

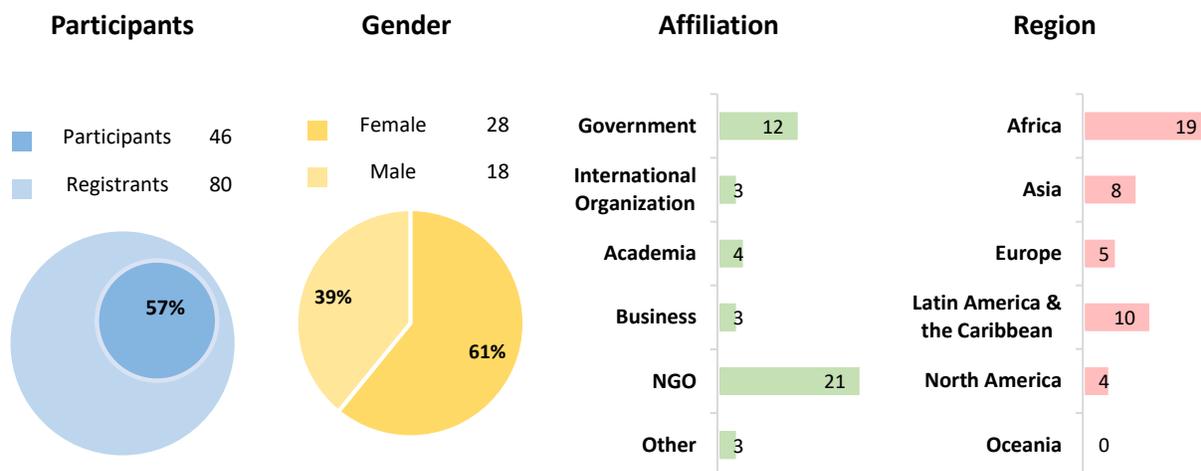
Chemicals and Waste Management Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion 5 Summary

Title	Developing a Gender Action Plan in the Global Framework on Chemicals
Date & Time	5 December 2023, 14:00 – 15:30 CET
Recording	https://youtu.be/ QED_4j5G4g
SAICM CoP	ggkp.org/ChemAndWasteCoP

In September 2023, the Global Framework on Chemicals was adopted in the ICCM5, including a strong emphasis on gender equality. This milestone included a resolution for “Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective and Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of All Women and Girls in Chemicals and Waste Management.”

This discussion built up on the momentum created after the ICCM5 in relation to gender by focusing on sharing case studies and practical experiences in integrating gender considerations into chemicals and waste management. The discussion invited stakeholders from the government, private sector and multilateral organization in delving into the elements necessary to consider in developing a gender action plan. They included disaggregated data, women leadership and a holistic approach.

Attendee Report



Contact

SAICM Secretariat: saicm.chemicals@un.org
 Green Forum: info@thegreenforum.org

Presenters



Karen de Brouwer, Director of Financing for Development, Technologies, and International Control of Hazardous Chemicals, Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Karen de Brouwer is an adept professional in international relations and development, boasting extensive involvement across multilateral, regional institutions, and the Federal Government. As the Director of Financing for Development, Technologies, and International Control of Hazardous Chemicals at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Karen strategically connects Mexico with international experts, contributing significantly to global initiatives focused on sustainability and development while steadfastly advocating for fairer and more inclusive global development.



Mariella Noto, Senior Implementation Manager, Implementation HUB

As Senior Implementation Manager, Mariella is leading ZDHC Academy and managing the evolution of the educational platform. She is driving capacity building worldwide and ZDHC implementation projects across the Benelux and Africa. Collaboration is key and therefore Mariella is strongly involved in partnerships with international organisations to grow the global implementation of the ZDHC Academy. With a Bachelor degree in International Management, Master in Sociology and substantial, industry-relevant experience of social and environmental sustainability, Mariella previously worked as a CSR Supply Chain Team Lead and independent consultant in the textile industry. Since September of this year, she is part of the interim board of the Gender & Chemicals Partnership.



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

Lara Ognibene joined the Secretariat in July 2019. She provides overall legal advice and guidance with respect to the implementation of the programme of work of the Convention and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties. She also coordinates the work of the Secretariat around specific issues, namely, mercury supply sources and trade, national reporting, international cooperation, and supporting the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee. She also provides technical support to the Specific International Programme and other capacity-building activities of the Secretariat. In 2021, she was appointed as Gender Focal Point within the Secretariat and led the development and adoption of the gender action plan of the Minamata Convention.

Contact

SAICM Secretariat:
Green Forum:

saicm.chemicals@un.org
info@thegreenforum.org

Before joining the Secretariat, Lara Ognibene worked for over ten years as Legal and Programme Officer in the Law Division of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi. She also gained experience in private legal practice at DLA Piper in Milan, where she was admitted to the Bar in 2007. Lara Ognibene holds a degree in law from the University of Milan, a degree in law from the University of San Sebastian, and an LLM in international law from the University of Edinburgh.

Facilitator



Minu Hemmati, Associate, MSP Institute - Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Sustainable Development eV

Dr. Minu Hemmati, is a psychologist by background, has been working as an independent advisor with governments, international organisations, NGOs, women’s networks, corporations, and research institutions since 1998. Minu’s work is focusing on dialogue and collaboration towards sustainable development, gender equality, and good governance. Her work includes developing, facilitating, coaching and evaluating multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships; training and teaching; project development; leadership coaching; research and advocacy on participation, collaboration, and gender issues.

Minu works as a consultant (<http://www.minuhemmati.net/>), including for the German Federal Environment Ministry in the ICCM5 process, and has co-founded the UNEP-accredited NGO [MSP Institute – Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Sustainable Development eV](#). MSP Institute is serving as the Secretariat of the [Gender & Chemicals Partnership](#) (G&CP), which was launched at ICCM5.

Contact

SAICM Secretariat:
Green Forum:

saicm.chemicals@un.org
info@thegreenforum.org

Summary of Discussion

Background on the Global Framework on Chemicals and its gender element:

In September 2023, the 5th International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), held in Bonn, Germany, set a new course in global chemicals and waste management. It adopted the Global Framework on Chemicals in which gender equality was included as one of the principles and in other targets. A specific gender resolution was adopted as well. The ICCM5 resolution encourages all stakeholders to support interim actions until the ICCM6 to be held in three years' time. The momentum on gender at ICCM5 is evolving based on various activities such as developing national gender action plans and any other actions to promote gender equality and to create the necessary conditions for all women and girls to empower themselves in chemicals and waste management.

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?

Key elements discussed by participants and presenter during the discussion:

The presenter introduced Mexico's Feminist Foreign Policy and Gender Action Plan on Climate Change, consolidating its historic efforts and commitments to gender equality.

The three pillars comprising the gender action plan was suggested as empowerment of all women's leadership, strengthening institutional capacities and financial support and collaborative endeavors. One way how Mexico makes its Feminist Foreign Policy visible was by sending a young female headed delegation to the COPs to ensure female representation.

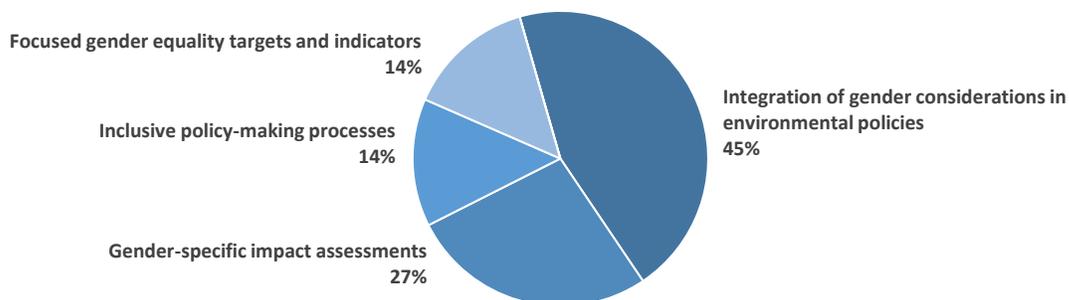
Institutional mechanisms shoring up the gender action plan were also introduced. In particular, for monitoring and evaluation, Mexico's gender action plan has to be revised every two year to make it more fit for purpose. It was mentioned that such mechanisms allow the inclusive and women-led process to advance gender equality.

POLL 1-1

Which aspect of Mexico's Gender Action Plans do you find most adaptable for global application in chemical management?

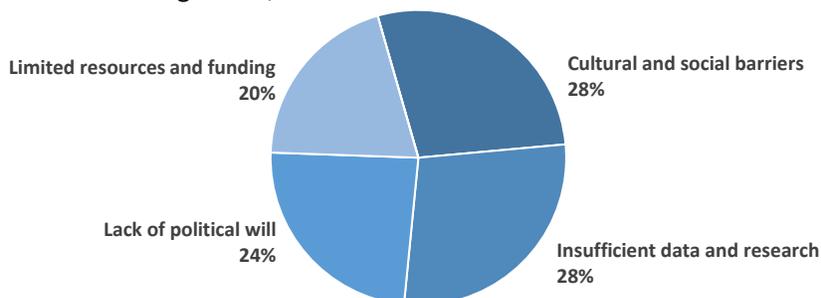
Contact

SAICM Secretariat: saicm.chemicals@un.org
Green Forum: info@thegreenforum.org



POLL 1-2

What do you see as the biggest challenge in implementing feminist policies in environmental governance, like chemical management, at a national level?



In addition to the poll results, presenters and participants noted the importance of disaggregated data to measure the progress and highlight the disparities and inequalities that remain. The representation of city mayors and local governments was also underlined.

The presenter shared how Mexico is navigated its own challenges in implementing feminist policies. She shared that a long-standing government conviction regarding feminist foreign policy was instrumental, overcoming cultural and social barriers. Vibrant civil society activities and collaborations with multilateral organizations also contributed to operationalizing the policy. As a platform to share the experience of the implementation of feminist foreign policies, [the Feminist Foreign Policy Conference](#) was introduced.

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?

Contact

SAICM Secretariat:
Green Forum:

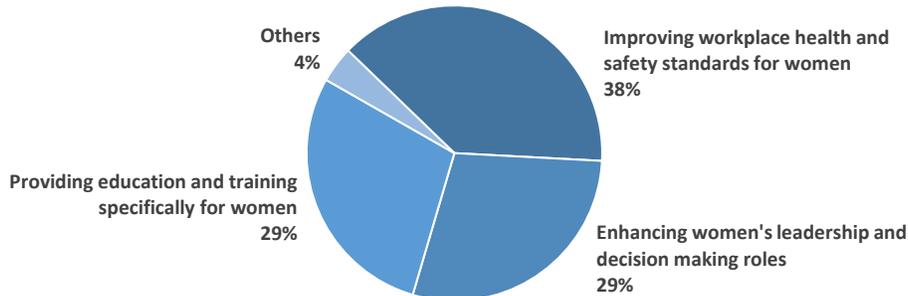
saicm.chemicals@un.org
info@thegreenforum.org

Key elements discussed by participants and presenter during the discussion:

The presenter pointed out the importance of a holistic value chain approach that follows the input, processing and output of chemicals in the sustainable chemical management. With the aim of eliminating hazardous chemicals from the industry, she also introduced the Southern Africa case study to promote circular economy in the textile and garment sector through the sustainable management of chemicals and waste, including a gender component. Notably, the project is a combination of private sector engagement, implementation programs and NGOs on the ground to overcome the perceived challenge of engaging private sector in working with the public sector in larger scale projects.

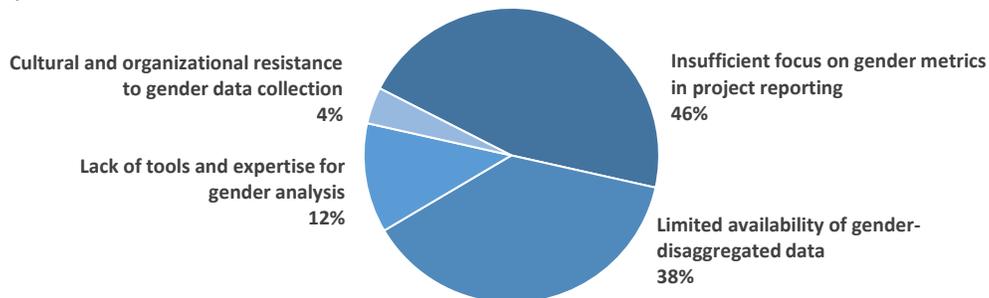
POLL 2-1

In your opinion, what should be the primary focus area for gender mainstreaming in public private partnerships within the textile and garment sector?



POLL 2-2

What is the biggest challenge in collecting and analyzing gender data within public private partnerships?



In addition to the poll results, participants and presenters noted the strong potential for public private partnerships in relation to data gathering and research. Many also highlighted the holistic approach in structuring the public private partnership so that it can support national policies and leverage available

Contact

SAICM Secretariat: saicm.chemicals@un.org
 Green Forum: info@thegreenforum.org

capacity from the private sector. Participants and presenters highlighted that a clear focus is what makes such partnership successful. It was also mentioned that setting up sufficient focus on gender metrics is crucial as it can significantly affect the process and reporting of projects.

QUESTION 3

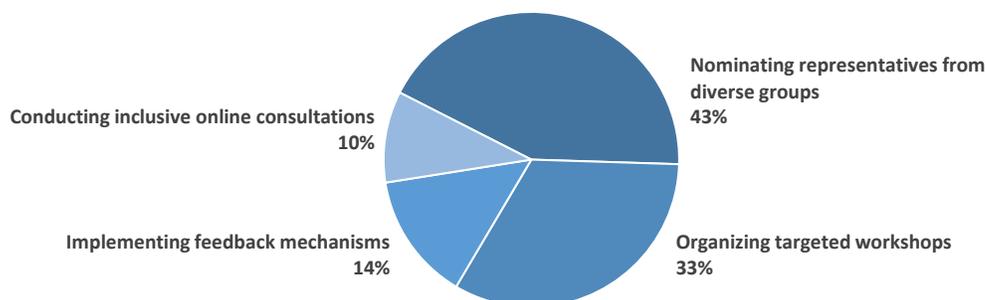
Based on the key elements and strategies presented in the Minamata Convention's Gender Action Plan, which of these do you believe could be most effectively adopted or adapted for developing the Gender Action Plan for the GFC? How do you see these specific elements or strategies enhancing the integration of gender considerations into the GFC's policy implementation, particularly in the areas of stakeholder engagement, policy development, and monitoring and evaluation?

Key elements discussed by participants and presenter during the discussion:

The presenter initiated the discussion by introducing the gender action plan of the Minamata Convention. It was developed through online consultations to receive inputs from parties and other stakeholders. The plan aims to provide a blueprint of actions to mainstream gender equality in the Minamata Convention's activities undertaken by the Secretariat, partners, Parties and other stakeholders. The activities under the plan are newly proposed at every COP and are integrated into the program between the COPs.

POLL 3-1

Which strategy used in the Minamata Convention do you think is most effective for inclusive stakeholder engagement in the GFC's gender action plan?



The presenter shared that a lesson learned from the consultation process of the gender action plan development was to invite not only gender experts but also technical experts who usually follow the convention process to minimize the divide.

Contact

SAICM Secretariat: saicm.chemicals@un.org
 Green Forum: info@thegreenforum.org

At the end, presenters and participants highlighted several elements needed to develop a gender action plan in the global framework on chemicals. They included feedback mechanisms, data, women leadership, multistakeholder approach and consultative procedure.

Useful Resources

- Minamata Convention on Mercury, [UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/10* - Gender action plan](#)
- Minamata Convention on Mercury, [UNEP/MC/COP.5/18 - Mainstreaming gender](#)

Contact

SAICM Secretariat:
Green Forum:

saicm.chemicals@un.org
info@thegreenforum.org