

Terms of reference for Gender Heroes 2: Leading the way to a detoxified future

1. Stories on Gender Heroes

At the 2015 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Secretariat launched its flagship publication on gender, “Gender Heroes: from grassroots to global action”. This publication brought together stories on past and present activities and initiatives that described how gender issues were considered in and impacted by hazardous chemicals and wastes management at the local, national and regional levels.

The Secretariat intends to launch a follow-up publication at the 2019 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, “Gender Heroes 2: Leading the way to a detoxified future”. In this publication, the Secretariat hopes to shine a light on the positive impacts that are made from empowering women and vulnerable groups in decision-making with respect to the management of chemicals and wastes and how in doing so, better outcomes are achieved for all.

Potential subjects include, for example, the importance of the full and effective participation of women and/or vulnerable groups in decision-making with respect to the management of chemicals and wastes; how ensuring balanced gender representation in decision-making processes has contributed to the sound management of chemicals and waste; how to ensure effective participation of women or those from vulnerable groups in decision-making with respect to the management of chemicals and wastes, e. g. by developing gender action plans by government agencies, gender budgeting, collaborating with ministries and civil society organizations responsible for gender and women’s issues; how to empower women or those from vulnerable groups through initiatives and projects aiming to improve their access to education, resources and opportunities in the field of chemicals and waste management.

The text should be written as a story rather than as a project description and should not serve to promote or denigrate any government, organization or individual. The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions shall retain all intellectual property rights pertaining to the publication and therefore may use or reproduce the stories, illustrations and pictures submitted at its own discretion.

2. Outline of the stories

The story should cover all the elements listed below.

Content	Explanation
Introduction	Catch attention of reader by summing up the main elements of the story
Problem statement	Briefly describe the issue that was faced
How the issue was addressed	Outline the goal(s) of the project or activity undertaken to address the issue and what steps were taken
Implementation of the approach	Describe what happened (who, what, why, when, how, etc.), the scale of the project (e.g. number of people / area affected) and the financing of the project
Outcomes / impacts	Describe the benefits that were obtained and the situation after implementation of the “solution”
Lessons learned / conclusions	Describe any positive and negative experiences: how to improve and what went especially well; conclusions; how the activities could be replicated

3. Modalities of contributing a story

The Secretariat kindly requests that stories are submitted in **English**. If you face difficulties in submitting your story in English, please contact the Secretariat. Please note that the Secretariat will also accept stories in French

and Spanish. The length should be approximately 400 words (1 page in A4) and no longer than 800 words (2 pages in A4). Please provide pictures, graphs and/or illustrations to accompany the story.

The deadline for submission of stories is **1 September 2018**.

4. Selection committee

A selection committee will be comprised of the members of the Secretariat's Gender Task Team. The selection committee will make a selection of 5 to 7 stories to be presented in the publication.

5. Selection criteria

The selection committee shall select those stories that fall within the scope of the terms of reference (see paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above) and in particular, those stories that emphasize the importance of the full and effective participation of women and vulnerable groups in decision-making with respect to the management of chemicals and wastes.

6. Distribution

The selected stories will be included in a publication entitled "Gender Heroes 2: Leading the way to a detoxified future" which will be prepared by the Secretariat for the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in May 2019. The publication will be launched at a side-event during the meetings.