



UNEA-3 Side Event

Towards a Pollution-Free Planet: Accelerating the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes

Monday, 4 December 2017, 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.
UN Office in Nairobi, Gigiri, Conference Room 1

jointly organized by the Governments of Germany, Mauritius and Uruguay,
Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and
Chemicals and Health Branch of UN Environment

Every day new data and examples reveal the burden that pollution places on our health, ecosystems and economies, affecting vulnerable, poor populations in developing countries the hardest. Pollution was recently found to be responsible for an estimated 9 million premature deaths every year.¹

Pollution can take many forms, with chemicals and wastes becoming one of the major sources of pollution if not managed properly. Chemicals exposure may occur through the presence of pesticides in food or the release of hazardous chemicals contained in consumer products during manufacturing, use or at their end of life. Wastes are also at the sources of toxic pollution mixtures, with potential emissions to air, and releases to land and water.

Join us to learn more about innovative and inspiring solutions spearheaded by different stakeholders to protect human health and the environment from the serious impact of pollution from chemicals and wastes.

The event will be structured as an interactive dialogue between national governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector and UN entities to explore practical solutions to beat pollution, through the promotion of circular business models, integrated policies and regulations, multi-stakeholder partnerships, innovation and safe technologies.

The debate will also address how the integration of the pollution agenda into other environment challenges, such as climate change and marine litter and microplastics, can leverage the potential for greater impact.

¹ Report of the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health (Sept 2017).

Programme

Introduction:

Mr. Jacob Duer, Head, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, UN Environment

Panel discussion:

Moderated by Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Practical solutions implemented in Mauritius: Recent initiatives for a comprehensive wastes management programme

- H.E. Ms. Nema Devi Goorah, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritius

Practical solutions implemented in Uruguay: Recent legislations to finance waste-management programs and to structure the collection and recycling sectors

- H.E. Mr. Alejandro Garofali, Ambassador of Uruguay to Ethiopia, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to UNEP and UN-Habitat, Permanent Representative (Observer) of Uruguay to the African Union

Practical solutions implemented in Germany: Measures to promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle and interlinkages with ongoing efforts at international level

- Ms. Jutta Emig, Head of Division, International Chemicals Safety and Sustainable Chemistry, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Promoting sustainable and inclusive recycling industries in developing countries: Role of the informal sector in the e-waste recycling industry

- Mr. Mathias Schluep, Director, World Resources Forum

Main drivers of innovation and green technologies development for the sound chemicals management

- Mr. Friedrich Barth, International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre

Importance of private sector engagement in promoting clean and green economies and circular business models: the newly launched Global Battery Alliance

- Ms. Antonia Gawel, Head of the Circular Economy Initiative, World Economic Forum