

# Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues | Plastics and Health

Thursday 21 January 2021 | 14.00 CET

#GENeva #BeatPlasticPollution



Permanent Mission of Norway  
Geneva



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



# Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues | Plastics and Waste

Key messages

#GENeva #BeatPlasticPollution



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# Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues | Plastics, Climate and Air Pollution

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# Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues I Plastics and Human Rights

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EVENT | VIRTUAL

# Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues | Plastics and Health

21 JAN 2021 14:00 - 15:15

Online | Webex  
GEN

📍 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics

🌐 SDG3 | SDG12

## Speakers



**Maria NEIRA**

Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO



**Monika MACDEVETTE**

Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP



**Valentina SIERRA**

Permanent Mission of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Vice-President of ICCM5



**Thava PALANISAMI**

Senior Research Fellow, School of Engineering, University of Newcastle



**Sara BROSCHE**

Science Advisor, IPEN



**Paul ROSE**

National Geographic Expedition Leader and Explorer



**Miguel PEREZ-LA PLANTE**  
(moderator)

Health Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organizations in Geneva





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Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch,  
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Setting the Scene: Plastics & Human Nutrition

It took you approximately

1 WEEK

to eat this credit card



#GENeva #BeatPlasticPollution



**Thava PALANISAMI**

Senior Research Fellow, School of Engineering, University of Newcastle





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Setting the Scene: Hazardous Plastic Additives

#GENeva #BeatPlasticPollution



**Sara BROSCHÉ**  
Science Advisor, IPEN



# Hazardous Plastic Additives and Health

*Dr. Sara Brosché, Science Advisor, IPEN*

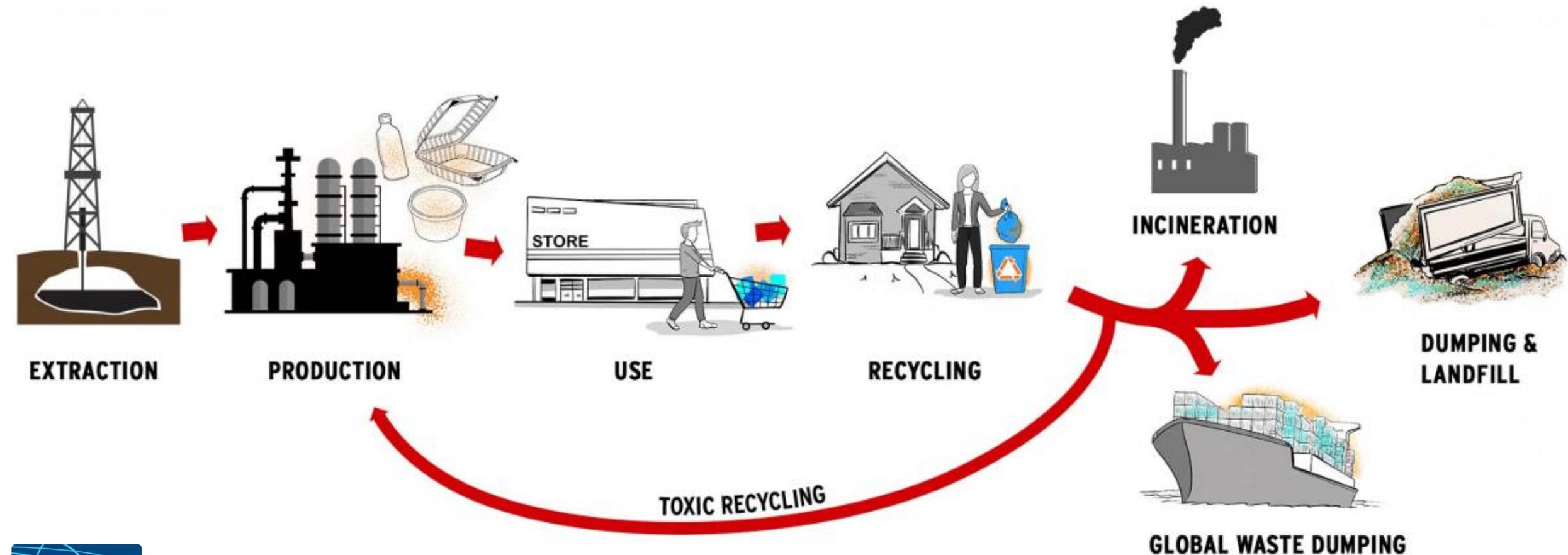


# A global NGO network

- IPEN Participating Organizations in 125 Countries
- Mission: a Toxics-Free Future
- Linking local, regional and global efforts to prevent harm from chemicals and waste



# Every stage of the life cycle of plastics is associated with hazardous chemicals

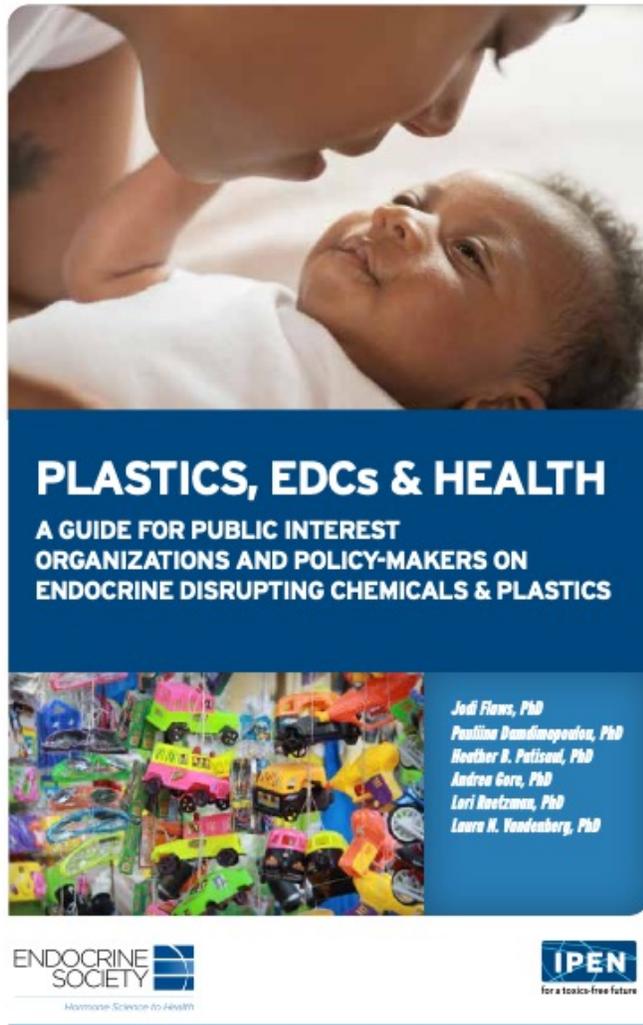


# ***“Without additives, plastics would not work”***

- The British Plastics Federation

Type of additive	Function	For example	Typical amount range (% w/w) (from Hahladakis et al, 2018)
Plasticizers	Provides flexibility	Chlorinated paraffins (SCCP/MCCP/LCCP); phthalates (DIHP, BBP, DEHP)	10% – 70%
Flame retardants	Prevents ignition	Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs); tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA)	3% – 25% (brominated)
Stabilizers	Prevents degradation	Bisphenol A (BPA); Cadmium, Lead, Nonylphenol	0.05% – 3%
Inorganic Pigments	Provides color	Cadmium, Chromium, Lead compounds	0.01% – 10 %
Biocides	Antimicrobial	Arsenic, triclosan	0.001% - 1%

# Hazardous additives can harm human health



## Examples of additives and some associated health effects

- **BISPHENOLS:** *affect brain development and behavior; associated with several types of cancer*
- **PHTHALATES:** *reduce testosterone and estrogen levels; miscarriages, anemia, pre-eclampsia, early menopause.*
- **PERFLUORINATED COMPOUNDS:** *affect the immune systems, liver, and thyroid function. associated with several types of cancer.*
- **BROMINATED FLAME RETARDANTS:** *disrupt reproductive development, alter thyroid development, and affect neurodevelopment*

# Hazard of additives registered in the EU

Function	No of additives (one function per additive)	Under regulatory scrutiny (%)
Antioxidants	26	65
Antistatics	16	43
Flame retardants	40	67
Nucleating Agents	5	20
Plasticisers	66	54
Pigments	127	30
Heat stabilisers	27	66
UV Stabilisers	16	62
Other stabilisers	23	45
Other functions	72	12
Total number of substances	418	41

NOTE: only substances which have been confirmed by industry or registrants to be plastic additives included

[https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13630/plastic\\_additives\\_supplementary\\_en.pdf/79bea2d6-8e45-f38c-a318-7d7e812890a1](https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13630/plastic_additives_supplementary_en.pdf/79bea2d6-8e45-f38c-a318-7d7e812890a1)

# Hazardous additives harm recyclability

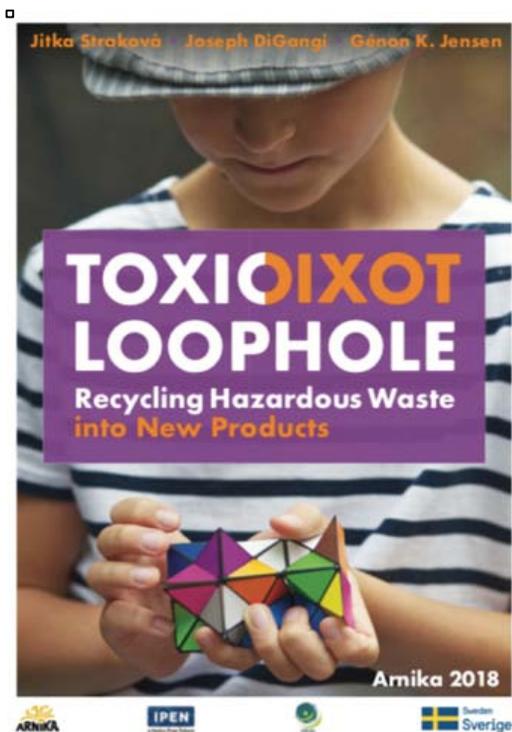


## Plastic's toxic additives and the circular economy

September 2020



- Toxic additives remain during recycling and new toxic chemicals can be formed during the process.
- Widespread contamination of BFRs e.g. in children's products and food contact materials



# Hazardous chemicals released during disposal

- Incineration: releases greenhouse gasses and toxic chemicals such as dioxin, generate hazardous waste
- Landfill: Leaching of hazardous chemicals
- Waste exported to countries with no capacity to deal with it
  - ⇒ Dumped
  - ⇒ Burned



# Existing policy to address hazardous additives

Stockholm Convention: Several additives listed. Most recent development: UV-328 meets screening criteria\*

⇒ List all additives that meet the criteria for global elimination; look at grouping approaches

Basel Convention: Plastic waste trade regulated.

⇒ All plastics that meet Annex III hazard criteria (e.g. toxicity such as endocrine disruption) should be controlled as hazardous waste.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM): Voluntary framework that already include opportunities to address plastics, e.g. EDCs and chemicals in products

# Some suggested actions

- Utilize existing instruments to ban hazardous chemicals in plastics globally
- National and regional prohibitions on hazardous chemicals in plastics to support global efforts
- Labeling requirements for additives to plastic to ensure the public's right to know
- Incentives for substitution of hazardous substances in plastics (e.g. taxes or other regulatory approaches) and extended producer responsibility obligations
- Dramatically reduce the production of new plastics

A close-up photograph of a seal pup, likely a harbor seal, swimming in clear blue water. The pup has a large, inflated throat pouch, which is a common behavior used by seals to trap air and float. The pup's face is visible, showing its eyes, whiskers, and snout. The background is a solid light blue color.

**Thank you!**

Contact: [SaraBrosche@ipen.org](mailto:SaraBrosche@ipen.org)

[www.ipen.org](http://www.ipen.org)

@ToxicsFree



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Setting the Scene: The Plastic Health Coalition



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**Paul ROSE**

National Geographic Expedition  
Leader and Explorer





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Plastics and Health Governance: Uruguay

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**Maria NEIRA**

Director, Department of Environment,  
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World Health  
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**Monika MACDEVETTE**

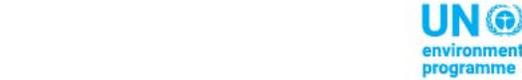
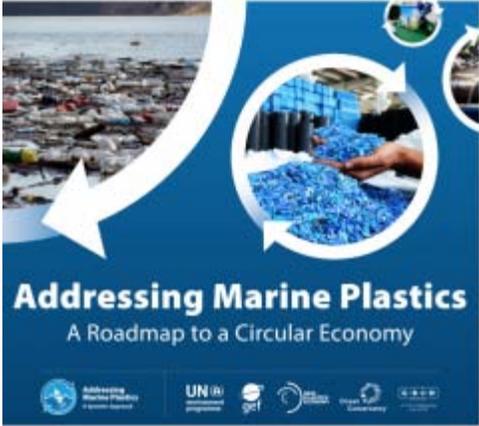
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# “Plastics and Health ”

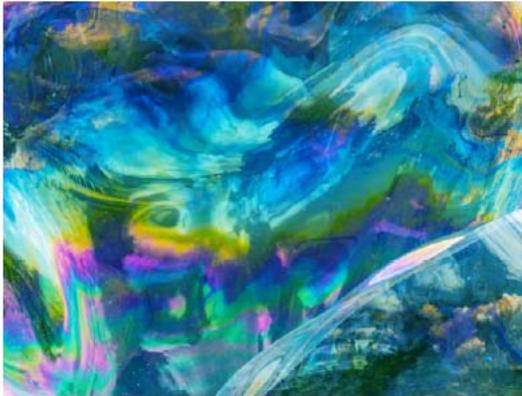
Beat Plastics Pollution, GEN Briefing - 21 January 2021

# Beating Plastic Pollution is high on UNEP's agenda

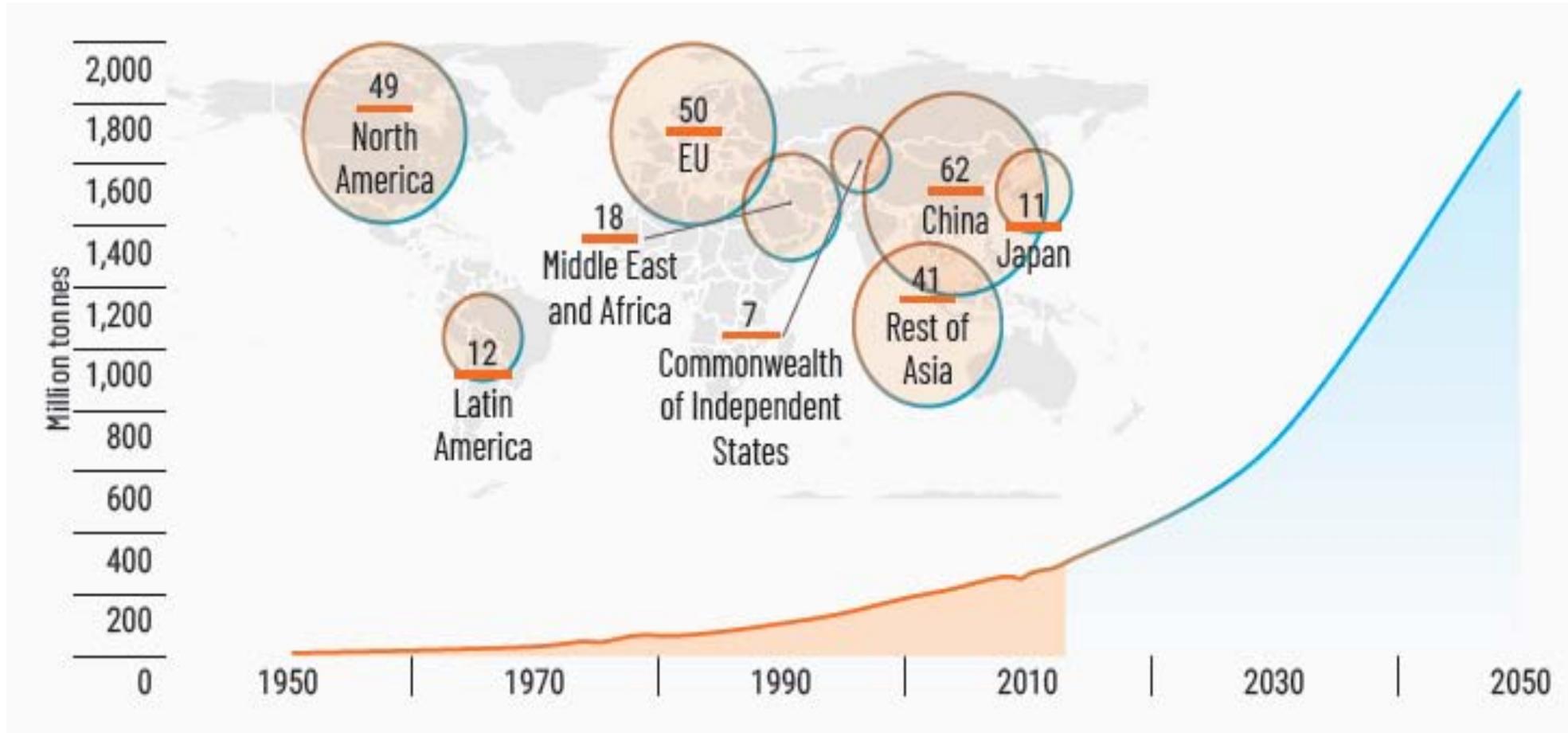


**An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern:  
Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to  
Human Health and the Environment**

September 2020



# Production of plastics is increasing rapidly



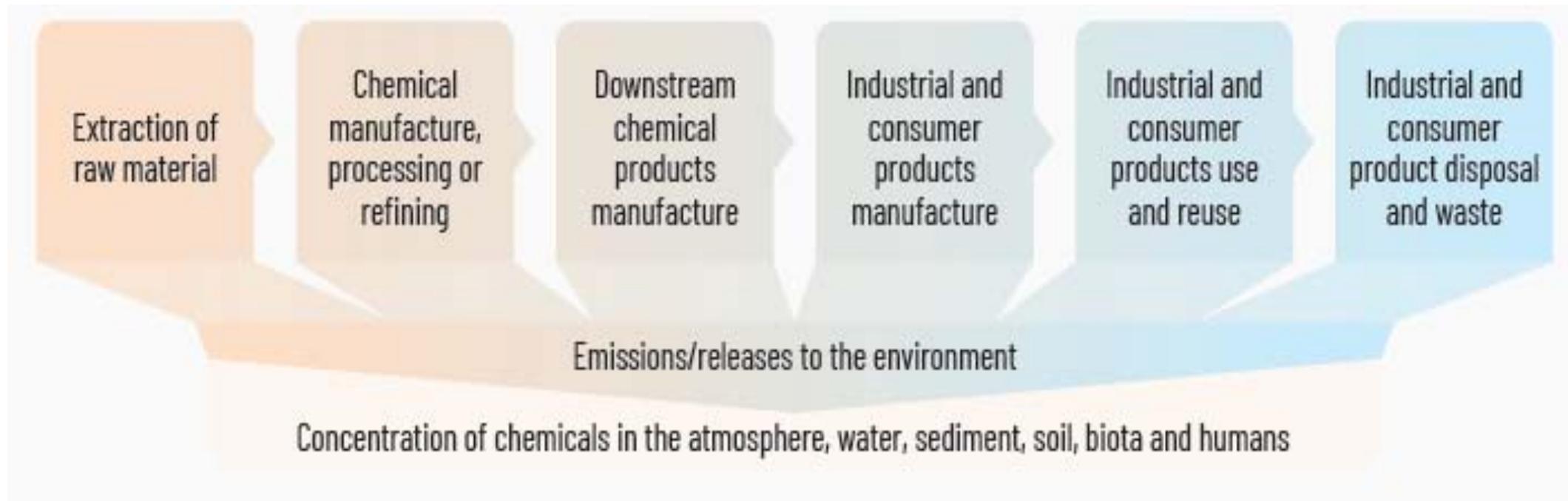
Global and regional plastics production, 1950-2050 (million tonnes) (adapted from Pravettoni 2018) – GCO-II Part I

# Plastic pollution is a multi-faceted issue



- 6-10 per cent of global plastic production is released to the ocean
- One-third of all plastic waste ends up in soils or freshwater
- Open burning of waste releases dioxins and furans to air

# A Holistic Approach to Plastic Pollution

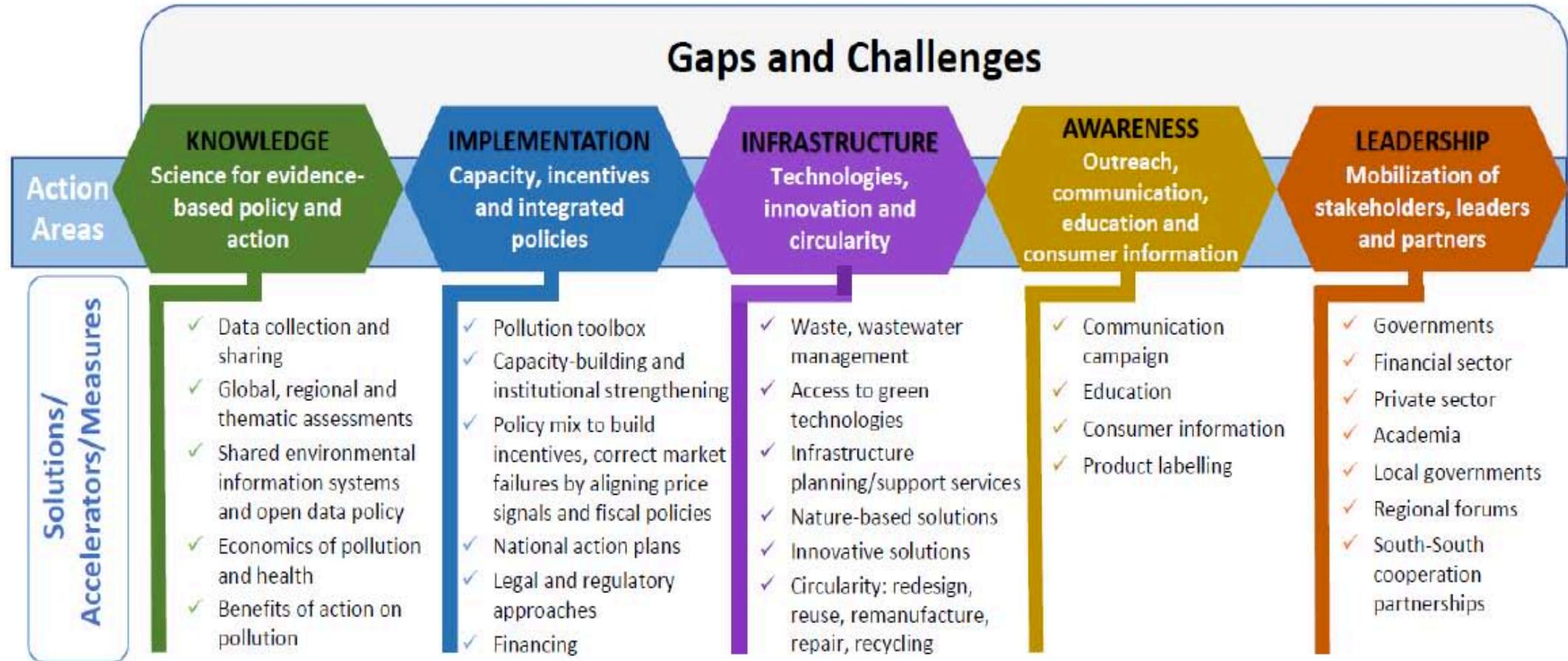


*Value chain of the chemical industry, showing emissions and concentrations – GCO-II Part I*

# New Plastics Economy Global Commitment

- Stimulating the elimination of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and/or products
- Encouraging reuse models where relevant, to reduce the need for single-use plastic packaging and/or products
- Incentivising the use of reusable, recyclable, or compostable plastic packaging
- Increasing collection, sorting, reuse, and recycling rates, and facilitating the establishment of the necessary infrastructure and related funding mechanisms
- Stimulating the demand for recycled plastics
- Supporting social and behavior change through strategic communication to address plastic pollution

# Towards a Pollution-Free Planet: Implementation Plan





**Thank you and I look forward to your questions**

**Contact:**

**[science.chemicals@un.org](mailto:science.chemicals@un.org)**

**Personal contact:**

**Monika G. MacDevette - Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch ([monika.macdevette@un.org](mailto:monika.macdevette@un.org))**

**Beat Plastics Pollution, GEN Briefing - 21 January 2021**



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QUESTIONS

Q & A

ANSWERS

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**Miguel PEREZ-LA PLANTE**  
(moderator)

Health Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organizations in Geneva



# Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues

## Sessions

- Opening Session: Plastics and Waste | 26 November 2020 | 9:00-10:00 CET
- Plastics, Climate and Air Pollution | 10 December 2020 | 14:00-15:00 CET
- Plastics and Human Rights | 14 January 2021 | 14:00-15:00 CET
- Plastics and Health | 21 January 2021 | 14:00-15:00 CET
- Plastics and Standards | 28 January 2021 | 14:00-15:00 CET
- Plastics and Trade | 4 February 2021 | 14:00-15:00 CET
- Plastics in the Life Cycle/SCP | 11 February 2021 | 14:00-15:00 CET
- High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance



PBS NEWSHOUR PRESENTS  
**THE PLASTIC PROBLEM**

**EVENT | CINEMA**

**Wednesdays for the Planet | The Plastic Problem**

**27 JAN 2021 13:30 - 14:30**

Online  
GEN

🕒 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics

🕒 SDG3 | SDG6 | SDG9 | SDG12 | SDG14 | SDG15



**EVENT | VIRTUAL**

**Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues | Plastics and Standards**

**28 JAN 2021 14:00 - 15:15**

Online | Webex  
GEN

🕒 Chemicals and Pollution | Green Economy

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# Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues | Plastics and Health

Thursday 21 January 2021 | 14.00 CET

#GENeva #BeatPlasticPollution



Permanent Mission of Norway  
Geneva



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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