



22nd-26th November 2021

## International Civil Society Conference on Chemicals Management

# Tomorrow without Toxics

## PROGRAM

**Join the interactive online Conference! [Register here!](#)**

Representatives from civil society organizations, social movements, citizens around the world, intergovernmental organizations and governmental representatives share their vision and discuss approaches to a future without toxic chemicals.

Be part of a cross-sectoral civil society CALL TO ACTION addressing the urgency of a powerful global commitment for safe and sustainable chemicals management!

**Language:** English with simultaneous translation for the main panels into Arabic, French, Russian, and Spanish.

Program update and registration: [www.giftfreie-zukunft.org/icscm](http://www.giftfreie-zukunft.org/icscm)

More information in different languages available here: [عربي](#), [English](#), [но-русски](#), [español](#), [Français](#)

Organized by: [German NGO Forum Environment and Development](#), in cooperation with [BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany](#), [HEJ-Support](#), [PAN Germany](#) and [WECEF](#).

	Monday November 22	Tuesday November 23	Wednesday November 24	Thursday November 25	Friday November 26
09:00			<u>Identifying highly hazardous pesticides by using the PAN List of HHPs and the List of Banned Pesticides</u>		
09:30					
10:00	<u>Why gender matters for a tomorrow without toxics – an introduction</u>	<u>Citizens use their Right to Know</u>	<u>Double standards and hazardous pesticides from Bayer and BASF</u>	<u>Harmful effects of the reuse of chemical containers for domestic use in Africa: a case study from Nigeria</u>	<u>Profits without borders: how companies disregard environmental protection and human rights all over the world</u>
10:30					
11:00	<u>Research study on the impacts of COVID-19 on chemicals and wastes in Nigeria</u>	<u>German and European supply chain policy: chances and limits for the regulation of substances and chemicals</u>		<u>International Regulatory Landmark for Pesticides: a proposal for an international conference</u>	
11:30					
12:00		<u>Plastic waste shipments from the Global North to the Global South</u>	<u>Global Minimum Transparency Standard as the way towards equal safety for everyone everywhere</u>	<u>Exemplary policies for a tomorrow without toxics – the winners of the Future Policy Award 2021</u>	<u>Discussion on the draft Call to Action</u>
12:30					
13:00		<u>Moving towards a global legally binding treaty on plastic: The</u>			

Click on the panel or session to receive more information /// you just have to register once and then you can attend all or only one event

13:30			<u>importance of Transparency on chemicals</u>			
14:00	<u>Round Table: Women and chemicals</u>	<u>Behind the toxic truth: sources and strategies to eliminate global lead (Pb) exposures</u>	<b>Main Panel: Chemicals in products and the Right to Know</b>		<b>Main Panel: Ideal solution for international chemicals management</b>	
14:30						
15:00	<b>Main Panel: Social injustice in international chemicals management</b>			<u>How can NGOs work together more effectively in the SAICM process to address highly hazardous pesticides?</u>		
15:30						
16:00			<u>Monitoring and reducing toxic exposures: lessons from the global electronics industry</u>	<u>Geography of asymmetry, circle of poison and molecular colonialism in the commercial relationship between Mercosur and the EU</u>	<u>Contaminated oceans: munition dumping and chemical weapons</u>	
16:30						
17:00						
17:30	<u>Education is a driving force to achieve toxic-free SDGs</u>					
18:00						

Main Panel
  Interactive Session\*

\*Please note that the interactive sessions are restricted to max. 50 participants.



**Monday, 22nd November 2021**

# **SOCIAL INJUSTICE IN INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT**

## **Panel**

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**How does the production and use of chemicals in general affect environmental justice and how is it linked with factors such as poverty, gender, social status, and ethnical background?**

Time: 3 pm - 5 pm CET

With: **Griffins Ochieng**, CEJAD Kenya, Program Coordinator  
**Piyush Mohapatra**, Toxics Link India, Program Coordinator  
**Rochelle Diver**, International Indian Treaty Council, Independent Consultant

**Chantal Van den Bossche** (*Moderation*), WECF, Communications Coordinator

## **Interactive Sessions**

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### **Why gender matters for a tomorrow without toxics - an introduction**

Monday, November 22 | 10 am CET | Breakout Room

What does gender have to do with chemicals and chemicals policy? Every day, each of us is in touch with chemicals and chemical substances either in our food, medicine or cosmetic products - often in a gendered way. For a tomorrow without toxics and to leave no one behind, a gender-responsive chemicals policy is essential!

This event introduces you to the complex world of chemicals (policy) and its gender aspects. It gives you a first overview of key gender dimensions, offers space for exchanging experiences and activities, and presents first suggestions on how to include gender in chemicals management.

Hosted by: **The MSP Institute**, Minu Hemmati and Anna Holthaus

## Research study on the impacts of COVID-19 on chemicals and wastes in Nigeria (Presentation)

Monday, November 22 | 11 am CET | Breakout room

The Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE) under the IPEN Toxics-Free SDGs (TFSDGs) Projects on COVID-19 Chemicals and Wastes has concluded a Research Study on COVID-19 Impacts on Chemicals and Wastes in Nigeria.

Under the situation of movement restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria, there was the likelihood of increased generation of solid waste, due to working from home and due to increased online shopping. New kinds of wastes, such as used face masks or empty hand sanitizer containers have also been introduced into the environment, and such wastes have become somewhat ubiquitous, with fly-tipping (illegal dumping) and improper disposal.

PAVE completed a desktop review, undertook one-on-one interviews with key respondents and conducted field observation visits to poor communities in the states and areas that were studied. At the conclusion of the project, PAVE agreed that, although a raft of policies have been developed and adopted in Nigeria regarding the COVID-19 emergency response, there is a lack of guidance on how to adapt regular municipal waste management services to a pandemic situation (UN-Habitat 2020). More importantly, a notable gap in Nigeria's existing solid waste management (SWM) efforts is the absence of an inclusive SWM policy. The study argues that SWM under the COVID-19 pandemic qualifies as an emergency service as an essential service in Nigeria.

Hosted by: **Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE)**, Anthony Akpan

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## Round Table: Women and chemicals

Monday, November 22 | 1 pm CET | Breakout room

Gender equality is among key topics of the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets and has become one of the focus areas within sound management of chemicals and waste. Women and men are exposed and effected by harmful chemicals in a different way due to the biological susceptibility and the role in the society. A gender-differentiated approach is necessary in policy making, research and project design to increase protection against harmful chemicals to both women and men.

The Round Table provides an opportunity to interactively discuss questions related to gender and chemicals with the focus on women. The outcome of the discussion will be reflected in the Call to Action of the conference. Together we want to identify potential next steps, activities, and solutions for our joint work on the topic.

Hosted by: **HEJ-Support, WECF, Toxics Link** and **AWHHE**

Contact: [info@hej-support.org](mailto:info@hej-support.org) or [johanna.hausmann@wecf-consultant.org](mailto:johanna.hausmann@wecf-consultant.org)

## Behind the toxic truth: sources and strategies to eliminate global lead (Pb) exposures

Monday, November 22 | 2 pm CET | Breakout room

Did you know 1 in 3 children globally are lead poisoned? The sources of exposure – and ramifications for everyone's future – might surprise you.

Join the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) and a panel of distinguished world experts as they discuss the latest scientific data, their findings and experiences tackling major sources of lead exposure in low and middle-income countries.

Hosted by: **Global Alliance on Health and Pollution**, Rachael Kupka Acting Executive Director  
Presentations: **Findings from the Toxic Truth report and Pure Earth fieldwork**, Richard Fuller, CEO of Pure Earth, Chair of the Board of the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) (including Source identification in Patna City, India)  
**Source identification and interventions in Bangladesh**, Dr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Lead and Project Coordinator Environmental Interventions Unit, International Center for Diarrheal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (icdr,b)  
**Used Lead Acid Battery Recycling in Nigeria**, Mr. Terseer Ugbor, Director/Executive Secretary, Alliance for Responsible Battery Recycling (ARBR) and CEO REDIN Industries

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## Education is a driving force to achieve toxic-free SDGs

Monday, November 22 | 5pm CET | Breakout room

Formal education at the national level can increase awareness and stimulate behavior change of future generations regarding environment and health.

Environmental issues are intrinsic to everyday life of our children, especially through different hazardous chemicals. The chronic effects of anthropogenic activities and especially the combination of a number of environmental issues inside the body (magnification) and the metabolites we get through these combinations, are particularly alarming as children and youth are very vulnerable to a list of diseases such as cancer, lowered fertility, endocrine disruption, brain attacks, suppression of immune systems and mutagen.

To confront and challenge these issues and their hazardous effects, the Association of Environmental Education based in Tunisia, is working on a pilot project since 2009 on how the Platform of Formal Education involving teachers, curriculum and students of all ages and levels is a crucial pillar at the national level for communication as the official and recognized institution for education. The project aims to make the Platform of Education more efficient, committing, and accountable as part of all national plans and Agenda 2030 and international SDGs. At the same time the project is also focusing on developing strategies to advance sustainable formal education.

Hosted by: **Association de l'Éducation Environnementale pour les Futures Générations (AEEFG)**  
Tunisia, Semia Gharbi



**Tuesday, 23rd November 2021**

# **CHEMICALS IN PRODUCTS AND THE RIGHT TO KNOW**

## **Panel**

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### **How can we achieve transparency, disclosure and the Right to Know on chemicals in products along the life-cycle?**

Time: 2 pm - 4 pm CET

With: **Elise Vitali**, EEB, Policy Officer for Chemicals and Expert on Transparency  
**Dr. Olga Speranskaya**, HEJ-Support, Co-Director  
**Siddika Sultana**, Asian Center for Environmental Health, Executive Director  
**Yuyun Ismawati Drwiega**, Nexus 3 Foundation, Co-Founder and Senior Advisor

**Ulrike Kallee** (*Moderation*), BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany, Head of Department Substances & Technologies

## **Interactive Sessions**

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### **Citizens use their Right to Know**

Tuesday, November 23 | 10 am CET | Breakout room

The European chemicals regulation REACH (Register, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals) specifies information requirement for substances of very high concern. These substances are carcinogenic, endocrine-disrupting or extremely hazardous to the environment. However, most people do not know that they have a Right to Know. To change this and promote the European consumer rights, various stakeholders have launched the EU-Life-Project "AskREACH". AskREACH motivates people to use their Right to Know about substances of very high concern in products with the help of an app. With the use of an app, consumers can scan the barcode and send a REACH request to the supplier. The app Scan4Chem is available in 17 countries.

Hosted by: **BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany**, Luise Körner

## German and European supply chain policy: chances and limits for the regulation of substances and chemicals

Tuesday, November 23 | 11 am CET | Breakout room

The global North, and Europe and Germany in particular, import raw materials and raw products, refine them and export the high-quality products. During raw material extraction, processing and transportation, numerous human rights violations and environmental destructions occur. Until now, companies and governments from the global North have not felt responsible for this. Since this year, there is a Supply Chain Act in Germany and there are plans to create one in Europe. Supply chain laws are supposed to close the mentioned accountability lack and demand companies to be responsible for their supply chains. Supply Chain Acts have a potential for the ensuring of environmental and human rights standards, however depending on their design and sanctioning mechanism. This is also valid for the exposure to chemicals. Lia Polotzek from BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany has been working in the field of trade policy for several years and will analyze how the supply chain regulation could fill an administrative gap in existing regulation on chemicals and where there is still a need for further regulations and conventions.

Hosted by: **BUND – Friends of the earth Germany**, Lia Polotzek

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## Plastic waste shipments from the Global North to the Global South: how exports from countries like Germany and UK offend social and environmental justice in Turkey and elsewhere

Tuesday, November 23 | 12 pm | Breakout room

Plastic waste from countries like Germany and the UK still ends up illegally dumped or burned in Turkey or Malaysia, causing harm to human health and the environment. Although Germany has the capacity and the technology to treat and recycle plastic packaging “at home”, it exports up to one million tons of plastic packaging waste per year. The session will introduce Greenpeace’s investigations on how hazardous chemicals from uncontrolled plastic waste dumpsites contaminate soils and water bodies in countries of the Global South. And it will give an overview how Greenpeace campaigns tackle the rapidly increasing waste imports to Turkey.

Hosted by: **Greenpeace Mediterranean**, Nihan Temiz Atas  
**Greenpeace Research Laboratories**, Dr. Kevin Brigden  
**Greenpeace Germany**, Manfred Santen  
**Cukurova University**, Turkey, Dr. Sedat Gundogdu

## Global Minimum Transparency Standard as the way towards equal safety for everyone everywhere

Tuesday, November 23 | 12 pm CET | Breakout room

Hazardous chemicals potentially spread throughout the life cycles of materials and products, but this situation can be avoided through informed decisions. Instrumental for avoiding harmful exposure and uncontrolled pollution from mishandling materials and products is transparency of their chemical composition. Furthermore, transparency helps putting in place conditions for improved material resource efficiencies, for example by allowing for informed decisions on safe substitutions of hazardous chemicals so that materials can be safely reused and recycled.

While the EU countries made substantial steps forward to protect their citizens from substances of very high concern in products, most other jurisdictions, especially those from developing and transition economies, lack control over toxic chemicals, including in products, present on their markets. Double standards still play a significant role in undermining human rights, equity, and justice by allowing companies to apply different standards in different countries.

These challenges and injustices could be addressed with a Global Minimum Transparency Standard (GMTS) for hazardous chemicals, which would ensure the foundation for equal safety for everyone everywhere, and level the playing field for companies to facilitate trade. It would be a key instrument to facilitate a better building back of the economy after the pandemic. In this Session, we outline how the GMTS could be constructed and put in place.

Hosted by: **HEJ-Support**, Olga Speranskaya and Alexandra Caterbow  
**SSNC**, Andreas Prevodnik  
**GroundWork** South Africa, Rico Euripidou

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## Moving towards a global legally binding treaty on plastic: the importance of transparency on chemicals

Tuesday, November 23 | 1 pm CET | Breakout room

More than 120 states have expressed support for a global treaty on the full lifecycle of plastics. On October 14th 2021, Peru presented a draft resolution on behalf of 42 states + EU co-sponsors, for adoption at UNEA 5.2. It aims to establish an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) with a mandate to negotiate a legally binding global agreement to address plastic pollution. The draft resolution provides that the future treaty should include, among others, provisions *"(...) to address product design and use, including compounds, additives and harmful substances as well as intentionally added microplastics"*. This session will explore how the discussion around a future treaty to address the whole life cycle of plastics can represent an opportunity to increase overall transparency in the petrochemical sector in general and for plastic in particular.

Hosted by: **CIEL**, David Azoulay and Jane Patton

## Monitoring and reducing toxic exposures: lessons from the global electronics industry

Day: **November 23**

Time: **4 pm CET**

Tuesday, November 23 | 4 pm CET | Breakout room

Chemicals in products have an impact on many people around the world. But generally, the focus is on the consumer and their health. Less focus is on the production sphere, the health of the workers during the production and the workers in the supply chain. Recognizing that the worst worker exposures occur in the deeper parts of the supply chain, this also means eliminating hazards in products will not be successful until all of the component manufacturers who are often hidden deep in the supply chain, eliminate the hazards in their components. The big challenge is that most companies still do not understand the complexities of their own supply chains and often do not know even the identity of the chemicals used in each production stage.

This is even worse, because the production and consumptions are spatially divided: located in the global south on the one hand and in the global north on the other. So colonialist patterns are still active. But the focus on the consumer health could also be an important driver to get rid of hazardous chemicals.

This workshop focuses on how to deal with that issues in the electronic industry. There are different approaches and tools to ensure the Right to Know and the elimination of toxics in products and the supply chain.

Hosted by: **Ted Smith**, Coordinator of International Campaign for Responsible Technology

Panelists:

- Sanjiv Pandita** – Senior Advisor, Asia Program Solidarity Center (former Executive Director, Asia Monitor Resource Centre)
- Baskut Tuncak** – Funding Director, Common Rights (former UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Toxics)
- Omana George** – Monitoring Coordinator for Electronics Watch (Former Director for Occupational Safety and Health for Asia Monitor Resource Centre)
- Amanda Hawes** – Founder of Santa Clara Center for Occupational Safety and Health; attorney representing children of electronics workers born with birth defects due to parental exposure to toxics
- Pamela Brody-Heine** – Senior Director, Clean Electronics Production Network (formerly Green Electronics Council's Director of Standards Management)



## Wednesday, 24th November 2021

# PESTICIDES USE AND EXPOSURE

### Panel

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**What are the risks to the environment and people when pesticides are used? What are options to eliminate the risks and for the phasing out of Highly Hazardous Pesticides?**

Time: 12 pm - 2 pm CET

With: **Sarojeni V. Rengam**, PAN Asia Pacific, Executive Director  
**Anne Maine**, Biba Kenya, National Coordinator  
**Valéria Burity**, FIAN Brazil, Director  
**Gohar Khojayan**, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment, Communication Specialist

**Sascha Gabizon** (*Moderation*), Women Engage for a Common Future, Executive Director

### Interactive Sessions

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#### Identifying highly hazardous pesticides by using the PAN List of HHPs and the List of Banned Pesticides

Wednesday, November 24 | 9 am CET | Breakout room

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) contribute to worldwide biodiversity loss, contamination of natural resources like water and soil; and play a relevant role in global poisonings and human rights violations. The production and use of HHPs endanger the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals – of ending hunger, promoting sustainable agriculture and ensuring healthy lives. The key to solve all these problems is to phase out HHPs and replace them with agroecology as declared by ICCM4. Identifying HHPs is the first step to phase-out. While 338 pesticides are listed as highly hazardous in the PAN HHPs List, at least 460 pesticides are already banned by one or more countries worldwide. The phase-out of HHPs is feasible and underway in many countries.

Inputs by: **PAN Germany**, Susan Haffmans. She will give an introduction on how to use the PAN International HHP list to identify HHPs.  
**PAN Asia Pacific**, Dr. Meriel Watts. She will give an introduction on the PAN International consolidated list of banned pesticides. The lists gives an overview on what pesticides are banned in which countries.  
**HEJSupport**, Dr. Olga Speranskaya. She will give an example of using the lists to identify HHPs in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region.

## Double standards and hazardous pesticides from Bayer and BASF

Wednesday, November 24 | 10 am CET |

The agrochemical companies Bayer and BASF continue to market pesticides and active ingredients in the Global South that are not approved or even banned in the EU due to the risks they pose to the environment or human health. Such business practices are legal, but increasingly criticized as double standards.

The Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation, the INKOTA-Network, and PAN Germany have taken a glimpse behind the scenes of the international trade in pesticide active ingredients, focusing on the two German agrochemical giants, Bayer and BASF. The study reveals which highly hazardous active ingredients were developed and/or marketed by these two German agrochemical corporations. This in-depth analysis of the pesticides and active ingredients markets in South Africa, Brazil and Mexico reveals the extent and non-transparency of the lucrative business with hazardous pesticides. This contrasts with the devastating effects of pesticide use on the health of indigenous people and farmworkers in the three countries. The authors and activists will present the results of the study and discuss further questions in an open format.

Hosted by: **INKOTA -Network**, Wiebke Beushausen  
**PAN-Germany**, Peter Clausing

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## How can NGOs work together more effectively in the SAICM process to address highly hazardous pesticides?

Wednesday, November 24 | 2:30 pm | Breakout room

SAICM is a multi-stakeholder/multi-sector approach in which NGOs participate on an equal footing with governments, industry and other stakeholders. There are opportunities to have real impact. For the uninitiated, however, participation can be daunting, confusing and time-consuming. Some of the technical issues may also be challenging. By working together, sharing information resources, expertise and voicing our common goals we can all be more effective. We would like to reach out to allies in other NGOs to share experience and, in particular, to counter the global threat to human health and the environment posed by Highly Hazardous Pesticides. These pesticides poison thousands of smallholder farmers and their families each year. They lock producers into unsustainable farming systems with diminishing returns and they harm the very ecosystem services and biodiversity on which the future of farming and our environment depend. Join us to share your ideas and discuss better ways of working with each other to achieve real, positive change.

Inputs by: **PAN Germany**, Susan Haffmans  
**PAN Africa**, Maimouna Diene  
**CEJAD Kenya** Griffins Ochieng  
**PAN UK**, Dr Sheila Willis

## Geography of asymmetry, circle of poison and molecular colonialism in the commercial relationship between Mercosur and the EU

Wednesday, November 24 | 4 pm CET | Breakout room

European corporations are exporting massive amounts of pesticides to Mercosur, which is the common market of South America. This is the state of the art. When the free trade agreement between EU and Mercosur comes into force, this will increase massively. These pesticides are destroying forests, displacing indigenous peoples and farmers, and poisoning local populations. These dangerous substances come back to the plates of the European consumers. Prof Larissa Mies Bombardi of the University of Sao Paulo will present her new study "Geography of Asymmetry, Circle of Poison and Molecular Colonialism in the Commercial Relationship between Mercosur and the EU", which illustrates those destructive relations that the treaty negotiated between the two regions would not change, but instead, reinforce. The presentation will be divided into four parts based on the study and covering the asymmetry, molecular Colonialism and the poisoning circle. The final part will focus on the need to create an international regulatory framework for pesticides, along the lines, for example, of the Kyoto Protocol.

Hosted by: **Prof. Larissa Bombardi**, University São Paulo (USP)



# Thursday, 25th November 2021

## IDEAL SOLUTION FOR INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

### Panel

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**How should the governance for international chemicals management look like? What do we need to implement a sound management of chemicals and waste to achieve a tomorrow without toxics?**

Time: 2 pm - 4 pm CET

With: **Dr. Anita Breyer**, President ICCM5  
**Dr. Marcos A. Orellana**, UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights  
**Dr. Rolph Payet**, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions  
**David Azoulay**, CIEL, Managing Attorney  
**Alexandra Caterbow**, HEJ-Support, Co-Director

**Jürgen Maier** (*Moderation*), German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, CEO

### Interactive Sessions

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**Awareness raising on the harmful effects of the reuse of chemical containers for domestic use in Africa: a case study from Nigeria**

Thursday, November 25 | 10 am CET | Breakout room

In most developing countries like Nigeria, the reuse of pesticide containers for storage of water, food and fuel is very widespread. Chemicals are delivered to end-users packaged in metal, steel or plastic containers and packaging of various shapes and sizes. In developing countries, these containers and packaging find other uses after the chemicals have been consumed in households and markets as water storage containers and grain measures among other domestic and small economic uses.

It should however be realized that in most cases, it is very difficult to completely decontaminate these containers, regardless of the number of washings these containers undergo. They still retain chemical residues which release chemicals from the inner walls of the containers and contaminate liquids or solids placed inside them.

It is therefore become imperative to ensure proper disposal or recycling of all used pesticide containers to prevent their unauthorized use. It has been proved that when released into the human body and environment some of these chemicals cause long-term health and ecological consequences as they persist for long periods of time and travel thousands of kilometers from their source.

Hosted by: **Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE)**, Anthony Akpan

## Profits without borders: how companies disregard environmental protection and human rights all over the world

Thursday, November 25 | 10 am CET | Breakout room

Persistent and toxic chemicals are still endangering human health and the environment. One reason for that is that in countries of the Global South social and environmental standards for the mining raw materials, producing chemicals and products or for disposing of waste are not as rigorous as they are in industrial countries. Companies from industrial countries benefit from these “double standards”.

In its new publication “Profits Without Borders – How companies disregard environmental protection and human rights all over the world” BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany illustrates some examples from Africa, America, Asia as well as Europe on how such double standards violate both the environment and human rights which existing international treaties could not solve so far.

As things can't remain this way, possible solutions are pointed out, for instance the enforcement of the polluter-pays principle holding companies accountable for their products throughout their whole life cycles or the development of valid global standards for raw material extraction and sustainable chemicals and waste management, with the EU – and thus Germany as a global industrial player – taking a leadership role in this process.

Hosted by: **BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany**, Manuel Fernández and Ralph Ahrens

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## International Regulatory Landmark for Pesticides: a proposal for an international conference

Thursday, November 25 | 11 am CET | Breakout room

Based on the findings from the study “Geography of Asymmetry, Circle of Poison and Molecular Colonialism in the Commercial Relationship between Mercosur and the EU” the author and professor Larissa Bombardi sees the need to organize an international conference in order to build up an international protocol about pesticides. Prof. Bombardi already prepared a draft for this conference, which should be presented, shared and discussed with all participants. Any kind of proposal is welcome and also any kind of collaboration is welcome. There is no date for this kind of conference yet, but it will be organized, so now it is a good time to discuss and create a good starting point for building an international regulatory framework on pesticides.

Hosted by: **Prof. Larissa Bombardi**, University São Paulo (USP)

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## Exemplary policies for a tomorrow without toxics. The winners of the Future Policy Award 2021: best practice towards a strong international regulation of chemicals

Thursday, November 25 | 12 pm CET | Breakout room

Each year, the Future Policy Award honors outstanding and exemplary policies on the protection of the environment and for more sustainability. This year, the World Future Council – initiator of the Award – focused on the most effective policy solutions to minimize the impact of chemicals on people and the environment. A total of five chemical protection policies from Columbia, Kirgizstan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Sweden were awarded, in partnership with UNEP, SAICM, ILO, OECD, UNITAR and UNDP.

Alexandra Wandel, Executive Director of the World Future Council, will present the Award in general and this year's winners in more detail. The awarded policies can be seen and used as best practice examples and can be a target for our policy work. Especially in view of the negotiations for a SAICM-beyond-2020 agreement, the awarded policies could be used as an argumentation tool. This session will focus on the fields of action for a strong, international regulation of chemicals that emerge from the Award and the excellent policies.

Hosted by: **World Future Council**, Ingrid Fritsche

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## **Sustainable chemicals and materials policy for the protection of climate and biodiversity**

**Thursday, November 25 | 12:30 pm CET | Breakout room**

We use many substances in various ways. By the term substances we mean, on the one hand, the production and use of chemicals and, on the other hand, numerous material flows from raw material extraction to waste. All of these ways of using materials and substances are related to the climate change and biodiversity loss. When we talk about crises, we need to show how they are connected. This interconnection leads to an interaction between causes and effects, but also make it necessary to find a solution that addresses all the problems. There are international conventions for climate change and biodiversity loss, there is nothing comparable for substances.

Klaus Günter Steinhäuser and Markus Große Ophoff from BUND will present a paper and their thoughts about a framework convention for substances in general. This convention is a basis for a transformation towards a sustainable society.

Hosted by: **BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany** Working Group Environmental Chemicals and Toxicology, Klaus Günter Steinhäuser und Markus Große Ophoff

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## **Contaminated oceans: munition dumping and chemical weapons**

**Thursday, November 25 | 4 pm CET | Breakout room**

For decades, the oceans and seas have functioned as the world's dumping ground for various kinds of waste. Munition dumping is no exception. Research in Europe has discovered massive munition waste, relicts from WWII, in both Baltic and North Sea, with chemicals leaking into the sea and washing up on shores. In other world regions, one can only speculate about the amount of munition waste in the seas, as much of its disposal was and is illegal or secret. Munitions dumped on the seabed is a global source of concern, threatening the marine environment and human health. Its discovery is difficult, its removal risky. Yet, chemical weapons and illegal disposal of munition are not an issue of the past.

In this session, we want to discuss with Torsten Frey from GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel and Dr. Paul Walker, Coordinator of the Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition, about the danger of past and present munition dumping, how to remove it from the oceans as well as the need to regulate and ban chemical weapons.

Hosted by: **German NGO Forum on Environment and Development**, Marie-Luise Abshagen



# Friday, 26th November 2021

## CALL TO ACTION

### Interactive Session

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#### Discussion on the draft Call to Action "*SAICM-Beyond 2020 - Call to Action for a Tomorrow without Toxics*"

Friday, November 26 | 12 pm CET | Breakout room

Participate in a joint Call to Action requesting governments to ensure sound chemicals and waste management that will lead to meaningful positive changes around the world!

- A draft of the Call to Action will be published during the conference.
- Discuss and comment on the draft via a discussion board, available throughout the whole conference!
- **Gather in this interactive session on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> and discuss the draft in breakout rooms!**

The SAICM mandate has passed without reaching its goals. We see that the process has stalled, while the need and urgency for solution-oriented actions to prevent the threat of toxic chemicals to human health and ecosystems persists.

Let's take this opportunity of coming together to develop a joint Call to Action that will be further delivered to the governments and stakeholders around the world.

With a joint Call to Action we want to

- outline common positions and demands,
- push for fast and decisive implementation,
- increase the pressure on decision makers
- to finally ban the threads from chemicals and waste to human health and ecosystems.

Hosted by: **German NGO Forum on Environment and Development**