Programme

Global Forum on Environment:
Towards cost-effective management systems for industrial and consumer chemicals
Trends data from the UNEP Global Chemicals Outlook II: From Legacies to Innovative Solutions (GCO-II) suggest that the doubling of the global chemicals market between 2017 and 2030 will increase global chemical releases, exposures, concentrations and adverse health and environmental impacts unless the sound management of chemicals and waste is achieved worldwide. Findings of the GCO-II also indicate that the sound management of chemicals and waste will not be achieved by 2020. Therefore effective and sustainable policies for the sound management of chemicals need to be further enhanced and a new ambitious UN framework on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 needs to be established.

Production and consumption of chemicals is rapidly increasing in emerging economies while the design of chemical management policies, the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks and the implementation of risk assessment methodologies and risk management decisions require a great deal of efforts in terms of time and resources from governments and industry.

The Global Forum brings together leading actors in the field of chemicals management to promote effective engagement, collaboration and action on the sound management of chemicals and waste. This includes regulators and policy makers in charge of chemical safety in OECD Member and Partner countries as well as relevant stakeholders from International Governmental Organisations, in particular those of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), private industry organisations and companies, civil society, philanthropies and more.

The event will enable participants to:

- exchange experience and best practices in setting-up and implementing a cost-effective management system for industrial and consumer chemicals, in particular as regards chemicals inventories and legal and institutional frameworks;
- provide knowledge about the latest progress in terms of methodologies for cost-effective risk management measures such as the grouping of chemicals;
- create networks in the field of sound management of chemicals and waste.

The Global Forum will also:

- contribute to the development of basic national and regional chemicals management systems worldwide;
- promote the systematic evaluation of chemicals worldwide;
- contribute to the design and implementation of the new UN framework on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
Programme Overview

Day 1
Tuesday 3 November 2020 - Room CC 6

09:00 - 09:30
Registration

09:30 - 09:40
Opening Session

09:40 - 11:00
Session 1 - Act now: why improving the management of chemicals is crucial

11:00 - 11:30
Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00
Session 2 - Challenges with setting-up and implementing a cost-effective industrial and consumer chemicals management system

2.1 Challenges in deciding on risk management measures: risk management for groups of chemicals

Development of risk reduction approaches and implementation of risk management actions are necessary to leverage the benefits from using chemicals. In view of the huge number of chemicals on the market, management of chemicals one-by-one is not always cost-effective. During this session, panel members will share their experience and best practices in the risk management of groups of chemicals, e.g. based on the example of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs).

13:00 - 14:30
Lunch break

14:30 - 16:00
2.2 Challenges in risk management along the life-cycle of chemical (in) products: the Safe-by-design concept

The concept of safe-by-design aims to prevent negative impacts on human health and the environment, by considering safety aspects early in the design process of chemicals, materials and products. It also enables the transition towards a circular economy, which requires inherently safer materials that maintain their quality through multiple material cycles, including repair, reuse and recycling.

16:00 - 16:30
Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00
2.3 Best practices in setting up and maintaining an inventory of chemicals

Designing an inventory is often one of the first steps in establishing a management system for industrial and consumer chemicals. Panel members will share their experience regarding the need of an inventory and about the challenges they had to face in both establishing and maintaining their inventories.
Programme Overview

Day 2
Wednesday 4 November 2020 - Room CC 6

09:40 - 10:30

2.4 Best practices in setting-up legal and institutional frameworks
The design and implementation of comprehensive and coherent legal and institutional frameworks are key to achieving sound management of chemicals and waste. During this session, panel members will share their experience on setting-up legal and institutional frameworks for the management of industrial and consumer chemicals, with a special emphasis on the sustainable financing of these frameworks.

10:30 - 11:00

2.5 Other challenges and opportunities
The objective of this session is to broaden the discussion and to touch upon issues that have not been discussed at the Forum and that might need further work.

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 - 12:45

Session 3 - Conclusions and Opportunities for future collaborative actions

12:45 - 13:00

Closing session
2020 Global Forum on Environment
Towards cost-effective management systems for industrial and consumer chemicals

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