

MSP Institute, 21.10.2020

Stakeholder submission on essential elements for a possible ICCM5 High-level Declaration (HLD) on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Dear Madam or Sir,

at the stakeholder workshop on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in January 2020, participants also discussed aspects of a possible UNGA resolution. Discussants agreed that *“an UNGA resolution on chemicals and waste could refer to interlinkages between chemicals and waste and other agendas and clusters, via the SDGs, including development, gender, biodiversity, climate change, and circular economy. This may bring the beyond 2020 framework into the 2030 Agenda, rather than keeping it “separate””* (UNITAR 2020¹).

Building on these considerations, we we would like to share the following recommendations on gender equality for your preparation to develop a possible High-level Declaration on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

For further information or if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Anna Holthaus and Minu Hemmati, MSP Institute

What would you consider the most important aspects and key messages for strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste and political commitment for a just and resilient world that require anchoring in an HLD?

- The varied roles of all genders in society shape their exposure to chemicals, which makes the gender dimensions of the sound management of chemicals and waste highly relevant (SAICM Secretariat 2018²)
- The susceptibility to chemical exposure varies by sex (ibid.), due to physical and physiological characteristics
- Advancing knowledge on the linkages between chemicals and gender is key to improve the understanding of impacts of chemicals on human health and nature.

¹ UNITAR (2020): Stakeholder workshop on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Summary.

http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP4/INF/SAICM_IP4_INF6_Rev_1.pdf

² SAICM Secretariat (2018): Gender and the sound management of chemicals and waste. Policy Brief.

http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/SDGs/SAICM_Gender_Policy_Brief.pdf

What should the scope, key elements and messages of the ICCM5 HLD cover?

- Gender equality is an integral part of the implementation of SMCW, including at the SAICM secretariat and at national levels
- Relevant institutions and actors should be supported in their gender mainstreaming activities through proven instruments and strategies such as creating Gender Focal Points, providing capacity building, and developing Gender Action Plans
- Women's full, equal and effective participation needs to be ensured at all levels, in all sectors, and among all stakeholders
- Women can act as agents of change and contribute specific experiences and expertise, due to gender specific distribution of labour. This can help revealing challenges previously unnoticed and developing alternative, gender just solutions.

How should the ICCM5 HLD be structured, including participation, responsibilities, and processes to address current challenges?

- Reference the full range of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, labour unions, NGOs, women's organisations and gender experts to recognize the multi-stakeholder and multisectoral approach and increase ownership and commitment by all stakeholders
- Gender mainstreaming should be highlighted as a cross-cutting tasks at all policy levels, in all sectors, and among all stakeholders