

Invitation to a special event during the High-Level Political Forum 2018

## **Meeting the challenge of chemical pollution beyond 2020**

### **Working together for healthy people and a healthy planet!**

**Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Auditorium of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations,  
871 United Nations Plaza, New York

The purpose of this event is to provide a platform for participants to discuss and exchange views and perspectives on chemicals and waste in the context of SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns, thus ensuring healthy lives and a healthy planet well into the future.

The global chemical sector is a major economic factor, and a key enabler for achieving sustainable development. The global production of chemicals is expected to almost double by 2030 compared to 2015. Yet despite considerable progress on safe chemicals management, serious health and environmental impacts from chemical pollution remain unresolved.

In the context of SDG 12, sustainable consumption and production requires a systematic approach throughout the life cycle of chemicals and cooperation across actors and sectors throughout the supply chain, from producers to final consumers. Target 12.4 in particular is set for achievement by 2020, which is aligned with the overall objective of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). As 2020 approaches, there is a need for the global community to reflect on the ambition level following up to SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

At this side event, high level representatives from governments, the UN system and other stakeholders will discuss challenges and opportunities for sound chemicals and waste management in the context of key global trends. The event will also identify how the UN system could increase its contribution benefiting from chemical management to achieve SDG 12.

Outcomes would include increased international attention to the negotiation process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; new insights on how to advance implementation of SDG commitments for beating chemicals and waste pollution; exchange on how to better manage risks and increase benefits for all from dealing with chemicals and wastes; and enhanced engagement from all relevant stakeholders and sectors, both in the periods up to and beyond 2020.

## **Provisional Agenda**

**Welcome note:** HE Ms. Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary for the Environment, Germany

**Introductory keynote:** HE Ms. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada (tbc)

### **Panel discussion:**

Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions

HE Ms. Karolina Skog, Minister for the Environment, Sweden

Ms. Saori Dubourg, Member of the Board of Executive Directors, BASF SE (tbc)

HE Mr. Edson Duarte, Minister of Environment, Brazil (tbc)

Ms. Susan Wilburn, International Sustainability Director, Health Care Without Harm

HE Mr. Dennis Wanchinga, Minister for Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, Zambia (tbc)

**Conclusions:** Ms. Gertrud Sahler, President of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

**Reception speech:** Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment (tbc)

The event will be facilitated by Ms. Minu Hemmati.

Refreshments and a light buffet will be served during the reception speech.

This side event is targeted at high-level decision-makers and participants in the High-level Political Forum (delegations and stakeholders). Please R.S.V.P. no later than **July 12, 2018** by confirming your participation to Mr. Nils Simon, [simon@adelphi.de](mailto:simon@adelphi.de) stating your name, position and affiliation. For security purposes, a photo-ID is mandatory to gain access to the premises of the German Mission.