



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



# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON CHEMICALS AND THE **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Organized by the SAICM Secretariat and the University of Cape Town



## Chemicals and Sustainable Development Goals (CSDG) Community of Practice (CoP) 2020 DISCUSSION DIGEST COMPILATION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>ABOUT THE CSDG COP</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>SAICM/UCT CSDG COP 2020 DISCUSSION FORUM SCHEDULE</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Discussion 1 Digest: Gender and sound management of chemicals and waste:</b>	
<b>Gender and the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Discussion 2 Digest: Brainstorming implementation of gender mainstreaming into national policies for the sound management of chemicals and waste</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Discussion 3 Digest: Accelerating the implementation of SDG 12.4</b> .....	<b>20</b>

## INTRODUCTION

In 2020, the CSDG CoP successfully hosted three online discussions. Collectively, these discussions saw participation from 92 members from various regions such as, Africa, Western European and Other Group, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European and Latin American and Caribbean. The members represented various sectors such as, academia, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, governments and private sectors within CSDG. From these discussions three summary digests were produced for information, using as a resource and sharing with your networks. This document is a compilation of the 2020 CSDG CoP discussion digests.

## ABOUT THE CSDG COP

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) secretariat and the Environmental Health Division at the University of Cape Town (UCT) established a Community of Practice (CoP) in 2020 to address issues and foster discussions with relevant stakeholders related to Chemicals and Sustainable Development Goals (CSDG). This CoP builds on the work and experience UCT has had since 1997 in leading a CoP on pesticides in general.

The objective of the CSDG CoP is to foster discussions that will identify key issues related to chemicals linked to the sustainable development goals with a focus on cross-cutting issues such as gender, climate change and biodiversity" as well as to enable knowledge sharing, best practice, case studies and tacit knowledge amongst participants of this CoP. This CoP is established under the framework of the SAICM project, GEF 9771: Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues under SAICM, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The CoPs intention is to provide a platform for multiple stakeholders to engage with each other on CSDGs, as well as contribute to the Beyond 2020 discussions and deliberations.

## HOW TO JOIN THE CSDG COP

In 2020 the discussions were held in Microsoft Teams, however, in 2021 the CoP discussions will take place on Cisco WebEx.

If you have not signed up already and would like to become a member of the CoP to:

- Participate in online discussions with representatives from all relevant sectors, and if you wish, have the possibility to lead on a relevant discussion.
- Have first-hand access to up-to-date information produced by SAICM and other stakeholders on the SAICM emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.
- Actively contribute to peer-to-peer learning exchanges on best practices, case studies and experiences on chemicals management.
- Contribute to the development of new initiatives towards SAICM objectives and the SDGs.
- Receive summaries of discussions held.

Sign-up on the SAICM Knowledge website here, <https://saicmknowledge.org/community>.



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## SAICM/UCT CSDG COP 2020 DISCUSSION FORUM SCHEDULE

No	Date	Topic	Presenter	Facilitator
1	26 August	Gender and sound management of chemicals and waste: Gender and the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues	Sara Brosche, IPEN	Andrea Rother
2	30 September	Brainstorming implementation of gender mainstreaming into national policies for the sound management of chemicals and waste	Brenda Koekkoek, SAICM Andrea Rother, UCT Anna Holthaus, MSP Institute	Andrea Rother
3	25 November	Accelerating the implementation of SDG 12.4	Tessa Goverse, UNEP	Andrea Rother

The information in this digest represents the opinions of members participating from different stakeholder groups expressed during the discussion. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the opinion or the stated policy of the United Nations Environment Programme, the SAICM Secretariat, the GEF or UCT, nor does citing of trade names or commercial processes constitute endorsement.

# JOIN NOW THE NEW **COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON CHEMICALS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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**Issue:** 1 of 2020  
**Discussion date:** 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## Discussion 1 Digest

### **Topic of Discussion: Gender and Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste: Gender and the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues**

The aim of this discussion was 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 was on the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern, and actions needed to address gender inequalities in the SAICM and policy context. To view the discussion presentation click, [here](#).

#### ABOUT THE PRESENTER

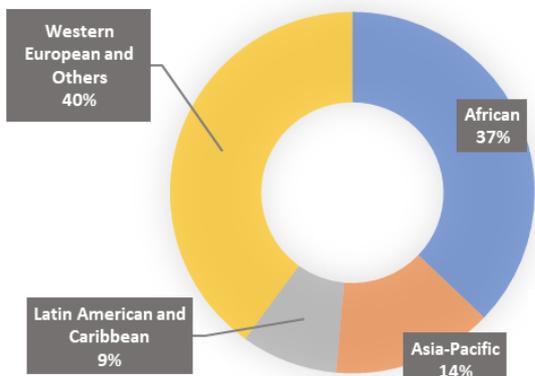


**Sara Brosché** is Science Advisor at IPEN, a global network of nonprofit, public interest NGOs in more than 120 countries working together for a world in which toxic chemicals are no longer produced or used in ways that harm human health and the environment. She works on a wide range of issues related 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.

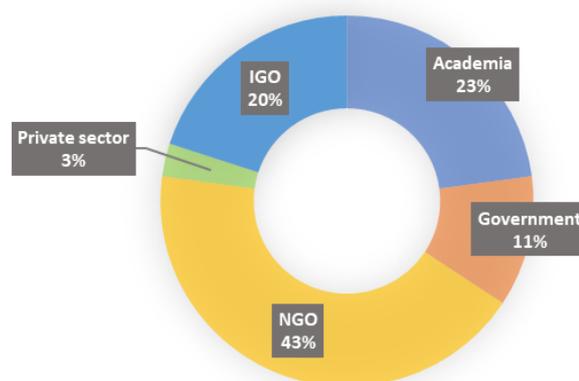
#### DISCUSSION 1 ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

**TOTAL ATTENDEES FOR DISCUSSION 1: 35**

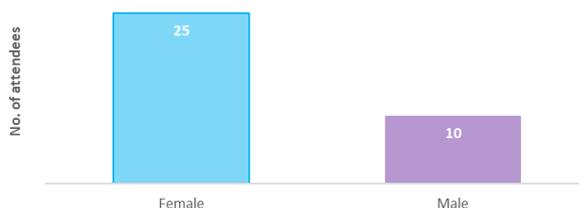
##### Regional representation



##### Sector representation



##### Gender representation



**Key:**  
IGO - Intergovernmental organisation  
NGO - Non-governmental organisation

# Chemicals and SDGs Community of Practice Discussion 1

## Summary and looking ahead

1. Participants expressed that while gender equality and participation in decision making processes seems to be more representative than before, there is still room for improvement. Some countries have successfully implemented gender equality principles in legislation, but others are still struggling to get these kinds of considerations included in legislation. It was expressed that ideologies have begun to change but more visible action and policies are needed nationally and internationally around gender and chemicals and waste management.
2. In terms of gender inequality and exposure to chemicals and waste, it appears that level of exposure in some countries can be linked back to gender roles of men and women in these countries (i.e. types of jobs or duties performed by men and women based on their genders). Men are more likely to work in hard labour jobs that expose them to chemicals, while women may perform lighter labour duties. Despite this, it was noted women's chemical exposures are potentially as high or higher as men due to women's work and home obligations (e.g., cleaning men's chemical exposed PPE at home, using hazardous chemicals for domestic work). Also, it was highlighted that the work conducted by women such as disassembling electronic waste or handling crops sprayed with pesticides sometimes constitute a source of higher exposure than the manual labour. There was a general expression of the need for more research and data linked to gendered exposures to chemicals and waste.
3. Participants' felt that increased awareness raising around gender and chemicals would benefit this global, national, and local discussion. In addition to this, suggestions of national and regional development of a gender and chemicals strategy to support implementation of laws and legislation that explicitly refer to gender equality would promote addressing gender inequalities on a more local level.

### Inputs to the discussion from participants:

**Q1. 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 and where possible please state which SAICM Emerging Policy Issue or Issues of Concern and 2030 SDG goal this experience relates to.**

<b>BANGLADESH</b> <b>(Environment and Social Development Organisation - NGO)</b>	- A strong gender equality concept currently exists but does not yet relate back to chemicals and waste.
<b>BRAZIL</b> <b>(VIZY - Private Sector)</b>	- Gender is not often on the agenda of multinational companies.
<b>FINLAND</b> <b>(Finish Institute for Health and Welfare - Government)</b>	- Decision-making related to chemicals and waste at global level involves selection processes based on the expertise of an individual. - Not all genders rise to that level, due to inequality faced by many at the local or national level due to gender inequality. - This is significant in under-developed and developing nations.
<b>GERMANY</b> <b>(MSP Institute - NGO)</b>	- Federal Ministry for the Environment: Unit for diversity and equal opportunities officer, intern plan for gender equality and women in leadership positions (due to Federal Equality Act) and a new unit on gender aspects of environmental policy. - Environmental Agency (including SAICM national focal point): Equal opportunities officer, intern plan for gender equality and women in leadership positions (due to Federal Equality Act), one gender mainstreaming expert. - In chemicals units' women are in leadership positions, which increases the proportion of women and gender issue in chemical policies gains more attention. - In contrast to other areas like climate change the proportion of women in decision-making is a little bit better, but e.g. indigenous women are very much underrepresented in the SAICM process.
<b>IRAN</b> <b>(University of Tehran - Academia)</b>	- Some academic papers addressing these issues but nothing in decision and policy making yet. - Better consideration of gender equality at a global level in developed countries but not in many developing countries.
<b>KENYA</b> <b>(Academia)</b>	- Legislation about gender equality currently in place.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On an individual perspective level many people are still caught up in the scenarios of gender inequality at local level as they still define roles based on gender.</li> <li>- Majority of women and children are disadvantaged in terms of chemical and hazardous waste exposure.</li> </ul>
<b>MEXICO (SEMARNAT – Government)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hard work put into implementation of gender equity policies, particularly by the National Institute of Women, to strengthen its participation in 50% of federal and local government spaces, in the executive, legislative and judicial branches.</li> </ul>
<b>NIGERIA (Independent National Electoral Commission Staff Clinic – NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness on gender equality is on the rise especially through NGO programs</li> <li>- No legislation focusing on gender and chemicals.</li> </ul>
<b>OECD - IGO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When considering international organisations and the development of technical tools for chemical safety, there is good balance, both in attendance of meetings and contributions to discussions.</li> <li>- Biological sex is considered as part of international test methods for determining properties of chemicals.</li> <li>- Differences in sexes, different physiological differences are always investigated.</li> <li>- As part of tools developed for exposure assessment, all possible use cases (independent of gender behaviour) are always investigated.</li> <li>- Things are less clear for vulnerable populations, e.g. children, where more efforts are needed to get the exposure assessment right.</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA (Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries – Government)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Male-bias still exists when it comes to chemicals and waste management.</li> <li>- Legislation does not consider genders separately but rather considers them together.</li> <li>- Female issues are not prioritized under the National Environmental Management: Waste Act. Vulnerable persons are referred to but no stipulation as to who these persons are. The Constitution in SA refers to vulnerable persons as people living with disabilities, youth, and women.</li> <li>- Current legislation does not include the transgender community.</li> </ul>
<b>UGANDA (Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment – NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good representation in decision-making</li> <li>- More data is needed on gender and chemicals.</li> </ul>

*Throughout the discussion, informal polls were conducted to help encourage discussion among the participants. They do not provide any representative data.*

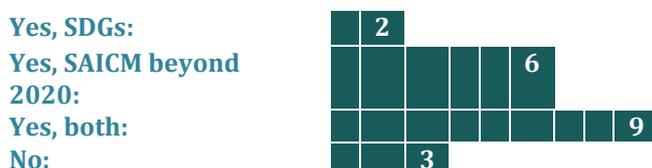
#### **Poll 1 Results (N=19)**

**Do you have a national program to implement the SDGs in your country?**



#### **Poll 2 Results (N=20)**

**Have you been engaged in work on the SDGs and/or the SAICM beyond 2020 process?**



**Q2. 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.**

<b>AUSTRALIA</b> <b>(Monash University – Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Industries with a higher and more dangerous exposure to chemicals have a lower percentage of women. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing: 30.1%</li> <li>- Manufacturing: 29.5%</li> <li>- Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services: 23.8%</li> <li>- Transport, Postal and Warehousing: 20.9%</li> <li>- Mining: 16.3%</li> <li>- Construction: 12.0%</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Health care and education have the highest percentage of women (73%+).</li> <li>- The anti-discrimination laws for employment in general are strict.</li> </ul>
<b>BANGLADESH</b> <b>(Environment and Social Development Organisation – NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are inequalities in certain stages, such as taking decisions in for burning out waste (plastic waste) where men are dominating.</li> </ul>
<b>BRAZIL</b> <b>(VIZY – Private Sector)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perception is that there may be gender inequalities in the informal recycling business in Brazil, where there are many women working in the handling and separation phase without personal protective equipment.</li> <li>- There is, however, a lack of data to back this up.</li> </ul>
<b>CAMEROON</b> <b>(Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement – NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The issue of gender equality is still problematic due to the non-involvement of women in the process, also the weakness of the State to promote this.</li> <li>- Women are vulnerable and bigger victims of the effects linked to dangerous chemicals in the sense that they are those who handle chemicals daily in households, during rural work, in food consumption, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>FINLAND</b> <b>(Finish Institute for Health and Welfare – Government)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not much research related to gender and exposure but biological sex and chemical exposure is well studied.</li> <li>- It can be seen that the females, due to their physiological making and social level, are more exposed to chemicals in developing countries.</li> <li>- In Nordic countries plenty research data is available which focuses on exposure and impact of chemicals on females but still there is lack of data from more exposed populations.</li> </ul>
<b>GERMANY</b> <b>(MSP Institute – NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender roles and division of labour result in men more directly exposed, because they more often perform the risky tasks</li> <li>- Women exposure is usually more long-term.</li> <li>- Effects on women are often underdiagnosed.</li> <li>- Children get exposed by chemicals because of double-burden of women: working and child-caring.</li> </ul>
<b>IRAN</b> <b>(University of Tehran – Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, for many years I was observing female rice paddy workers in the Northern Provinces of Iran with more exposure to pesticides.</li> <li>- These females also had less access to food materials/ food diversity and generally food security (as a general global issue) that this in term were decreasing their bodies detoxification systems.</li> <li>- More exposure of females to home cleaning compounds (biocides).</li> </ul>
<b>ISC3 – NGO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waste pickers and gold mines workers are in many countries female workers</li> </ul>
<b>ITALY</b> <b>(Centre for Environmental Justice – NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, there is a gender inequality in exposure but most of the times this happens in developing countries.</li> <li>- Work that is light (that needs less physical strength) has higher risk of exposure and are often done by females.</li> <li>- Example: recycling lead-acid batteries - almost none of these women knows its risk or health effects of this exposure.</li> </ul>
<b>KENYA</b> <b>(Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Levels and duration of exposure depends on gender roles and biological sex.</li> <li>- Women in sub Saharan Africa take on roles like farming in rural areas and end up using more pesticides and therefore more exposed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Considering biological sex, women, when exposed, may experience adverse effects that can be passed on to their infants and future generations.</li> </ul>
<b>MEXICO (SEMARNAT – Government)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is inequity in waste management in general, since there is a high percentage of informality in this sector, men generally work in collection, formal and informal, and many women work at home in the separation, sale and shipment to recycling of usable by-products.</li> <li>- Since 2000 carried out, among women from both urban and rural areas, environmental education actions to modify irrational patterns of consumption, reducing thereby generated waste and promoting recycling.</li> <li>- This programme also has socio-environmental indicators with a gender perspective; monitors sustainable development projects that promote gender equity in the country; sensitize and train on gender equity and environment.</li> </ul>
<b>NIGERIA (Independent National Electoral Commission Staff Clinic – NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, the issue of gender inequality is real with women not getting the proper attention needed.</li> <li>- Citing example from farming activities during the application of pesticides, the common people believe only the applicator is to gear up (usually the husband) while the wife and the children will be left exposed despite the fact that they are working on the same farm.</li> </ul>
<b>OECD - IGO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The data from the global burden of disease indicates that the biggest gender imbalance in the impact from chemical exposure is due to occupational exposure, where men are more exposed.</li> <li>- Beyond that, there is a lack of information on gender-disaggregated impact from exposure to chemicals.</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA (Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries – Government)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inequalities of exposures are different as females are the ones doing the hard labour in the fields.</li> <li>- Women are exposed more as the government’s Extended Public Works Programme employs a larger percentage of women.</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA (University of Cape Town – Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the farming sector perception is that women's exposures to hazardous pesticides are low as men often do the mixing.</li> <li>- Yet women harvest and weed in sprayed/wet fields, sometimes can't wear pants for cultural reasons, etc...and so their exposures can be high.</li> </ul>
<b>TOGO (University of Kara – Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In chemical laboratory women are kept away from chemicals when they are pregnant for example in France and Germany.</li> <li>- Not aware of what is legal in African countries.</li> <li>- In Togo for example, chemist women are few and we need to draw attention on this topic.</li> </ul>

**Poll 3 Results (N=18)**

**Have you been engaged in work on gender equality and/or management of chemicals and waste?**

Yes, gender:

1

Yes, management of chemicals and waste:

5

Yes, both:

9

No:

3

**Poll 4 Results (N=13)**

**Do you think there are gender inequalities related to decision-making in your country?**

Yes:

10

No:

3

I don't know: 0

**Poll 5 Results (N=17)**

**Do you think there are gender inequalities related to management of chemicals and waste in your country?**

Yes:

15

No:

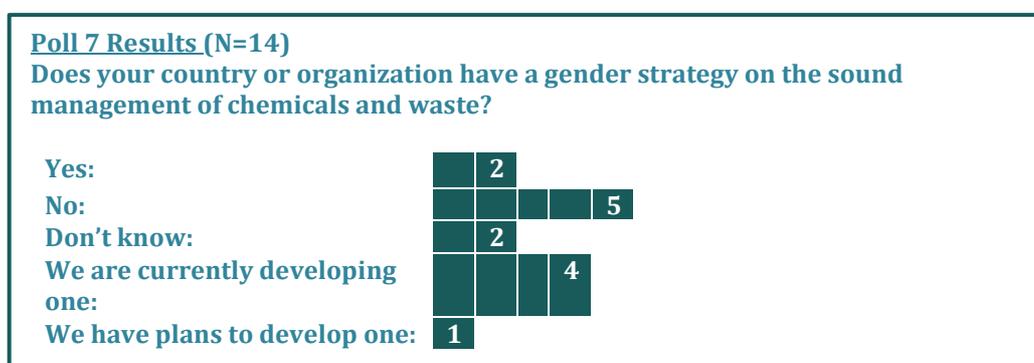
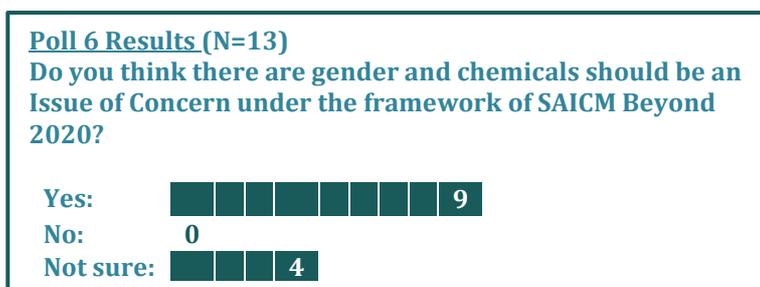
2

I don't know: 0

**Q3. 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?**

<b>BANGLADESH</b> (Environment and Social Development Organisation - NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness program.</li> </ul>
<b>BRAZIL</b> (VIZY - Private Sector)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education and awareness must be included in action plans.</li> </ul>
<b>CAMEROON</b> (Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement - NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State must vote on a specific law to protect women against chemicals, in the post-2020 SAICM</li> <li>- Projects must be oriented more towards women in order to involve them and raise their awareness of the dangerousness of their exposure.</li> </ul>
<b>FINLAND</b> (Finish Institute for Health and Welfare - Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More data should be generated on risk assessment and pipelined into policy making.</li> <li>- Risk due to chemical mixture exposure is also very relevant here, on which the research data is much less.</li> </ul>
<b>IRAN</b> (University of Tehran - Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define clear laws and regulations and make sure to enforce them in developing countries.</li> <li>- Regulations for pregnant mothers, as we heard there are already many good recipes for pregnant mothers to avoid toxic exposure.</li> <li>- These issues should be included in the SAICM beyond 2020. Giving equal opportunities in international discussions/ conventions and conferences to females, also to discussions, etc. as we observed it in Cambridge last year.</li> </ul>
<b>ISC3 - NGO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing [political] measures designed to help women to set up their own businesses are far from adequate.</li> <li>- It is still made much more difficult for women to obtain the necessary funding.</li> </ul>
<b>ITALY</b> (Centre for Environmental Justice - NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness and encouraging small and medium enterprises to take measures for workers' safety would be the initial steps to reduce exposure without gender discrimination.</li> </ul>
<b>KENYA</b> (Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a need to create awareness.</li> <li>- In Kenya people are not aware about the consequences of gender inequality with respect to the management of chemicals and waste as far as SDGs success is concerned.</li> <li>- The political class are the ones who determine the legislation processes so that they may be best guided as they make laws regarding gender.</li> </ul>
<b>MEXICO</b> (SEMARNAT - Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It can be promoted by formulating an action plan of gender and chemical and waste management accompanied by a methodological structure and an annex of materials and resources for their prompt use and implementation, there may be support readings, videos, brochures, images, among others.</li> <li>- In Mexico there has been since 2007 the General Law of Access for Women to a life free of violence and since 2006, the General Law for Equality between men and women, from this framework we work to promote equality.</li> </ul>
<b>GERMANY</b> (MSP Institute - NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Global level: establish a gender focal point in the SAICM secretariat and gender working group to develop a gender action plan for SAICM Beyond2020 like in other UN processes (UNFCCC; CBD; BRS;...).</li> <li>- National level: SAICM national focal points need gender expertise, gender should be included in national action plans.</li> <li>- Important to underline women's role as agents of change, not only their vulnerability, for example indigenous women's knowledge on non-chemical alternatives.</li> <li>- Beside SDG5 the issue of gender and chemicals also relate to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (one of the most powerful declaration for women) from 1995.</li> <li>- ICCM5 needs to include language on women's participation, gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the outcome documents and the high-level declaration.</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> (University of Cape Town - Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I think at the national level it is key to have gendered text related to specific chemicals in legislation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It would be good to share examples of this type of legislation in the SAICM process.</li> </ul>
<b>UGANDA</b> <b>(Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment – NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the agricultural sector and in relation to pesticides application, protective gear should be affordable and easily accessible by both men and women.</li> <li>- Maybe texts related to chemicals and genders in general.</li> <li>- It is highly important for girls and women who are enrolling in chemical-based studies to be aware of likely exposure to chemical.</li> <li>- Global actions are necessary to avoid imbalance between gender equality in work area and chemical exposure.</li> <li>- In Uganda sector-specific gender strategies which are applicable to chemicals management are 1)the Environment and Natural Resources sub-sector Gender Mainstreaming Strategy 2016-2021 and 2)the current Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan, which promotes mainstreaming gender in all activities.</li> </ul>



**Helpful resources:**

- **SDG Goal 5:** <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=5&Target>
- **SDG Goal 12:** <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=12&Target>
- **The 2030 SDGs:** <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- **Description of the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern:** <http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/EmergingPolicyIssues/tabid/5524/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- **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)
- **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)
- **SAICM Gender Policy Brief:** [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)

**CSDGs CoP:** The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Environmental Health Division at the University of Cape Town (UCT) created this Community of Practice (CoP) to foster online discussions and address key issues on Chemicals and SDGs among stakeholders from governments, international organizations, industry, academia and civil society. This CoP is contributing to the SAICM/GEF project on Emerging Chemicals Policy Issues Knowledge Management Component.

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)*.

If you have any question or require clarification on this initiative, please contact the SAICM Secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@un.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@un.org) or UCT at [uctcops@outlook.com](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com).

Join the CSDGs CoP at: <https://saicmknowledge.org/community>

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# JOIN NOW THE NEW COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON CHEMICALS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Organized by the SAICM Secretariat and the University of Cape Town



Issue: 2 of 2020

Discussion date: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Discussion 2 Digest

### **Topic of Discussion: Brainstorming implementation of gender mainstreaming into national policies for 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, stakeholders reflected on gendered national legislation, policies, and strategies to improve on exposures and risks that are falling through the gaps. To view the discussion presentation click, [here](#).

#### ABOUT THE PRESENTER



**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 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

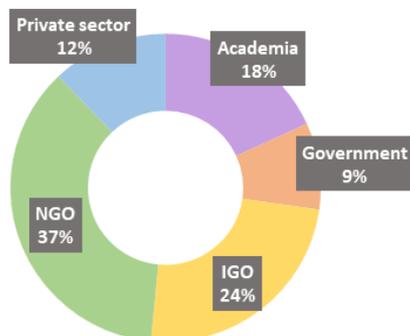
processes for sustainable

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 2 ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

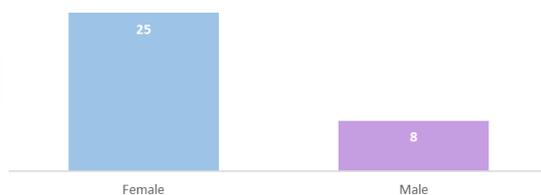
TOTAL ATTENDEES FOR DISCUSSION 2: 33

### Sector representation

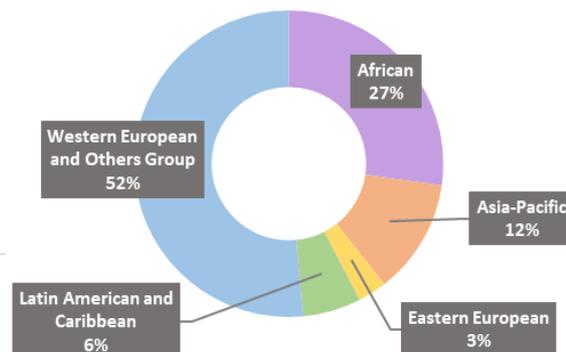


Key:  
IGO – Intergovernmental  
organisation  
NGO – Non-governmental  
organisation

### Gender representation



### Regional representation



## Chemicals and SDGs Community of Practice Discussion 2 Summary and looking ahead

1. Participants expressed that there is a **lack of gendered text** available. It was suggested that national chemical legislation and policy should consider gender as a factor moving forward. Participants highlighted that women and men have different exposures due to different occupational environments and that these kinds of differences should be considered in legislation and policy. Many participants suggested that gender related risks from chemical exposures should be better highlighted and communicated to make consumers and policy makers aware of these facts. This is particularly as men and women may metabolise chemicals differentially, and women may be more vulnerable at childbearing age and during pregnancy.
2. Participants mentioned that **public awareness and education were key** actions to be carried out in some of their countries. There was indication of a need for more **gender-based exposure information** in chemicals and waste management to convince legislators and policy makers of the importance of actions on gender. Some resource needs highlighted in the discussion included:
  - a. translation of existing gender-related information into other languages,
  - b. resources for gender activities and campaigns,
  - c. resources for gender analysis, and
  - d. funding for more gender-related research.
3. **Important first steps** mentioned by participants was to get a national chemicals policy in place at national level. Participants agreed there was an opportunity to strengthen the role of SAICM national focal points to consider gender issues. Another key area highlighted was to promote the engagement of toxicologists on gender and chemicals research, as well as legislation and policy process.
4. Participants highlighted the need for gender mainstreaming in chemicals management. For this to have an impact, this needs to be actioned at the national level. **Going forward** it is important to develop gender mainstreaming mechanisms at the international level that can be supported and promoted at the national level.

## ANNEX

### DETAILED SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION 2:

**Disclaimer:** The information in this digest represents the opinions of members participating from different stakeholder groups expressed during the discussion. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the opinion or the stated policy of the United Nations Environment Programme, the SAICM Secretariat, the GEF or UCT, nor does citing of trade names or commercial processes constitute endorsement.

### **THE DISCUSSION WAS STRUCTURED AROUND THREE QUESTIONS AND THE KEY DISCUSSION POINTS ARE PRESENTED UNDER EACH.**

#### **Inputs to the discussion from participants:**

**Q1. 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.**

<b>BRAZIL (Private Sector)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk assessment policies should include gendered text as tests with just men do not represent the whole population.</li> </ul>
<b>CAMEROON (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The notion of gender must be a priority in the process of sustainable development, for this a specific policy or a law on gender must be established in the sense that women are more vulnerable to chemical effects as well as children and people disabled. The gender approach analyzes the power relationship between women and men based on the assignment of socially constructed roles according to sex, the gender approach is based on the analysis and questioning of the processes that differentiate and prioritize individuals according to their sex. A law or a specific policy on gender will limit or overcome the social inequality observed in the involvement and treatment of this social layer in chemical matters and sustainable development.</li> </ul>
<b>FINLAND (Government)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National chemical legislation should focus on gender separately, as women and men are impacted differently by chemicals and occupational exposure can vary.</li> <li>- E.g. in LMICS, women bear the burden of exposure due to their social status. Social services available to women are less supportive in LICs due to financial problems. On the contrary in HICs men are more exposed to chemicals' exposure in some typical industries like mining etc.</li> <li>- Males and females metabolise toxins differently, so it is relevant to have such gender-based policies.</li> <li>- By gender, I mean basically biological sex (males and females).</li> </ul>
<b>GERMANY (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specific gendered risk information on pesticides or chemicals labels are very important especially for women of childbearing age and pregnant women.</li> <li>- For women, it is also important to get free and easy information about chemicals in projects in general</li> <li>- Often women are the ones searching for information to protect themselves and their families.</li> </ul>
<b>KENYA (Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policies and legislation should include gender text because both men and women are affected differently by chemicals.</li> <li>- The level of exposure to both is different based on the roles and occupations they do.</li> <li>- It will ensure equality and reducing the gap of difference in exposure on the gender as far as sound management of chemicals is concerned for sustainable development.</li> </ul>
<b>SRI LANKA (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separate discussions on how facilities like e-waste recycling plants should ensure the safety of workers based on gender.</li> <li>- Sri Lanka is in the process of preparing a chemical management policy, which often doesn't specify gender.</li> </ul>
<b>UGANDA (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National chemical legislation and policies should include gendered text.</li> <li>- It will ensure successful gender mainstreaming.</li> <li>- In Uganda there is gender considerations in the water sector currently.</li> <li>- This will also be the case for chemicals management, which is a relatively new, emerging area.</li> </ul>

Throughout the discussion, informal polls were conducted to help encourage discussion among the participants. They do not provide any representative data.

**Poll 1 Results (N=16)**

Do you think there are gender inequalities related to management of chemicals and waste in your country?

Yes:  14  
 No:  1  
 I don't know:  1

**Poll 2 Results (N=10)**

How do you think gender should be better integrated into chemicals policy and legislation at your national level? (choose only your top 3)

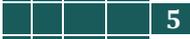
Develop a gender action plan:  8  
 Additional research into chemicals and gender:  7  
 Dedicated funding:  3  
 SAICM Focal Point:  1

**Q2. 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 organisation need to facilitate gendered chemicals legislation or policies?**

<b>CAMEROON (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JVE Cameroon are planning a comparative study on the state of appropriation of international policies at the national level</li> <li>- Intention is to analyse local mechanisms for implementing national policies and have a specific gender perspective on the implementation of various international policies in Cameroon.</li> <li>- Resources needed include capacity building, experience sharing, logistical and financial support.</li> </ul>
<b>FINLAND (Government)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Background information needed on which reasoning would be based.</li> <li>- Funding specifically on gender-based research involving chemists, epidemiologists and other stakeholders would open some opportunities to generate research interpretations to back-up the need for legislations.</li> <li>- More public awareness and support for such chemical policies is needed, which could be activated via public communication, reaching out to general population via platforms accessible to all.</li> <li>- A chemical exposure related Wikipedia would do some good to draw info on one global platform.</li> <li>- The vast knowledge base created under HBM4EU umbrella must be used for further actions.</li> </ul>
<b>GERMANY (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From a NGO perspective, more funding is needed for gender activities and campaigns in the field of chemicals policies.</li> <li>- In Germany there is more and more funding for work on gender and climate change which is very important but gender aspects in other environmental fields don't get enough attention.</li> <li>- One idea might be a comprehensive report on gender and chemicals done e.g. by UNEP or WHO. This would support countries in including gender at the national level.</li> </ul>
<b>HEJSUPPORT (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper gender mainstreaming needs gender analysis in different sectors including agriculture, waste management, others.</li> <li>- Collecting gender disaggregated data is the key for a good legislation.</li> <li>- Gender considerations should be part of project planning, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, which will help avoid disadvantages for women as a result.</li> <li>- Funding and technical assistance should be provided to countries for gender analysis and further legislation development.</li> </ul>
<b>IRAN (Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Issue of gender and chemicals is not only human related but also about other living organism particularly for mammals and birds.</li> <li>- The issue of DDT and other chlorinated POPs affected female birds and their ability for pregnancy, childbearing or holding a healthy egg.</li> <li>- Eggshell thickness was a big problem that still exist for many bird species because POPs are present in most niches and habitats</li> <li>- Accumulations of DDT/ other POPs in the fat body of the female birds prevented the deposition of calcium in the eggshell and so no cohort development.</li> </ul>

<b>ISC3 – NGO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to establish a "culture of innovation", meaning a mindset that supports fresh ideas and openness to new solutions.</li> <li>- This would be something that goes beyond legislation.</li> <li>- We have the Human Biomonitoring Initiative in the EU, which could be something to draw relevant knowledge from? <a href="https://www.hbm4eu.eu/">https://www.hbm4eu.eu/</a></li> </ul>
<b>KENYA (Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Containers containing chemicals should be well labelled revealing the constituents and risks involved if mishandled, as well as how to handle them.</li> <li>- More funds should be directed to mobilization and awareness creation on the risks of chemicals and their handling.</li> </ul>
<b>SRI LANKA (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CEJ Sri Lanka is currently working on educating parents and caregivers on chemical contamination and exposure pathways.</li> <li>- More gender-based exposure studies on working women would be a useful resource. For example, how much lead is found in blood samples of women and men working in an e-waste recycling plant. It is easier to convince the authorities and the public when country specific research is available.</li> <li>- Funding may be required for research.</li> </ul>
<b>UGANDA (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Looking at conducting more research on gender and chemicals in Uganda.</li> <li>- Resources and support that would be key include sustainable funding especially for the NGO/Civil Society sector.</li> <li>- Buy-in from all stakeholders including the decision makers is needed.</li> </ul>

**Poll 3 Results (N=13)**  
**Is gender mainstreaming already implemented in other areas of environmental and health policy at your national level?**

Yes:  4  
No:  5  
I don't know:  4

**Poll 4 Results (N=12)**  
**Are any gendered experts/women's organizations involved in chemicals management at the national policy level?**

Yes:  4  
No:  5  
I don't know:  3

**Q3. 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?**

<b>BRAZIL (Private Sector)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First step is to have a national chemicals policy already in place or under development.</li> <li>- Main hurdle is that participants in the chemical policy creation do not see gender as a relevant aspect to be considered.</li> <li>- Creating awareness, supported by facts and data (research), would help remove this roadblock.</li> <li>- Other steps include having good participation of women in the working groups responsible for developing or updating chemical policies.</li> <li>- The first benefit is to show and have respect for about 50% of the world population.</li> </ul>
<b>CAMEROON (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First step at JVE Cameroon must be a comparative study of the ownership of international policies on gender.</li> <li>- Obstacles may include lack of collaboration from government officials in charge of the issue, lack of funding and limited access to actual data.</li> <li>- SAICM community could provide support by the national focal point or partner.</li> </ul>
<b>FINLAND (Government)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First steps include evaluate the risks and weigh the impacts.</li> <li>- The scientific community must form the core of a working group and inclusion of all relevant stakeholders would then add weight to the subject.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Main hurdles are the proposal of gender-based policy being drowned by strong 'Chemicals lobby'.</li> <li>- SAICM's role is very relevant for LMICs specially - those are the countries where most production is done, and most of the global population resides.</li> <li>- Active communication with national focal points and impacting their decisions by providing scientific know-how from HICs could be valuable.</li> </ul>
<b>GERMANY (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft of the MSP Institute "gender road map" as a resource: (<a href="https://uctcloud.sharepoint.com/sites/ChemicalsandSDGsCommunityofPractice/SharedDocuments/30.09.2020-Discussion2/GenderRoadMap_MSPInstitute_draftfordiscussion.pdf">https://uctcloud.sharepoint.com/sites/ChemicalsandSDGsCommunityofPractice/SharedDocuments/30.09.2020-Discussion2/GenderRoadMap_MSPInstitute_draftfordiscussion.pdf</a>).</li> <li>- First step idea: a workshop on gender mainstreaming for the SAICM national focal points.</li> <li>- People working on chemicals policy are very interested, but they mostly have a natural science background, which is very different in comparison to the way of thinking in gender studies.</li> <li>- We need good illustrations and explanations about gender concepts/theories and the complex gender terminology.</li> </ul>
<b>IRAN (Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There should not be any objection to this considering the amount of scientific basis, and that we are getting to the post COVID era where there should be solutions for these types of problems and closing of the gap.</li> <li>- Best solution is getting more toxicologist in this work because a toxicologist is aware about both nature and about chemicals/ pesticides, etc.</li> <li>- Unfortunately, most related conventions, including the SAICM, Minamata, etc., were in communications with more political people, instead of toxicologists.</li> </ul>
<b>KENYA (Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct research on gender equality and mainstreaming to inform to what extent the gender inequality is on management of chemicals.</li> <li>- SAICM to lobby to the governments to ensure integration of gender equality in sound management of chemicals through legislation and policies.</li> <li>- The hurdle will be the implementation part because of poor/ lack of political good will.</li> </ul>
<b>MOZAMBIQUE (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We need a Gender and Chemical's National Policy in place as the first step.</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA (Academia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In South Africa, industry managed to have the chemicals management policy removed after public participation and just before it was gazetted, so there was no opportunity to raise gender issues.</li> <li>- It is key for the SAICM focal points to have a more active role and profile nationally.</li> </ul>
<b>SRI LANKA (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National focal point is the ministry of environment and is still active.</li> <li>- SAICM can assist through advocacy.</li> <li>- If gender becomes an essential compliance tool in obtaining ISO or national level standard certification, that might help businesses to adopt them.</li> <li>- A hurdle could be if the regulations or standards for women in working with chemicals increase, then factory owners may become reluctant to hire women.</li> </ul>
<b>UGANDA (NGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Uganda the SAICM focal point is the National Environmental Management Authority</li> </ul>

**Poll 5 Results (N=9)**

**Do you think a gender road map for SAICM national focal points would encourage the integration of gender mainstreaming in national policy?**

Yes:  9  
 No: 0  
 I don't know: 0

**Poll 6 Results (N=7)**

**What are the potential co-benefits from integrating gender issues into national chemicals and waste policies?**

"A more decisive approach against chemical toxicities tailored for each gender."

"The first benefit is to show and have respect by about 50% of the world population."

"It ensures health and safety of specially women and thereby upcoming generations."

"Better health and life for all."

"Saving a healthier generation from chemicals/ pesticides exposure"

"More likely to protect the health of all populations."

"Will promote a regulations or standards for women in working with chemicals sounds management."

## Helpful resources:

- **Regulating Toxics: Sex and Gender in Canada's Chemicals Management Plan**  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2441322](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2441322)
  - **BRS Conventions**
    - Pocket Guide to the BRS Gender Action Plan (2019) [www.brsmeas.org/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-FAO-CHW-RC-POPS-Gender-PocketGuide-ActionPlan-2019.English.pdf](http://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](https://www.cbd.int/gender/doc/fs_uicn-cbd_nbsaps.pdf)
  - **Multilateral environment agreements tagged with gender**  
<https://www.informea.org/en/terms/gender>
  - **MSP Institute: Gender Road Map (draft)**  
[http://gender-chemicals.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GenderRoadMap\\_MSPInstitute\\_draftfordiscussion.pdf](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>
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**CSDGs CoP:** The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Environmental Health Division at the University of Cape Town (UCT) created this Community of Practice (CoP) to foster online discussions and address key issues on Chemicals and SDGs among stakeholders from governments, international organizations, industry, academia and civil society. This CoP is contributing to the SAICM/GEF project on Emerging Chemicals Policy Issues Knowledge Management Component.

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)*.

If you have any question or require clarification on this initiative, please contact the SAICM Secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@un.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@un.org) or UCT at [uctcops@outlook.com](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com).

Join the CSDGs CoP at: <https://saicmknowledge.org/community>

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# JOIN NOW THE NEW COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON CHEMICALS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Organized by the SAICM Secretariat and the University of Cape Town



Issue: 3 of 2020

Discussion date: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Discussion 3 Digest

### Topic of Discussion: Accelerating the implementation of SDG 12.4

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 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 was to explore how the implementation of sound management of chemicals and waste can be accelerated. To view the discussion presentation click [here](#).

#### ABOUT THE PRESENTER

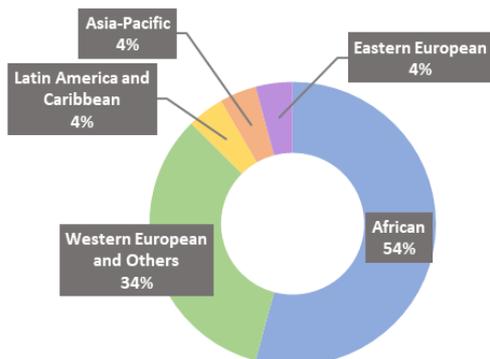


**Tessa Goverse** is a Senior Programme Officer at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). She coordinates UNEP’s Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality subprogramme from the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. With over 25 years of research, project and programme management experience in the area of environment 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.

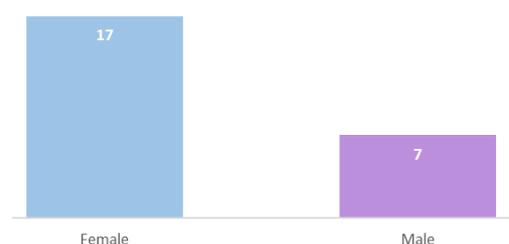
#### DISCUSSION 3 ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

##### Regional representation

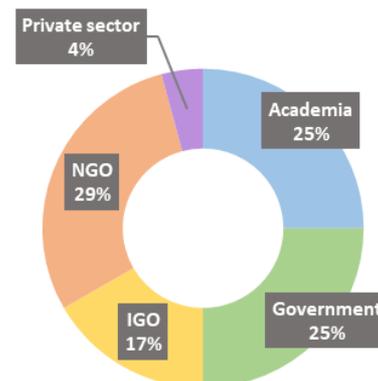


TOTAL ATTENDEES FOR DISCUSSION 3: 24

##### Gender representation



##### Sector representation



Key:  
IGO – Intergovernmental organisation  
NGO – Non-governmental organisation

## Chemicals and SDGs Community of Practice Discussion 3

### Summary and looking ahead

1. A key discussion point was the need to **align regulations between different government departments** and to have **inter-ministerial collaboration**. This echoes the Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO II) action points I and II (see references below) and speaks to a need for **policy coherence at the national level**. It was highlighted that **industry needs to enhance transparency** and that responsibility needs to be taken throughout the life cycle process when considering chemicals. In addition to this, **using science as a way of further assessing progress on indicators and targets** was also a suggestion. Further comments were made stating that it would be good to know why SDGs are not being achieved and where there are barriers to achieving progress. Overall, it was felt that **more involvement of community members** within society and **engagement of important stakeholders** would be integral to achieving these goals.
2. Another key point was that the **12.4 indicators could be more ambitious in measuring impacts** rather than **assessing management structures with governments and ministries**. This could be done by having a complimentary process while developing targets and indicators to ensure indicators are related to the target and goal and are measurable for progress sake. There was a very clear initial response stating that the **indicators of target 12.4 are not sufficient to reflect on sound chemicals and waste management** but also recognition that there is more out there that can be looked at for measuring this progress beyond the current indicators.
3. There was recognition that these **SDGs will not be achieved without chemicals** and that the **cross-linkages between these goals cannot be ignored**. Further to this, it was mentioned that there is **little awareness of chemicals in other frameworks** and that side events should be done to create more awareness of how chemicals can impact frameworks like biodiversity, climate change and water. To **strengthen linkages between goals at an international level**, suggestions were made to **strengthen voluntary agreements**, like SAICM, by having clear action plans that will have mandatory requirements for those who partake in the agreements. Suggestions to **accelerate linkages at national level included convening committees** on specific targets to discuss further linkages on indicators for these targets. A cautionary note was made to **avoid duplication of relevant targets and indicators across frameworks** to ensure there is no burden of reporting placed on already resource burdened stakeholders. It was stated that we need to **be efficient in how we invest in data collection** and the resources required for this and so multi-purpose indicators are helpful in avoiding burden of reporting.

## ANNEX

### DETAILED SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION 3:

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### **THE DISCUSSION WAS STRUCTURED AROUND THREE QUESTIONS AND THE KEY DISCUSSION INPUTS FROM PARTICIPANTS ARE PRESENTED UNDER EACH:**

#### Q1. What do we need to do differently to meet SDG target 12.4 that embodies this goal?

<b>CAMEROON</b> (NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All social layers must be involved in the implementation process (young people, women, indigenous people, etc).</li> <li>- More projects must be developed in favour of or involving the vulnerable layer such as the women.</li> </ul>
<b>GERMANY</b> (NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministries must work together and increase their engagement.</li> <li>- Industry should increase transparency along throughout the life cycle and towards consumers and authorities.</li> <li>- NGOs could pressure the government.</li> <li>- Sometimes national action plans involving all stakeholders help to achieve better cooperation among ministries.</li> <li>- According to the Dubai Declaration no information concerning health and environment can fall under CBI, therefore hazardous chemicals should be disclosed.</li> </ul>
<b>KENYA</b> (Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Problem here is that it is simply written in papers and onboarded by major players, such as international agencies like SAICM, UNEP, and other international agreements institutions like the BRS</li> <li>- It has not yet been well internalized at the grassroots level</li> <li>- Through good education policy it can be integrated in the education curricular, so that it can be well received right from childhood education.</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> (Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is key is to be clear about what has not worked and why.</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> (Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First ensure that all regulations are aligned between the different government departments as this can hamper the delivery on the SDG goals.</li> <li>- Investigate why the delivery of the goals could not be achieved - other than conflicting legislation and mandates in government</li> <li>- The first prize would be a one-stop-shop for chemicals management.</li> <li>- In South Africa the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Affairs see empty chemical containers differently (i.e. Agricultural chemical containers are seen as hazardous, while Environmental chemical containers are not seen as hazardous and their legislation is conflicting).</li> <li>- An additional problem in SA is getting the pesticide industry to take responsibility for the chemicals throughout the lifecycle and legislation is not forcing them to as the extended producer responsibility is not legislated.</li> </ul>
<b>TOGO</b> (Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More collaboration is needed between academics and policy makers (i.e. In delivering training of students).</li> <li>- Ministries in charge of Environment have more financial opportunities while academics have more scientific ideas on how implement strategies to overcome impacts on environment.</li> <li>- Strong collaboration will ensure suitable equipment in universities to have science-based data needed to make decisions.</li> </ul>
<b>UGANDA</b> (NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uganda does not yet have an overarching chemicals legislation.</li> <li>- This is where we need to start.</li> <li>- Having available and reliable data on effects of chemicals at local level is equally important for policy making.</li> </ul>

Throughout the discussion, informal polls were conducted to help encourage discussion among the participants. They do not provide any representative data.

**Poll 1 Results (N=8)**

**Should there be different stakeholders leading on implementing the sound management of chemicals and the sound management of waste?**

Yes	■	■	■	■	■	5
No	■	■	■	3		

**Q2. How else can or are we measuring sound management of chemicals and waste to provide a broader context on progress and challenges?**

<p><b>GERMANY</b> (NGO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, there was a UNEP workshop on targets and indicators for chemicals.</li> <li>- A long list of potential good indicators were developed.</li> <li>- The two indicators for 12.4 are not sufficient.</li> <li>- Here are a few examples from 2016:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percentage of national budget allocated to the implementation of institutional, legal, and regulatory frameworks for the sound management of chemicals and waste, including enforcement of national legislation and prevention of illegal traffic.</li> <li>➤ Number of regulations and financial incentives developed to reduce the use of chemicals of highest concerns and to promote and substitute with safer alternatives</li> <li>➤ Percentage of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including obsolete stockpiles of pesticides, recovered, reused, and recycled, including for energy generation.</li> <li>➤ 12.5.3 Number of national facilities for environmentally sound management of hazardous waste</li> <li>➤ 11.1.1 Percentage of people living in or within x distance to uncontrolled dumpsites and other “hot spots” emitting and releasing hazardous chemical</li> <li>➤ 11.1.2 Percentage of major toxic hotspots/sites/stockpiles with chemical risk management measures applied</li> <li>➤ 11.6.1 Number of deaths as well and environmental and economic losses from industrial/technological disasters/emergencies</li> <li>➤ 11.6.2 Concentration of hazardous pollutants in the air</li> <li>➤ 11.6.3 Proportion of the urban population exposed to small/fine urban particulates (PM10 or PM2.5) in concentrations exceeding WHO Air Quality Guidelines</li> <li>➤ 11.6.4 Waste generation rates (kg per capita/year, overall and by economic sector</li> <li>➤ 11.6.5 Percentage of waste materials including obsolete stockpiles of pesticides, recovered, reused and recycled, including for energy generation, by economic sector.</li> <li>➤ 11.6.6 Number of cities with infrastructure in place for sustainable waste collection, separation, re-use, transport, recycling, resource recovery, and disposal</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>KENYA</b> (Academia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through international agreements like the BRS, there should be a team or a body representing these institutions in every member country.</li> <li>- Responsibilities of these bodies would include conducting surveys on the sound management of chemicals.</li> <li>- Results should be globally transmitted to a central point and analysed to give a measure of the progress.</li> <li>- If done in time intervals of say two years, the trends will be indicators of whether we are getting it right or wrong so that immediate proper strategies may be put in place to avert the situation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MADAGASCAR</b> (Government)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rethink mode of production and consumption to reduce waste and practice circular economy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> (Academia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is need for an indicator which is not just assessing if countries have chemical legislation or not but also assessing the management structure within governments and ministries.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> (Government)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contradictions to the legislation need to be resolved so that waste can be seen in the same light.</li> <li>- SA's national waste management legislation is good but needs to be broadened for pesticides as this is not emphasised.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sound management can only happen if the mandate falls in one directorate/government department - currently, it is part of 3 government department's mandates and some issues fall through the cracks, specifically issues around environmental fate.</li> <li>- If the mandate of chemicals can fall in one department instead of several departments sound management of chemical will be achieved.</li> </ul>
<b>TOGO</b> (Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The achievement of second indicators would be difficult if we do not have a strong collaboration between policy makers, NGOs, and academics.</li> <li>- The later have good ideas to help in achieving goals but not financial means.</li> </ul>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> (Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The suite of targets and indicators under the beyond 2020 framework will assist with this.</li> <li>- Need to ensure that indicators are considered whilst developing and agreeing these targets so they can be measured.</li> </ul>

**Poll 2 Results (N=8)**  
**Are you involved in any activities/projects that helps contribute to the implementation of SDG 12.4?**

Yes           8

**Poll 3 Results (N=3)**  
**"Provide examples of new indicators you feel are needed for target 12.4." Suggestions from participants included:**

- "Promoting of student research for alternative solutions on waste and chemicals management by government."
- "Number of skilled professionals on waste and chemicals management have increased."
- "# of countries with one body overseeing the regulation of chemicals and waste."

### Q3. How can we further accelerate the sound management of chemicals and waste by strengthening linkages to other relevant frameworks?

<b>GERMANY</b> (NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is little awareness about chemicals in other frameworks.</li> <li>- Support the idea that side events should be held at meetings of other relevant frameworks, about the link between chemicals and climate/biodiversity/water etc.</li> <li>- Voluntary agreements like SAICM need clear action plans that have mandatory requirements for those who participate in the action.</li> </ul>
<b>KENYA</b> (Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a need to increase funding on scientific research work.</li> </ul>
<b>MADAGASCAR</b> (Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project of SAICM such as lead paint project is a good example for international initiative to linkages of other relevant frameworks.</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> (Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is a key question particularly when looking at some international instruments that are voluntary and others are legally binding.</li> <li>- What is also key is to have a list of relevant targets and indicators that are required under other frameworks/instruments and not to repeat these in the Beyond 2020 framework.</li> <li>- A lack high political commitment to chemicals management is another barrier.</li> </ul>
<b>TOGO</b> (Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At national level, there is a steering committee to implement goals retained.</li> <li>- It would be better to have small committees on a specific target and make the adequate linkages as presented previously, with other goals and targets.</li> <li>- I remind that we had 8 MDGs and now we should implement 17 SDGs.</li> <li>- It could be more interesting to define less goals and to have opportunities to be more focused.</li> </ul>
<b>UGANDA</b> (NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the issue of, for example agriculture and pesticides contamination, where we see human exposure and unsafe food/water, there is need to link these to existing frameworks for environment and human rights.</li> <li>- Again, there is need for access to information and data and adequate engagement with the policy makers.</li> </ul>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> (Academia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chemical products will be required to enable many of the SDGs.</li> <li>- Without working across all the SDGs, sound chemicals management will not be possible.</li> </ul>

#### Poll 4 Results (N=9)

Which areas/frameworks do you think are most relevant to link to for accelerating 12.4 on the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste? (participants could tick more than one)

Link to other parts of the SDG framework (e.g. related to waste, air quality, health, etc...)

Health

Food and agriculture

Human rights

Consumption and production (e.g. 10 Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption)

					7
					6
					6
				5	
				5	

#### Poll 5 Results (N=7)

What are the key barriers that stakeholders need to address to accelerate 12.4?  
(participants could tick more than one)

Lack of capacity to provide technical

Lack of scientific data to determine interventions

Funding capacity

Consensus on good-practice interventions to address specific issues

					6
					6
				5	
				2	

#### Helpful resources:

- **Global Chemicals Outlook-II** <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/policy-and-governance/global-chemicals-outlook>
- **Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals – 2020 Report of the UN Secretary General** <https://undocs.org/en/E/2020/57>
- **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)

**CSDGs CoP:** The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Environmental Health Division at the University of Cape Town (UCT) created this Community of Practice (CoP) to foster online discussions and address key issues on Chemicals and SDGs (CSDGs) among stakeholders from governments, international organizations, industry, academia and civil society.

This CoP is contributing to the SAICM/GEF project on Emerging Chemicals Policy Issues Knowledge Management Component. 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)*.

If you have any question or require clarification on this initiative, please contact the SAICM Secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@un.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@un.org) or UCT at [uctcops@outlook.com](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com).

Join the CSDGs CoP at: <https://saicmknowledge.org/community>

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