

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

**Discussion Forum Guide**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Gender and sound management of chemicals and waste: Gender and the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>26 August 2020</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>14:00pm – 15:30pm (GMT +2)</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Prof. Andrea Rother, Univ of Cape Town, South Africa</b>
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Dr Sara Brosché, IPEN</b>
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Ms Maxine Brassell, MPH Student, UCT, South Africa</b>

**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. 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](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com)

## PRESENTER BIOSKETCH

### Sara Brosché, IPEN Science Advisor



Sara Brosché is Science Advisor at IPEN, a global network of nonprofit, public interest NGOs in more than 120 countries working together for a world in which toxic chemicals are no longer produced or used in ways that harm human health and the environment. She works on a wide range of issues related to chemical safety, including SAICM and its emerging policy issues and issues of concern, the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention. She has a MSc in Chemistry and a PhD in Environmental Science.

## DISCUSSION INTRODUCTION – 14:00 GMT +2

*Gender* refers to the socially constructed norms, roles and relations of and among women, men, boys and girls. *Sex*, on the other hand, refers to the physical and biological characteristics that distinguish males and females. Gender also refers to expressions and identities of women, men, boys, girls and gender-diverse people. Gender is complicated from other social and structural determinants shaping health and equity and can vary across time and place since they are context/ time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities.

*Gender equality* means that women and men have the same rights, responsibilities and opportunities in all areas of life.

*Gender mainstreaming* is a process for assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

In the context of sound management of chemicals and waste, it is useful to consider different potential impacts and effects of chemicals related to biological sex and biological factors such as physiology and endocrine systems. However, it is important to underscore that the gender identity of an individual may or may not correspond with the biological sex assigned and should rather be understood as the individual personal experience of gender.

Gender equality and the sound management of chemicals and waste are cross-cutting, interlinked issues that need to be addressed to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **Goal 5** aims to achieve gender equality

and empower all women and girls, and includes targets to all forms of discrimination, violence, and other harmful practices against all women and girls everywhere. This also includes targets for equality in decision-making as well as financial equality. More details about the individual targets of Goal 5 can be found [here](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=5&Target). (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=5&Target>)

Issues related to chemicals and waste, including gender mainstreaming in chemicals management, are often assigned to Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production. This goal includes the target to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment by 2020, but also targets on sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, reduce waste generation and encouraging companies to adopt sustainable practices. All of which impact on or are impacted by gender equality. More details about the individual targets of Goal 12 can be found [here](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=12&Target). (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=12&Target>)

However, because of their cross-cutting nature, action on both these two issues are needed to achieve most of the other SDGs as well; particularly bringing the chemicals and waste lens into the other SDGs.

The aim of this discussion is to identify and share experiences about gender inequalities related to chemicals and waste management, their linkages to the SDGs, and identify steps that can be taken by different stakeholders to address these. A special focus will be on the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern, and actions needed to address gender inequalities in this context.

Participants will be encouraged to share experiences both from a local and country level as well as work on an international level.

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

**Background:** The Dubai Declaration laying the foundation of SAICM identifies the need to address gender inequalities in decision-making at all levels. Still, women are underrepresented in many decision-making bodies ranging from the household to the global level, in both public and private sectors.

**Question 1:** In the context of chemicals and waste, what is your experience with gender equality when it comes to participation in decision-making on a local, national or global level? Please provide examples. Examples of gendered text in national legislation would be useful. If possible, please state which SAICM Emerging Policy Issue or Issues of Concern and 2030 SDG goal this experience relates to.

**Resources/Information for the Discussion:**

- Description of the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern <http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/EmergingPolicyIssues/tabid/5524/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- The 2030 SDGs: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

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

**Background:** The Dubai Declaration also identifies the need to address inequalities related to groups especially impacted by exposure to chemicals and waste such as women.

**Question 2:** Do you think there are gender inequalities when it comes to exposure to chemicals and waste? If so, could you share examples of what you have experienced or learned about? If possible, please also state the SAICM Emerging Policy Issue or Issues of Concern and 2030 SDG goal your examples link/relate to.

#### Resources/Information for the Discussion:

- Description of the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern <http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/EmergingPolicyIssues/tabid/5524/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- The 2030 SDGs: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- Chemicals and gender UNDP 2011 [https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals\\_management/chemicals-and-gender.html](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals_management/chemicals-and-gender.html)

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

**Background:** The SAICM Beyond 2020 process and the work to achieve the 2030 SDGs provide opportunities to address gender inequalities and take concrete action nationally and internationally.

#### Question 3:

What actions do you think would help address gender inequalities on a local and global level? Do you have ideas or examples of how to integrate this in the SAICM beyond 2020 process?

#### Resources/Information for the Discussion:

- [http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/SDGs/SAICM\\_Gender\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/SDGs/SAICM_Gender_Policy_Brief.pdf)
- [Mainstreaming Gender into UNDP-GEF projects on chemicals and waste https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals\\_management/GuidanceGender&Chemicals.html](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals_management/GuidanceGender&Chemicals.html)

## BLOG Post Instructions for those who cannot attend the live discussion

### Blog post instructions:

**Should you not be able to attend the discussion when it is scheduled to happen but still wish to contribute, post your answers/comments as a Wiki post in the MS Team channel for this discussion.**

### Instructions on how to post a Wiki post in MS Teams:

1. 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.
  - 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. Click on the small arrow indicating a drop down menu and choose “University of Cape Town”
2. Open up MS Teams and navigate to the Chemicals and Sustainable Development Goals CoP.
3. When you are in CSDGs COP Team, look for the channel corresponding to the date of the discussion you would like to blog for (i.e. '26.08.2020 – Discussion 1') and click on that channel.
4. At the top of the page, once you are in the channel, just under the search bar are a number of tabs, look for the tab called 'Blog posts'. Click on this tab.
5. An example blog post will guide you on how to structure your blog post.
6. Beneath the example blog post (or the previous person's blog post, should someone else have written a blog post before you) look for the purple plus sign (+) that says 'Add a new section here'. Click the plus sign (+)
7. Title your section with your name and country/organization.
8. Below the title it should say 'Your content goes here', add your answers and contributions for the discussion there.
9. Your answers and contributions will be pasted into the live discussion chat for others to comment on. You can return at a later date to read the chat.

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)*.