



INVITATION to a SIDE EVENT

Youth Participation in National Implementation
Plans and Strategies to the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

15th June 2022 | 1:15-2:45 PM |
CICG - Room B

Join the conversation:
<https://tinyurl.com/YPinNIPs>



BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM
CONVENTIONS

COPs
#CleanPlanetHealthyPeople



COPs SIDE EVENT

MODERATOR

GIULIA CARLINI

Senior Attorney
Environmental Health Program
Center for International
Environmental Law (CIEL)



MODERATOR

JOE BONGAY

Executive Director
Young Volunteers for the
Environment (YVE-The
Gambia) Secretariat



PANEL DISCUSSION:

Youth participation in National Implementation Plan and Strategies (NIPs) to Stockholm Conventions (YPinNIPs).



JITENDRA K SHARMA

Programme Management Officer/GEF
Task Manager GEF Unit, Chemicals and
Health Branch Economy Division-UNEP



THERESE KARLSSON

Ph.D. Science and Technical
Advisor IPEN



MALICK BAH

Director of Technical Services
Network, National Environment
Agency- The Gambia



DOROTHY ADHIAMBO OTIENO

Projects Officer
Zero plastics and Waste
Management Centre for
Environment Justice and Development



YOUTH FOR A TOXIC-FREE FUTURE



Where are we?



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Chemicals & Waste

Working towards a pollution-free planet

[Explore our projects](#)

53

Active Projects



98

Countries

When not safely managed and disposed of toxic chemicals and wastes can pollute the environment we live in and have harmful impacts on our health. Chemicals and waste can be toxic, cancerogenic, hazardous to reproduction and endocrine disruptive for all species. Their threats are greatest in countries with developing economies, where regulation and safety measures are not well established.

UNEP and the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) have been working around the world for the past 30 years to address the issue of hazardous substances. Partnering with governments, other organizations and the private sector, UNEP and the GEF develop innovative projects that aim at eliminating and reducing levels of toxic chemicals like [mercury](#) and [Persistent Organic Pollutants \(POPs\)](#). We also look at new issues, such as electronic waste, plastic pollution and chemicals in textiles.

In Chemicals & Waste

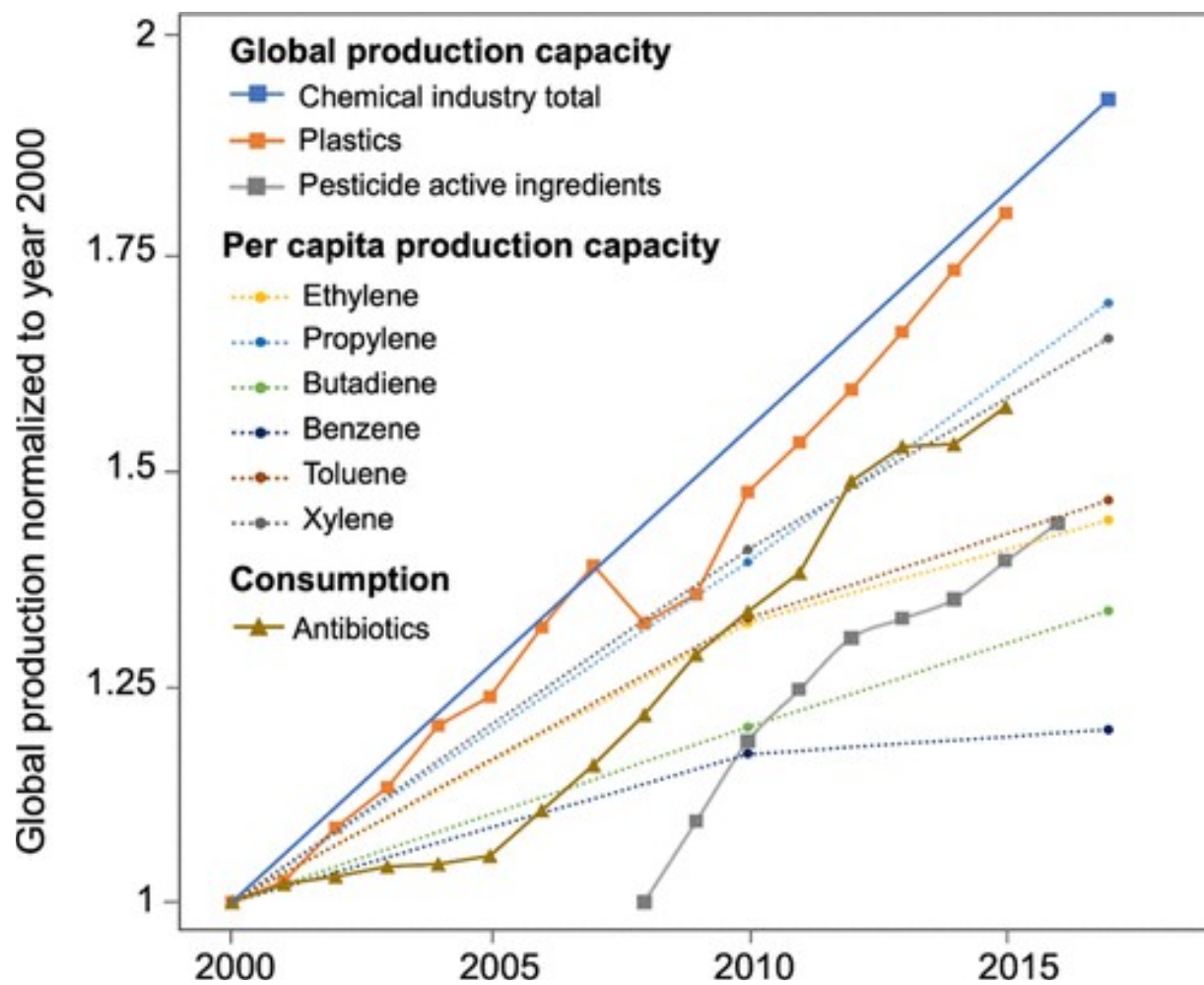
[Our work](#) →[Projects](#) →[Resources](#) →[Our team](#) →[Partner with us](#) →

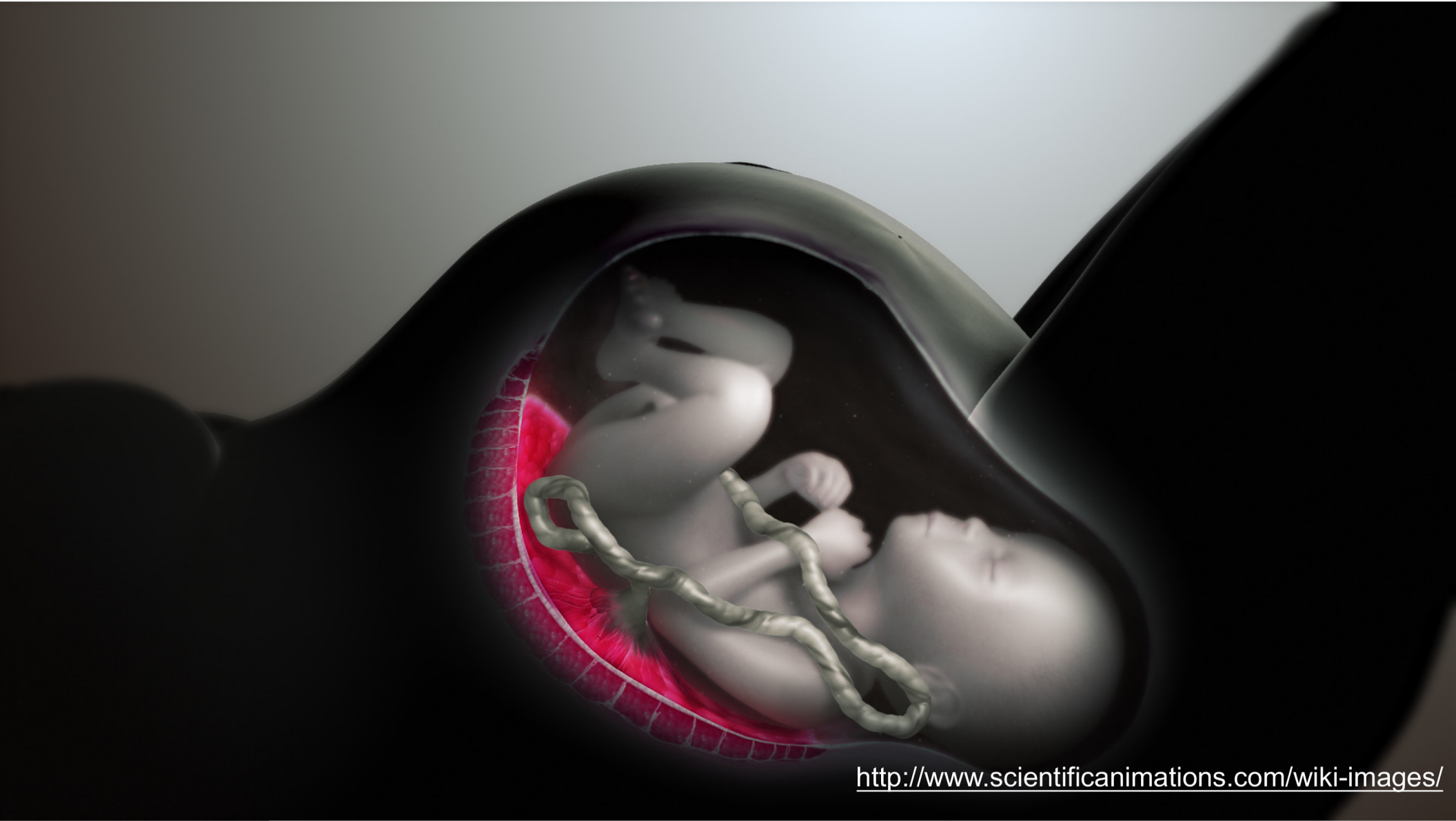
Science, youth and NIPs

Therese Karlsson, Ph.D.
Science and Technical
Advisor

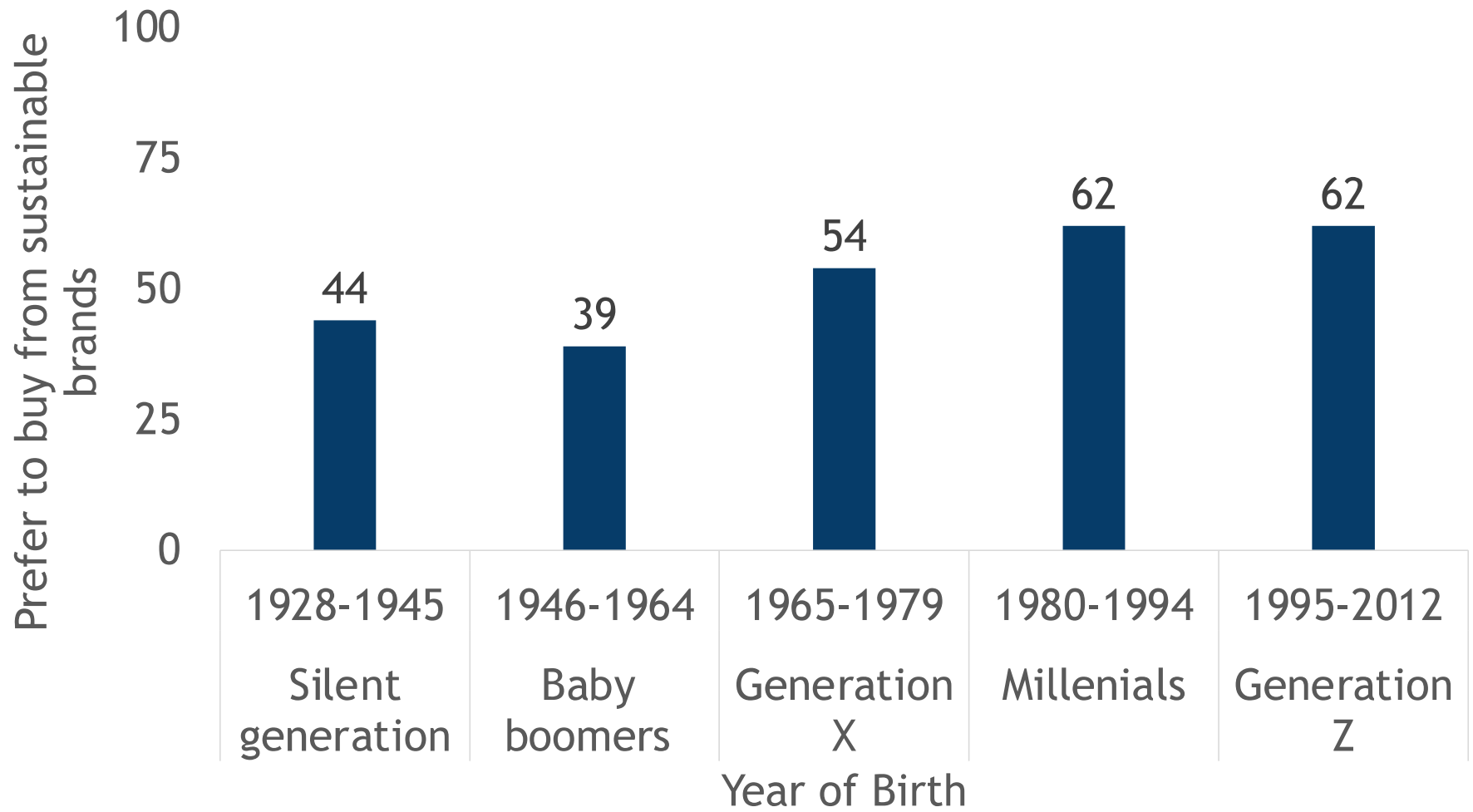








<http://www.scientificanimations.com/wiki-images/>



Data from First Insight 2020





**THIS
WAY**



Important tools to address the toxic legacy

- ▶ Prevent regrettable substitution through class-based approaches
- ▶ Ensure that ESM is used for stockpiles
 - ▶ No fantasy solutions (e.g. chemical recycling)
- ▶ Increased transparency





X-PRESS PEARL: A 'NEW KIND OF OIL SPILL'

A TOXIC MIX OF PLASTICS AND INVISIBLE CHEMICALS

February 2022



WIDESPREAD CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION OF RECYCLED PLASTIC PELLETS GLOBALLY

December 2021

Lead authors:
Sara Brosché, Ph.D.,
Jitka Strakova, MSc,

Lee Bell, MSc,
Therese Karlsson, Ph.D.



PLASTIC PELLETS FOUND ON BEACHES ALL OVER THE WORLD CONTAIN TOXIC CHEMICALS

December 2021

Lead authors:
Therese Karlsson, Ph.D.,
Sara Brosché, Ph.D.

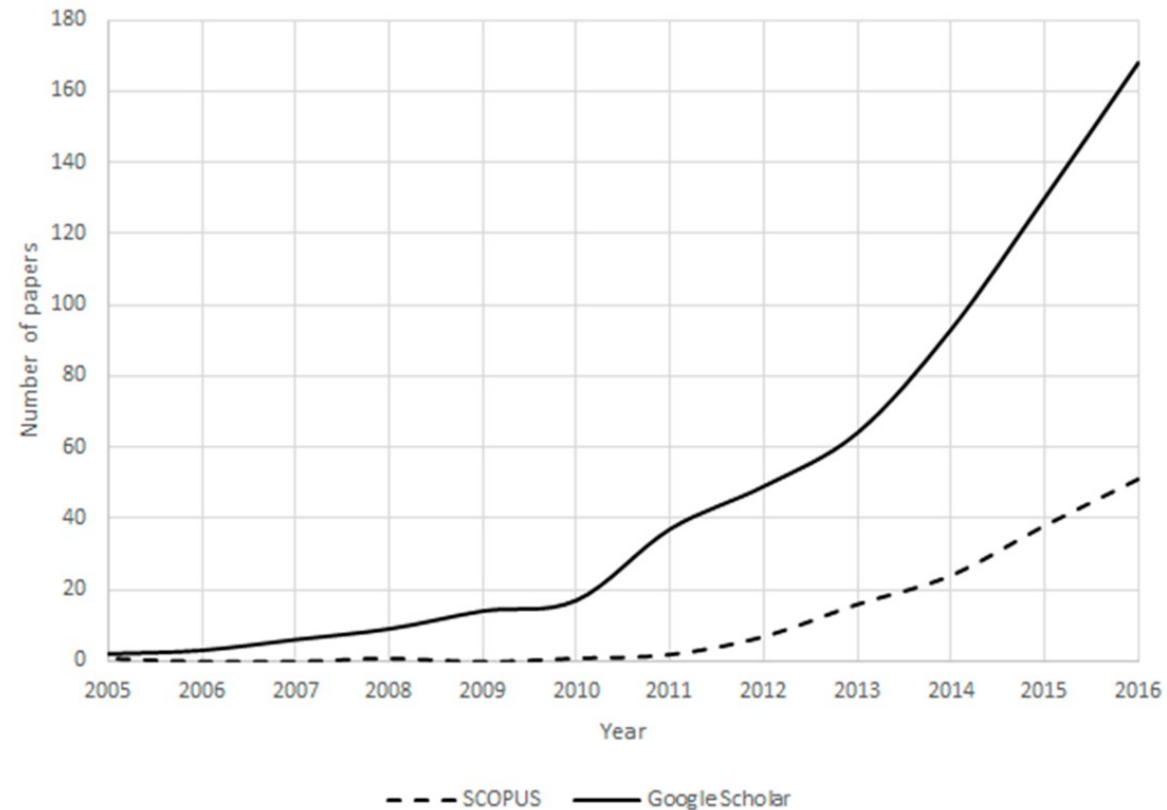
Mona Alidoust, Msc.
Prof. Hideshige Takada, Ph.D.



Citizen science

- Improved data collection
- Increased awareness
- Context to the numbers

Number of publications addressing “Earth observation” and “Citizen Science”



Fritz et al. Remote Sens. 2017, 9(4), 357

NEW DISCOVERY

EARTH AND ITS RESOURCES

COLLECTION ARTICLE

Published: February 5, 2020

A Long Way From Home—Industrial Chemicals in the Arctic That Really Should Not Be There

Authors



Roxana Sühling



Miriam L. Diamond



Martin Scheringer



Liisa M. Jantunen

Young Reviewers



Oli

Challenges NIPs

Many parties have not turned in NIPs for the 9 POPs listed in 2009, and even fewer for the POPs that were listed later.

51% of Parties turned in reports for the 3rd cycle due August 2014 and 41% turned in reports for the 4th cycle due August 2018.

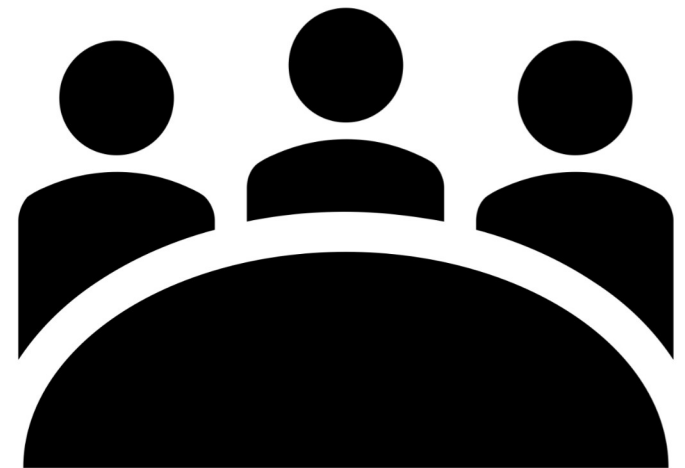
Article 7

The Parties shall, where appropriate, cooperate directly or through global, regional and subregional organizations, and **consult their national stakeholders, including women's groups and groups involved in the health of children.**



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Invite youth to the
table, and listen





Youth Involvement in the Chemicals and waste Management Space

Dorothy Otieno
Project Officer

Centre for Environment Justice and Development

Side Event: Youth Involvement in chemicals and waste management Policy discussion





About the Organization

- ▶ Public interest Non-Governmental Organization
- ▶ Founded in 2012
- ▶ **Mission**-Sustainable Chemicals and waste management for well-being of the Environment and public especially the Vulnerable
- ▶ Programmes within the organization:
 - ✓ Elimination of Lead in paints
 - ✓ Elimination of mercury use in ASGM, Dental restoration, and in products - Minamata Convention
 - ✓ Elimination of Highly hazardous chemicals - Rotterdam Convention
 - ✓ Zero plastics and Waste Management - Basel convention, Plastics treaty

*Questions are more important
than Answers - Elon Musk*

The right side of the slide features a decorative graphic composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles and polygons. The colors range from a light, pale green to a darker, forest green. The shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some shapes appearing to be layered behind others. The overall effect is a modern, abstract design element.

Questions

- 1. How many in this room are below 25 years old ?**
- 2. Why are there few youths participating in the chemicals and waste management policy space?**

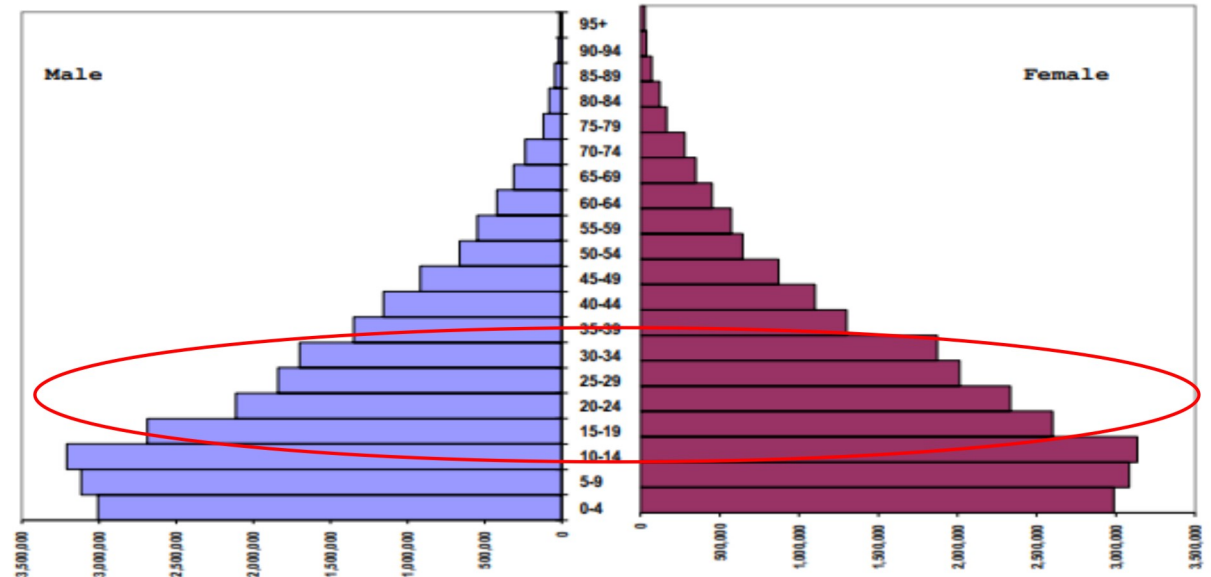
Why Youth Inclusion?

- Youth are the Majority demographic
- Globally the youth constitute more than 33 % of the total demographic

In Kenya

- Total Population is 47,564,269
- Total number of youth are 17,158,805, 36% of the total population.

Figure 2.1: Population Pyramid, Kenya 2019



Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

What does this mean?

- ▶ The majority group exposed to chemicals and the POPs from **products during consumption and use**. E.G eggs for protein
- ▶ Majority of the **work force** consist of youth and therefore **occupational exposure** to these chemicals affect youth more. E.g Fire fighters, waste pickers and in manufacturing
- ▶ Are the bearers of the **future generation**, **POPS** will be passed to future generations
- ▶ To influence **significant change** the youth are to be targeted, involved and should participate.



Opportunities for the youth

1. Science to Policy

- ▶ Youth inclusion in data and research to inform policy

For immediate release: May 24, 2022

Contact: Griffins Ochieng, Executive Director, CEJAD: ogriffins@gmail.com +254726931318

RNDr. Jindrich Petrlik, Program Director, Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme, IPEN advisor on dioxins and waste +420.603582984 jindrich.petrlik@arnika.org

Chemical Health Hazards Found in Plastic Products from Kenya and 10 Other Countries

A new report finds that many toys and other products made from recycled plastic sold in Kenya and other African and Arabic countries contain dioxins at levels equivalent to hazardous waste.

Environmental groups call for support for strict limits on toxic chemicals in waste as proposed by African countries

- Toy-car was tested for brominated dioxins and was found to contain 6,590pg TEQ/g, a level much higher than concentrations observed for example in waste incineration ashes, confirming that these highly toxic dioxins are in recycled plastic consumer products

“Brominated flame retardants and dioxins are highly toxic chemicals that have no place in our children’s toys or our homes,” said Griffins Ochieng, Executive Director, Centre for Environment Justice and Development.



CONT.....

2. Circular economy

- ▶ **Transparency** by companies on chemicals used in products
- ▶ Training of communities and participation in **sustainable waste management** for maximum recovery of materials
- ▶ Youth are **driving sustainable alternatives** e.g using banana leaves in place of plastics for food packaging,



CONT...

3. Good governance

- ▶ Awareness creation for policy makers, industry, communities.
- ▶ Advocacy for changes in policy



Conclusion and Recommendation

It is evident that despite the challenges, the youths have played a critical role in the waste management sector, from science to policy advocacy.

However, the **participation levels are still low across the globe, as evidenced by the demography in this room**

Provision for more youth engagement offers the following key benefits:

- ▶ Teaching and Learning opportunities
- ▶ Succession and effective transition of knowledge
- ▶ Youth have to be engaged in decision-making and discussions to provide their unique perspectives
- ▶ Lack of awareness of this may lead to investing in false solutions
- ▶ **Meaningful change must target the Youth**



Thank you!!!

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Do you want to get involved?



Email : youthcaucus@ipen.org

Social media

Twitter: @IpenYouth

Facebook: @ipen.youth