

# Panel Discussion on Integrating Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in the Sustainable Development Goals

Tuesday 6 May 2014, 12:00-14:00

International Environment House 2 (7-9 ch. de Balexert)



Chemicals are inextricably linked to our lives, essential in areas from medicine and agriculture to consumer goods, clean technologies and overcoming poverty, yet chemicals and the pollution linked with their manufacture, use, and disposal come with costs. For example, estimates for selected industrial and agricultural chemicals unintentional acute and occupational poisonings totals 1,6% of deaths worldwide, more than those caused by malaria. The cost incurred due to asbestos and contaminated drywall, totals over US\$125 billion worldwide and the figure is still rising. Exposure to mercury results in health and environmental damage is estimated at US\$22 billion. UNEP cost of inaction report also reveals that the estimated cost of poisonings from pesticides in sub-saharan Africa now exceeds total annual overseas development aid given to the region for basic health services, excluding HIV/AIDS.

## Agenda

### Opening remarks and chairing of the panel discussion

H. E. Franz PERREZ, Switzerland

### Introduction

Fatoumata KEITA-OUANE, Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch

### Other members of the panel discussion

Kerstin STENDAHL, Executive Secretary a.i. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Ludovic BERNAUDAT, UNIDO

WHO (tbc)

Mohamed Ibrahim NASR, Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Lena PERENIUS, Executive Director, European Chemical Industry Council representing the International Council of Chemicals Associations

### Interactive discussion with participants

### Closing remarks

These concerns take on a new level of urgency as the quantity and range of new and existing chemicals increases in developing countries and economies in transition. A vital element that underpins all aspects of a green economy, sound management of chemicals must become a national and international environmental, public health and development priority.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will address various aspects of human well-being, with accompanying targets and indicators. As human health and the environment are compromised by mismanagement of chemicals and waste, the SDGs should include clear objectives and indicators covering this important issue.

You are cordially invited to attend a panel discussion on Integrating the Sound Management of Chemicals in the SDGs, to be held on 6 May at the International Environment House II.

## Registration

[www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=en/registration-sdgs-sound-management-chemicals-and-waste](http://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=en/registration-sdgs-sound-management-chemicals-and-waste)

or [gen.secretary@unep.org](mailto:gen.secretary@unep.org)

*Fair trade coffee and light sandwiches available from 12:00*

