

## SAICM/UCT Chemicals and Sustainable Development Goals Community of Practice

### Discussion Forum

<b>Title</b>	<b>Accelerating the implementation of SDG 12.4</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>14:00 – 15:30 (GMT+2)</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Prof Andrea Rother, Univ. of Cape Town</b>
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Tessa Goverse, UNEP</b>
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Ms. Maxine Brassell, MPH student, Univ. Of Cape Town</b>

#### **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.** To participate in this discussion you will need to have signed up in advance at:  
<https://chemicalswithoutconcern.org/community>
- For **technical assistance** on the day of the discussion go to the CSDG CoP WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/BKTKGwt5cnNCqG9BOzYK1i>
- **Connect** with laptops/PCs rather than phones since the discussion is about typing.

### PRESENTER BIOSKETCH

#### **Tessa Goverse**



Tessa Goverse is a Senior Programme Officer at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). She coordinates UNEP's Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality subprogramme from the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. With over 25 years of research, project and programme management experience in the area of environment and sustainable development, she worked on a wide range of issues, including strengthening of the science-policy interface, environmental assessment and emerging issues, gender and environment, sound management of chemicals and waste, marine litter and other forms of pollution. She was deeply involved in the development of the implementation plan "Towards a Pollution-free Planet" and the formulation and implementation of UNEP's Medium-term Strategy for 2018-2021. She is currently supporting the development of UNEP's next strategy for 2022-2025 and the associated work programmes. Before joining UNEP, she worked on various international research projects on waste management, technology development and life cycle analysis. With a Masters of Science in biology (ecology and ecotoxicology) and a Ph.D. degree in

industrial innovation and climate change from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, she has a strong multidisciplinary background in environmental science and sustainable development.

### DISCUSSION INTRODUCTION

In 2015, world leaders adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. SDG target 12.4 specifically speaks to the need for sound management of chemicals and waste:

*12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment*

This and other internationally agreed targets, including those under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), point to the urgent need to protect people and the planet from pollution. In 2019, the UN Environment Assembly recognized the implementation plan “Towards a Pollution-free Planet” as a vehicle to take urgent action on pollution (UNEA resolution 4/21). Chemicals use and management play a major role, not only in avoiding and reducing harmful exposure of people and the environment, but also in enabling circularity, enhancing non-toxic recycling and developing sustainable alternatives for polluting products and processes.

The objective of this discussion is to explore how the implementation of sound management of chemicals and waste can be accelerated.

The intention at the end of this discussion is that participants have insight in some of the lessons learned regarding the various efforts to minimize risks from chemicals and waste, an enhanced understanding of how progress towards the global target is currently measured, and some ideas on stepping up efforts – building on each other's experiences.

### QUESTION 1 (14:05 GMT+2)

**Background:** One of the key findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook-II (GCO-II), released in 2019, was that the global goal to minimize the adverse impacts of chemicals and waste will not be achieved by 2020. Solutions exist, but more ambitious worldwide action is urgently required.

**Question 1:** What do we need to do differently to meet SDG target 12.4 that embodies this goal?

#### Resources/Information for the Discussion:

- Global Chemicals Outlook-II <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/policy-and-governance/global-chemicals-outlook>

### QUESTION 2 (14:30 GMT+2)

**Background:** The progress towards SDG target 12.4 is measured using two indicators – one related to reporting on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and one related to the generation and treatment of hazardous waste:

- 12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
- 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

What progress do we see in these areas? Are we actively investing in such efforts?

**Question 2:** How else can or are we measuring sound management of chemicals and waste to provide a broader context on progress and challenges?

**Resources/Information for the Discussion:**

- Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals – 2020 Report of the UN Secretary General <https://undocs.org/en/E/2020/57>

**QUESTION 3 (15:00 GMT+2)**

**Background:** Sound management of chemicals and waste can make important contributions to biodiversity, health, climate change and other critical areas for sustainable development. Important linkages exist to many other SDGs, MEAs and frameworks currently under development.

**Question 3:** How can we further accelerate the sound management of chemicals and waste by strengthening linkages to other relevant frameworks?

**Resources/Information for the Discussion:**

- Assessment on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options to coordinate and cooperate on areas of common interest - SAICM/IP.4/INF/3  
[http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP4/INF/SAICM\\_IP4\\_INF\\_3.pdf](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP4/INF/SAICM_IP4_INF_3.pdf)

## **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 organisation's 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 SDGs Community of Practice or send an email to: [uctcops@outlook.com](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com)

## **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](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com)
- ✓ This live discussion will be run in Microsoft Teams in the chat section on the set day. . Members will introduce themselves upon arrival into the chat room.
- ✓ The discussion presenter will briefly present a verbal introduction.
- ✓ Three questions will be posted during the 1 ½ hour discussion for 25 minutes discussion. The presenter/s will address comments in the chat section of Teams and all are encouraged to engage.
- ✓ 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.

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