

# Developing a Gender Action Plan in the Global Framework on Chemicals

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Chemicals and Waste Management  
Community of Practice (CoP)



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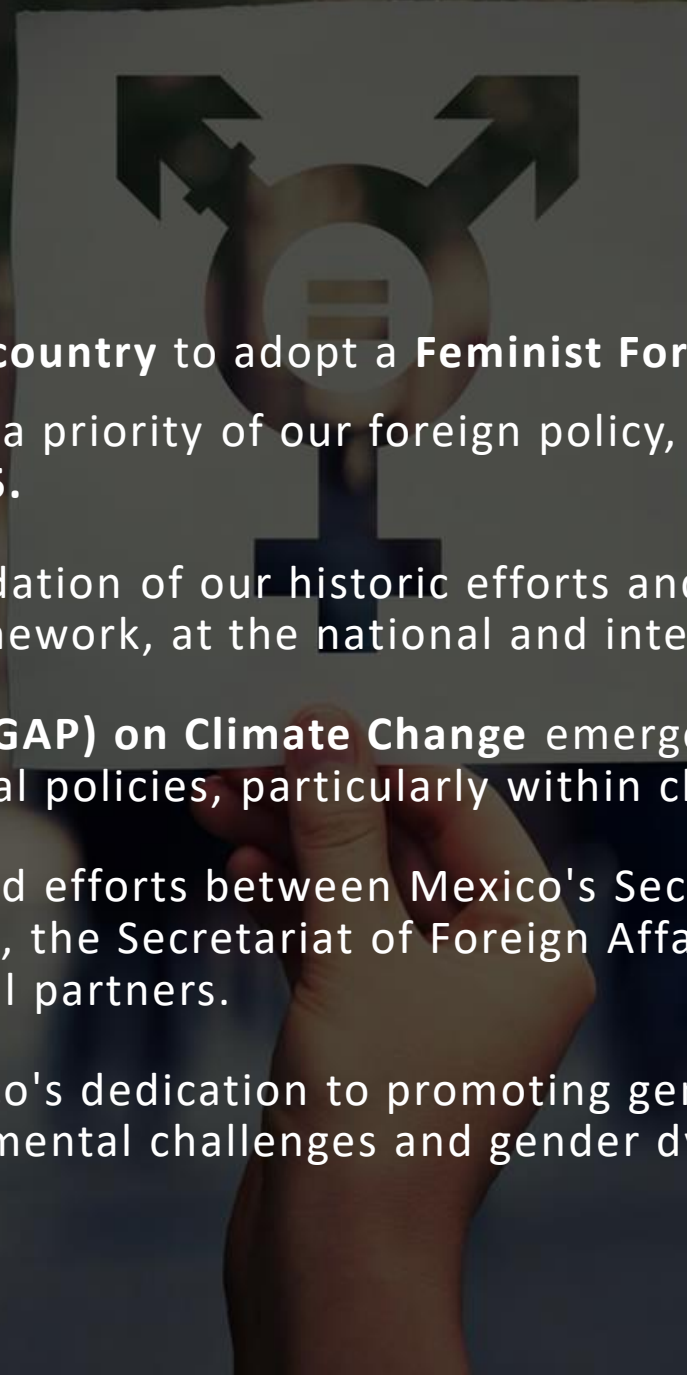
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# Developing a Gender Action Plan in the Global Framework on Chemicals

**Effective methods for advancing gender mainstreaming for a more inclusive and gender-responsive framework in chemical management**


# Origin

- Mexico is the **first developing country** to adopt a **Feminist Foreign Policy**.
- For Mexico, this has long been a priority of our foreign policy, since we hosted the First World Conference on Women, in **1975**.
- FFP can be seen as the consolidation of our historic efforts and a next step to structure them in a coherent and systematic framework, at the national and international levels.
- **Mexico's Gender Action Plan (GAP) on Climate Change** emerged as a response to gender disparities within environmental policies, particularly within climate change initiatives.
- This GAP is a result of concerted efforts between Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE), civil society organizations, and international partners.
- It draws inspiration from Mexico's dedication to promoting gender equality and understanding the interplay between environmental challenges and gender dynamics.





# Development

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) conducted the "**What Women Say**" consultations in May 2022
  - Provided elements for the Mexican Government's platform at the World Urban Forum and Stockholm +50.
  - The opinions gathered helped understand the fundamental link between gender, social equity, and climate change.
  - The consultations took place in the states of Chiapas, Sonora, and Querétaro and gathered about 1,200 Mexican women.
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# Goal :



- To embed gender perspectives comprehensively within climate change policies and initiatives.
- The plan seeks to identify, mitigate, and rectify gender-based disparities in climate-related impacts, responses, and adaptation measures.
- It strives to ensure equitable representation, active participation, and the inclusion of diverse gender groups in decision-making processes related to climate change actions.





# PILLARS:

- **Empowerment of All Women's Leadership:** Empowering women's active involvement and leadership in shaping climate change policies, ensuring their full and equal participation in decision-making processes.
- **Strengthening Institutional Capacities:** Developing institutional capacities through training, data collection, and research to effectively integrate gender considerations into climate change policies, strategies, and practices.
- **Financial Support and Collaborative Endeavors:** Facilitating financial and technical support, fostering collaborations among stakeholders across sectors (governmental, non-governmental, private, and international organizations) to advance gender equality in climate change initiatives.

# Institutional Mechanisms :



## **Governmental Task Forces:**

Specialized task forces or committees within government bodies dedicated to overseeing the implementation, evaluation, and coordination of gender-inclusive policies in chemical management.



## **Collaborative Platforms:**

Platforms that facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues, ensuring the participation of civil society organizations, academia, industry, and international partners to collectively address gender disparities in chemical management.



## **Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks:**

To assess the effectiveness and impact of gender mainstreaming efforts in chemical management policies, fostering accountability and continuous improvement.



## Question 1

**How can Mexico's experience with feminist foreign policy and gender action plans inform and enhance global efforts in addressing gender disparities, particularly in the context of chemical management?**

**Discuss**

The background of the page is a photograph of several red leather handbags and a red high-heeled shoe, arranged on a bed of lush green ferns. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the leather and the vibrant green of the plants.

# ROADMAP TO ZERO Ø

By Ø ZDHC

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## Case Study Southern Africa



# CONTENT



01. ZDHC Foundation

02. Case Study Southern Africa

03. Discussion

# ZDHC Foundation Multi stakeholder initiative



A multi stakeholder organisation, that was launched in 2011 as a brand driven initiative and evolved into a industry programme. Including Brands, Retailers, Vendors, Suppliers, Chemical Industry, Solution Providers and other like minded organisations (over 320 signatories).

**Our Vision** is a world in which better chemistry leads to the protection of life, land, air and water.

**Our Mission** is to lead our global value chains to achieve the highest standards for sustainable chemical management, driving resource efficiency and circularity.

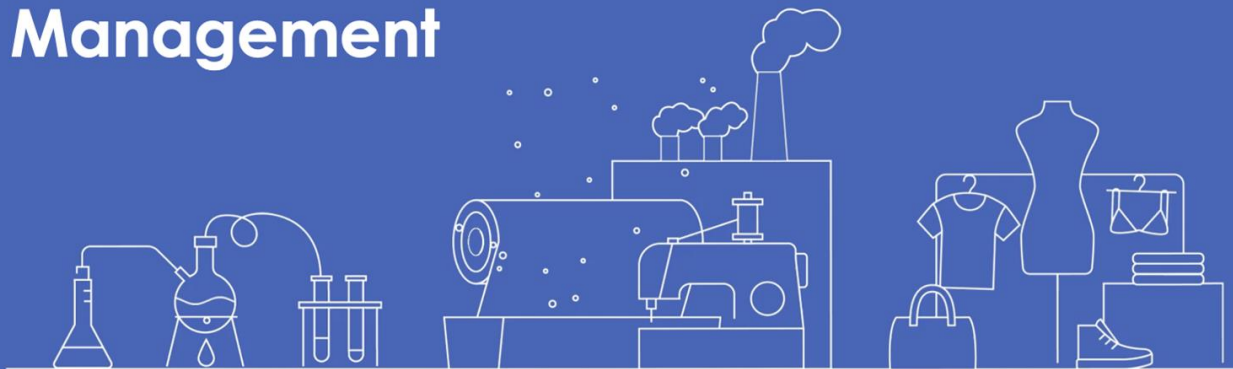


# Roadmap to Zero >>>

## Roadmap to Zero

is organised into three focus areas which are interlinked to improve chemical management. Within each of the focus areas we develop and maintain the ZDHC Guidelines, Platforms and Solutions to enable and accelerate the implementation of the programme and eliminate harmful chemicals from its Global Supply Chain. .

## Sustainable Chemical Management



**Our holistic approach: Input – Process – Output**  
*(starting with BETTER INPUTS!)*



# Implementation Case Study

## Southern Africa



Promotion of circular economy in the textile and garment sector through the sustainable management of chemicals and waste in **Lesotho, Madagascar, Ethiopia and South Africa.**

With a focus to reduce Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), impact on human health and environment, in particular the possible Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) import and use in textiles. Including a gender component.

**Public Sector  
Engagement**

**Private Sector  
Engagement**

**Implementation  
Programs**

**NGO's**

## Question 2

**How can we use public private partnership projects to create leverage and engage the industry sector to participate in the global framework activities?**

**In what ways can these partnerships be structured to ensure that they actively promote gender equality and address gender-specific challenges in the industry?**

**Discuss**



MINAMATA  
CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY

# The development of a Gender Action Plan for the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Lara Ognibene, Legal Officer and Gender Focal Point  
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Chemicals and Waste Management Community of Practice, 5 December 2023



# Preamble

## Articles 16, 18, 19 and 22

### Annex C, para 1 (i)

#### Preamble

*The preamble to the Minamata Convention on Mercury notes the parties' awareness of "health concerns, especially in developing countries, resulting from exposure to mercury of **vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and, through them, future generations**"*

#### Convention Articles

*In addition, article 16 on health aspects, article 18 on public information, awareness and education, article 19 on research, development and monitoring and article 22 on effectiveness evaluation all refer to the **needs of vulnerable populations.***

#### Annex C, paragraph 1 (i)

*National action plans to address artisanal and small-scale gold mining are to include strategies to prevent the exposure of **vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of childbearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining***

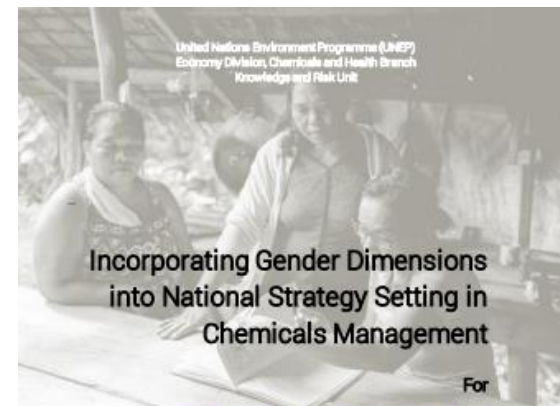
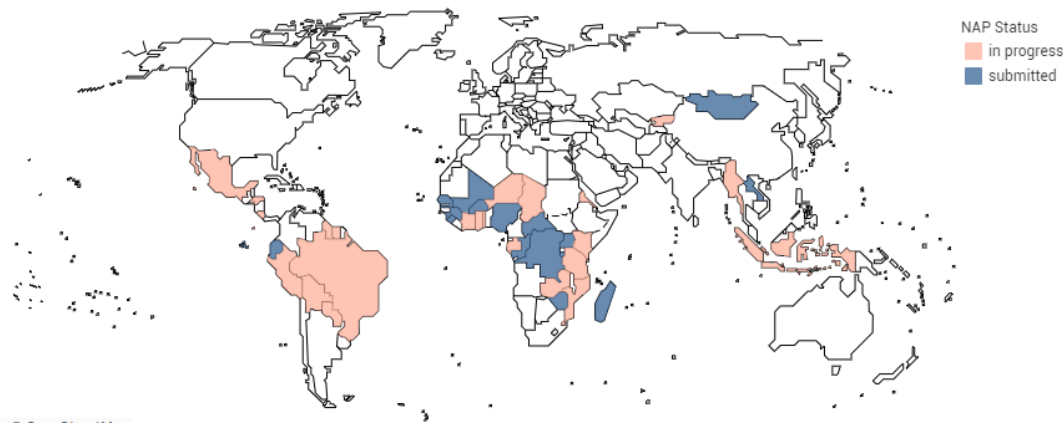
# Example: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

Unique among MEAs in the treatment of an informal sector

Recognizes women's particular vulnerabilities to ASGM occupational hazards

Flexible approach to meet national and local circumstances

National Action Plans must include “strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining”



**Minamata Convention National Action  
Plans for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold  
Mining**

For

**and**

**Stockholm Convention National  
Implementation Plans**



# Adoption of the Gender Action Plan

## COP-3

- COP-3 decided to include **gender as a focus area** of the Convention's programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021.
- In particular, activity 13 of the programme of work includes the development of a **gender strategy** with the objective of mainstreaming gender into the programme of work.



## COP-4

COP-4 decision MC-4/10 on gender mainstreaming took note of the **gender road map** and invited Parties, *inter alia*, to support the Secretariat in its efforts to mainstream gender into all activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat as well as by Parties and other stakeholders, including thorough the development of a **gender action plan** for the Minamata Convention during the biennium 2022–2023.



## COP-5

COP-5 decision MC-5/15 welcomed the **gender action plan** and invited Parties to implement **priority activities** under the gender action plan as integrated in the programme of work and budget for 2024-2025

# Gender at COP-4



In January 2021, the Secretariat developed the “**Gender road map of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**”, which:

- **analyses current initiatives** undertaken by other multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations bodies in the field of gender; and
- **identifies priority actions** to be undertaken by the secretariat, parties and other stakeholders to further mainstreaming gender into their activities.
- The **top priority actions** were the appointment of a gender focal point and the development of a gender action plan.

The road map was developed in accordance with applicable gender-related rules, regulations and policies of the United Nations and UNEP.

The draft road map was shared with the network of multilateral environmental agreement gender officers and focal points for review.

# Consultative process between COP-4 and COP-5



Pursuant to decision MC-4/10, the Secretariat organized **online consultations** for Parties and other stakeholders between September and November 2022 to receive input on a draft gender action prepared by the Secretariat thanks to the generous financial support of Sweden.

A **call for nominations** to participate in this consultive process was issued by the Secretariat in August 2022.

**Twenty-three representatives were nominated by Parties.** After the consultations, the Secretariat invited additional written comments from parties and stakeholders. Nominations were received from the following parties: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Congo (Republic of), Comoros, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, Iraq, Mauritius, Mexico, Niger, Peru, Qatar, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

The gender action plan, incorporating the inputs received during the consultative process, was submitted for consideration by COP-5, which took place from 30 October to 3 November 2023 in Geneva.

# The purpose and 'added value' of the action plan

MINAMATA  
CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY

## Why an action plan?

The action plan would provide a blueprint for actions, including targets and indicators of progress, to promote gender equality and mainstreaming within the Secretariat and in the Minamata Convention's activities undertaken by **partners, Parties and other stakeholders**. It identifies both the enabling conditions and the specific policy and programmatic steps needed to mainstream gender and to work effectively towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all activities within the purview of the Convention.

The purpose of this Plan is to support and advance a gender-responsive implementation of the Minamata Convention. Accordingly, the overarching strategic objectives of the plan are:

- To increase the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention by mainstreaming gender awareness throughout its implementation;
- To provide guidance to Parties and partners in bringing a gender lens to their research, evidence-gathering, and public awareness activities;
- To provide a framework that makes visible the benefits of gender mainstreaming to all Minamata Convention actors.



# Expected outcomes

- Stakeholders, partners and Parties to the Minamata Convention at all levels **develop capacities** to design and implement gender-responsive plans and programmes;
- Women and girls, and especially members of indigenous communities, are given **equal opportunities** for meaningful participation in developing programmes, plans, and policies that are undertaken to achieve the goals of the Convention
- Economic empowerment initiatives, including efforts to develop alternative livelihoods, that aim to reduce or **eliminate dangerous use of and exposures to mercury** provide equal opportunities for men and women
- As projects and Parties increasingly incorporate **gender awareness** in their activities, there will be ongoing systematic knowledge-building and sharing on the gender dimensions of human exposures to mercury and mercury compounds



# How to implement the plan

- The plan is organized according to actions proposed for the **Secretariat, for Parties and for other relevant stakeholders.**
- Considering its long-term objectives and the limited resources available for its implementation, the gender action plan does not include any specific timelines or deadlines. Instead, the suggested approach for implementation the plan is to identify a **list of activities** that could be carried out during each biennium and to integrate those activities, as appropriate, into the programme of work and budget to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- The secretariat identified, for consideration by COP-5, activities to be carried out by the Secretariat and by the Parties during the **biennium 2024–2025**. The list of activities builds on existing commitments embedded in the text of the Minamata Convention and on recent initiatives of the Secretariat and Parties to integrate gender considerations into their work.





## Question 3

**Based on the key elements and strategies presented in the Minamata Convention's Gender Action Plan, which of these do you believe could be most effectively adopted or adapted for developing the Gender Action Plan for the GFC?**

**How do you see these specific elements or strategies enhancing the integration of gender considerations into the GFC's policy implementation, particularly in the areas of stakeholder engagement, policy development, and monitoring and evaluation?**

**Discuss**



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