriculture, construction, electronics and textiles. Women are also increasingly working in the informal sector and rarely receive basic training about the chemicals they use, which increases their vulnerability to related health risks.

Now more than ever, it is vital that measures are taken to ensure that the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups are met, when it comes to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Strong legislation, effective information systems, as well as scientific evidence and knowledge for chemicals, are at the core of the SAICM community efforts on Emerging Policy Issues and remain relevant in the future to protect human health and the environment from harmful effects of chemicals across the life-cycle. There are additional opportunities for strengthening focus on developing, collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data, indicators and other information to support decision-making.

In this discussion we would like all stakeholders to reflect on gendered legislation, policies and strategies to improve on exposures and risks that are falling through the gaps.

QUESTION 1 (14:05 GMT+2) – Andrea Rother

Background:

Gender inequalities regarding the management of chemicals and waste can have negative impacts on human health and the environment. Yet, specific and widespread knowledge on differentiated and long-term effects of chemicals on women and men, as well as comprehensive gender analysis of chemicals and waste management, is still lacking. As a consequence, national chemicals and waste legislation and policies are often *gender blind*. Some issues to think about in relation to gender differences that legislation could include are labelling, risk assessments, management and risk reduction mechanisms, and specific high exposure contexts (e.g., textiles production, agriculture, mining).

Question 1:

- **Do you think that national chemical legislation and policies should include gendered text?** Why or why not? Explain what you understand by “gender in your responses.”
- Discuss your opinions and thoughts around gender and chemicals and waste management.

Resources/Information for the Discussion:

- Tanzania strategy – PDF attached
- Regulating Toxics: Sex and Gender in Canada’s Chemicals Management Plan
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2441322

QUESTION 2 (14:30 GMT+2) – Brenda Koekkoek

Background:

Gender considerations have been increasingly incorporated into global multilateral environmental agreements, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Furthermore, in general, all of the SAICM emerging policy issues and other issues of concern have susceptibility and exposure considerations related to gender.

In moving forward, there are additional opportunities for strengthening focus on developing, collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data, indicators and other information to support decision-making and tap into the potential to address gender issues, promote equality, and protect disadvantaged populations in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Question 2:

- What kind of policies or processes related to gender are you planning in moving forward?
- What type of resources and support would you or your organization need to facilitate gendered chemicals legislation or policies?

Resources/Information for the Discussion:

- BRS Conventions:
 - Pocket Guide to the BRS Gender Action Plan (2019), p. 12 ff.
www.brsmeas.org/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-FAO-CHW-RC-POPS-Gender-PocketGuide-ActionPlan-2019.English.pdf
 - IUCN Global Gender Office (2017): Women's participation and gender considerations in country representation, planning and reporting to the BRS Conventions.
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2017-046.pdf>
- UNFCCC:
 - National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points.
<https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/resources/list-of-gender-focal-points-under-the-unfccc>
- Convention on Biological Diversity:
 - Fact Sheet: Gender and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). https://www.cbd.int/gender/doc/fs_uicn-cbd_nbsaps.pdf
- MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS TAGGED WITH GENDER
<https://www.informea.org/en/terms/gender>

QUESTION 3 (15:00 GMT+2) – Anna Holthaus

Background:

A *Road Map* is a publication serving as a communication medium and a guidance tool. It is characterised by its preparatory character and the rough planning of the steps to be taken over a longer period of time.

Since the WHO published its “WHO Chemicals Road Map” in 2017, which was very well received internationally, road maps have been discussed as tools to strengthen voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder global governance for the sound management of chemicals.

In the last discussion we want to brainstorm with you about a possible “Gender Road Map”. Anna from the MSP Institute is going to introduce the idea of such a guidance tool and presents a first draft version of it, focussing especially on the key role of the SAICM national focal points.

Question 3:

- What should be the first steps to integrate gender into national chemicals policy and what hurdles might arise?
- How could the SAICM community provide support, e.g. for the national focal points?

Resources/Information for the Discussion:

- MSP Institute: Gender Road Map (draft) http://gender-chemicals.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GenderRoadMap_MSPInstitute_draftfordiscussion.pdf
- WHO (2017): Chemicals Road MAP. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/273137/WHO-FWC-PHE-EPE-17.03-eng.pdf?ua=1>

Format of how the discussion will operate:

- To participate in this discussion, sign up at: <https://chemicalswithoutconcern.org/community>
- Should you require assistance or have questions, contact: uctcops@outlook.com
- This live discussion will be run in Microsoft Teams in the chat section on the set day. You will receive instructions prior to the discussion
- The discussion will take place in the chat section of MS Teams. Members will introduce themselves upon arrival into the chat room.
- The discussion presenter may briefly present a verbal introduction with the assumption that members have read the text below. In some cases, presenters will provide a voiced over PowerPoint introduction before the discussion.
- Three questions will be posted during the 1 ½ hour discussion with each receiving 30 minutes. The presenter/s will address questions and statements posted by members but the intention is that others will respond as well.
- All are welcome to join the discussion which will be held in English. Feel free to write in another language if you are struggling with English and members will assist where possible.

Instructions for joining this discussion on the set date:

This discussion will be held in **Microsoft (MS) Teams**.

- After joining the CoP, a link to this discussion will be circulated to you via email and sent out as an Outlook calendar invite.
- If your organisation already has MS Teams, you will need to switch from your organisations MS Teams to your University of Cape Town Guest Teams account in the following manner:
 - a. You can do this by going into your MS Teams and navigating to the top right corner of the page to where your profile picture is
 - b. Here you should see the name of your organisation and small arrow indicating a drop-down menu
 - c. Click on this arrow and choose “University of Cape Town”
- Find the email sent to you with the MS Teams link to this discussion.
- Click the link that says, “Join Microsoft Teams Meeting” and you should be taken into the discussion.

If you have not received an email with the link, make sure you are signed up for the Chemicals and Sustainable Development Goals Community of Practice or send an email to: uctcops@outlook.com