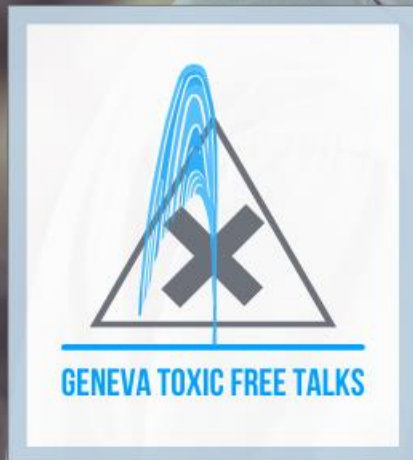


 UNITED NATIONS  
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# PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST TRANSITION FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS

21 SEPTEMBER 2023 | 15:30 - 16:30 CEST | PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM H.307-2 & ONLINE





**GENEVA TOXIC FREE TALKS**

**20 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**PALAIS DES NATIONS & ONLINE**



# PROGRAM

Taking place on the sidelines of the **54th session of the Human Rights Council**, this year's **Geneva Toxic Free Talks** highlights the work of the Special Rapporteur and of organizations in the struggle for the right to live in a toxic-free environment.

All events are taking place at Palais des Nations and online.

## Wednesday, 20 September

- 9:00-10:00 CEST | **Greenwashing and False Solutions Are Toxic for Human Rights** | Room H.307-1
- 13:15-14:45 CEST | **Making Human Rights Central in Chemicals and Waste Discussions** | Room H.307-1

## Thursday, 21 September

- 13:00-14:30 CEST | **No More Agrottoxics in our Food and Environment! | Agroecology: A Key Element for a Just Transition** | Room H.207
- 15:30-16:30 CEST | **Paths for Alternatives and a Just Transition for Chemical Workers** | Room H.307-2

## Friday, 22 September

- 10:00-11:00 CEST | **International Maritime Organization: Navigating the Rights Way** | Room XXV
- 13:00-14:00 CEST | **Integrating Detoxification and Decarbonization to Protect Human Rights of Affected Communities** | Room XXV | with the Permanent Mission of Chile
- 15:00-16:00 CEST | **Right to Science, Central to the Future Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution** | Room H.307-2



**GENEVA TOXIC FREE TALKS**

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**PALAIS DES NATIONS &  
ONLINE | WEBEX**

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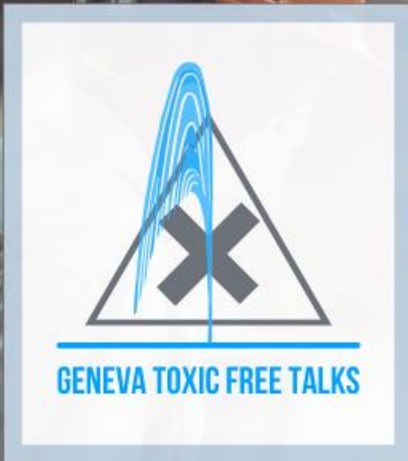


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# Paths for Alternatives and a Just Transition for Chemical Workers



## SPEAKERS

By order of intervention.



**Marcos ORELLANA**



UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights



**Liz HARRIMAN**



Deputy Director, Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI), University of Massachusetts Lowell



**Halshka GRACZYK**



Technical Specialist, Occupational Safety and Health, International Labour Organization



**Repon CHOWDHURY**



Secretary General, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress (BFTUC)



**Yves LADOR**



Representative of Earthjustice to the United Nations in Geneva | Moderator

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### Welcome

- Yves LADOR | Representative of Earthjustice to the United Nations in Geneva
- Marcos ORELLANA | UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights

### Safe and Healthy Working Environment: A Fundamental Principle and Right

- Liz HARRIMAN | Deputy Director, Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI), University of Massachusetts Lowell

### Supporting the Adoption of Safer Alternatives to Protect the Rights of Workers

- Halshka GRACZYK | Technical Specialist, Occupational Safety and Health, International Labour Organization
- Repon CHOWDHURY | Secretary General, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress (BFTUC)

### Discussion

### Closing

- Marcos ORELLANA | UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights



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# PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST TRANSITION FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS

## Technical Information

- Throughout the event, you may raise your questions in the Q&A box
- Automatically translated subtitles in many languages are available through the captions button on the bottom left of your screen
- The recording, summary and documents will be made available on the event's website





## PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST TRANSITION FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS

**ENGLISH CAPTIONS CAN BE ACTIVATED BY CLICKING ON THE BUTTON ON THE LEFT-SIDE OF THE BOTTOM BAR ON THE SCREEN**



# Paths for Alternatives and a Just Transition for Chemical Workers



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**PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST  
TRANSITION FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS**



**WELCOME**



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# PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST TRANSITION FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS



## Yves LADOR

Representative of Earthjustice to the United Nations in Geneva | Moderator

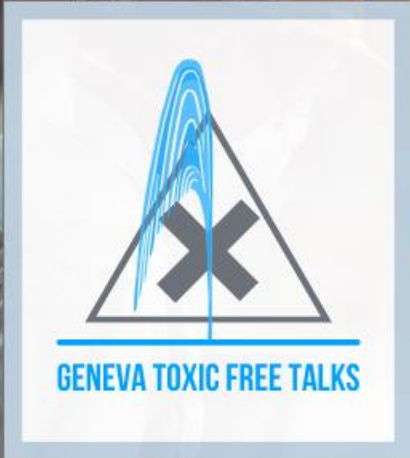


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**PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST  
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# **SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKING ENVIRONMENT: A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE AND RIGHT**

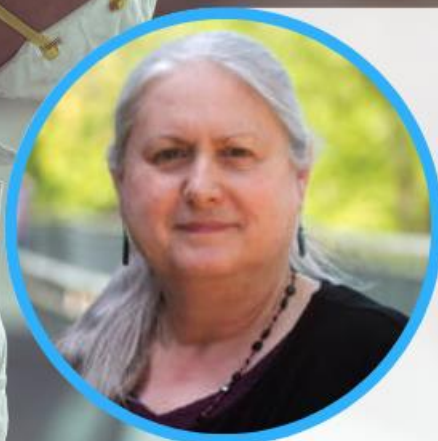


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# PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST TRANSITION FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS



**Liz HARRIMAN**

Deputy Director, Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI), University of Massachusetts Lowell



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**PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST  
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**SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF SAFER  
ALTERNATIVES TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS**



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# PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST TRANSITION FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS



## Halshka GRACZYK



Technical Specialist, Occupational Safety and Health, International Labour Organization



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# Paths for Alternatives and a Just Transition for Chemical Workers | Geneva Toxic Free Talks

**Halshka Graczyk, Technical specialist OSH - Labour**  
Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and  
Health Branch, ILO

## ▶ The ILO and global chemical management

- ▶ The first international labour standards focused on chemical exposures and OSH (White Lead Convention in 1921)
- ▶ More than **1 billion workers exposed** to hazardous chemicals each year and more than **1 million workers lose their lives**, countless others suffer from lifelong disability
- ▶ Significant majority of deaths are due to **diseases** caused by chemicals (asbestos, silica, heavy metals, pesticides, and many more)
- ▶ Hazardous chemical exposures in the world of work threaten our **broader aims of decent work and social justice for all** – workers that are sick cannot benefit from other labour rights
- ▶ Certain groups of workers face **heightened vulnerability** to OSH risks related to chemicals (e.g. those in the informal economy, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, migrant workers, individuals with disabilities and women)



## ▶ WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS

- ▶ The ILO is a **normative** organisation: there are numerous voluntary initiatives on chemicals, but the ILO offers International Labour Standards with a strong supervisory mechanism
- ▶ Safe and healthy working environment as a Fundamental Principle and Right at Work – **paradigm shift** for the labour sector (C155 + C187)
- ▶ Importance of leveraging international labour standards on OSH and chemical hazards (e.g. **Convention No. 170, Convention No. 174 + sectoral + risk specific**)
- ▶ The ILO's strong normative framework on chemicals can directly assist tripartite stakeholders in implementing national and workplace level chemicals management programs – key is that standards support ALL constituents: **Governments, Workers, Employers**
- ▶ Upcoming: new standard to complement Convention No. 170 and future technical guidelines on chemicals – integrate key concepts such as emerging risks from climate change and just transition

## ▶ WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL

- ▶ Promotion of toxics elimination and substitution approach using ILO's methodologies of the **Hierarchy of Controls** = greener workplaces
- ▶ However - OSH is critical to a JT, as risks may arise not only due to environmental changes, but also in **new work processes or novel materials** used in the transition.
- ▶ New processes and materials may also increase OSH risks (e.g., lifecycle of solar panels; mercury in CFLs; cobalt in rechargeable battery electrodes)
- ▶ What is critical is **enhanced risk assessment at all levels** – national policy level but also at the workplace level (introduce a regulatory step between laboratory and consumer!)
- ▶ By prioritizing chemicals management *within a just transition*, we can work towards improved processes that 1) protect workers from hazardous exposures to chemicals, while at the same time 2) greening the economy in a way that is as inclusive as possible, **creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.**



## ▶ WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: SOCIAL DIALOGUE

- ▶ Facing a multi-crisis when it comes to chemicals and environmental change, we must leverage the strong foundation of social dialogue
- ▶ Importance of multisectoral coordination and cooperation
- ▶ Social justice recognizes that everyone, regardless of their background or socio-economic status, deserves equal protection and access to a safe and healthy working environment.
- ▶ **Ultimate goal of social justice for all**



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# PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST TRANSITION FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS



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# DISCUSSION



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# CLOSING



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## THANK YOU FOR JOINING!



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**Liz HARRIMAN**



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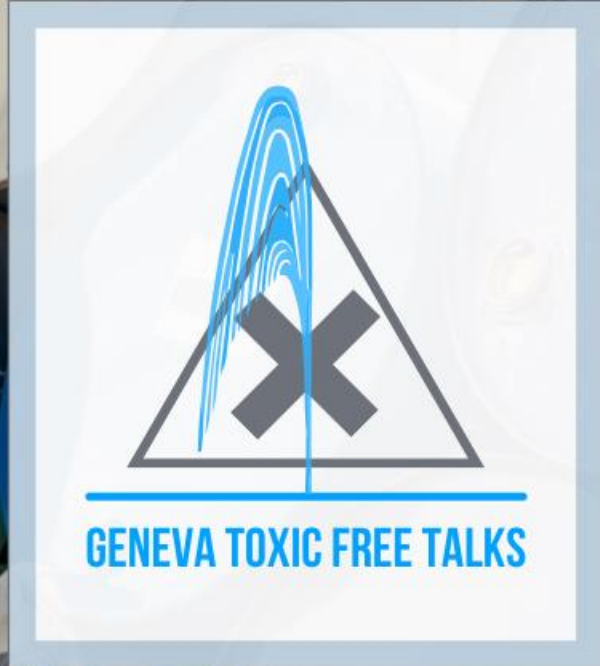


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**GENEVA TOXIC FREE TALKS**

**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION:  
NAVIGATING THE RIGHTS WAY**

22 SEPTEMBER 2023 | 10:00 - 11:00 CEST | PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM XXV & ONLINE

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- EARTHJUSTICE
- UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIAL PROCEDURES  
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- GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK



**Join us tomorrow!**



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Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Office of the United Nations and  
to the other International Organizations  
Geneva



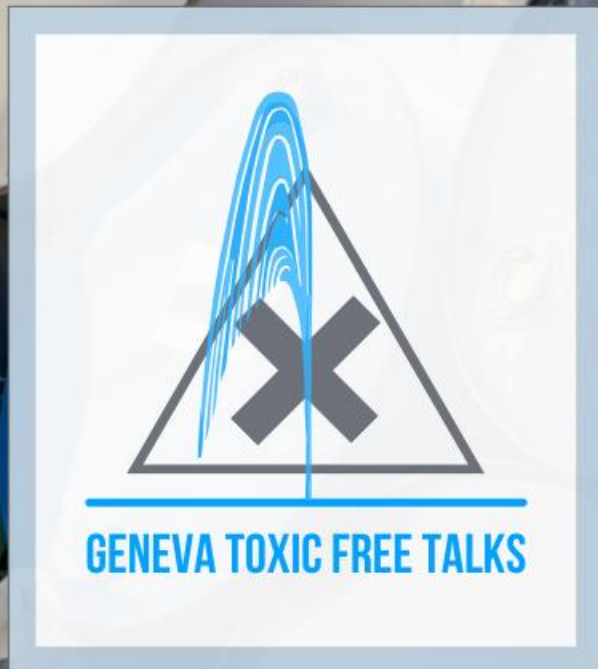
PHILIPPINE MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



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# INTEGRATING DETOXIFICATION AND DECARBONIZATION TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

22 SEPTEMBER 2023 | 13:00 - 14:00 CEST | PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM XXV & ONLINE

**Join us tomorrow!**

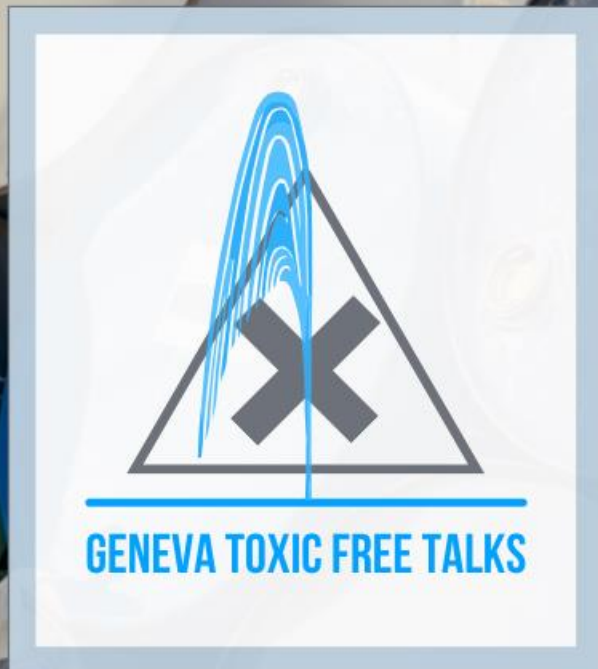


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**CAUTION TOXIC WASTE**

[tiny.cc/TFT23RightToScience](https://tiny.cc/TFT23RightToScience)

**RIGHT TO SCIENCE, CENTRAL TO THE FUTURE SCIENCE-POLICY PANEL TO CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE AND TO PREVENT POLLUTION**

**22 SEPTEMBER 2023 | 15:00 - 16:00 CEST | PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM H.307-2 & ONLINE**

**Join us tomorrow!**



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# WHAT'S NEXT?

 [genevaenvironmentnetwork.org](https://genevaenvironmentnetwork.org)



**VIRTUAL**

**Options of Engagement and Participation Modalities for Major Groups and Stakeholders to the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution | Road to OEWG 2 Series**

26 SEP 2023 14:00 – 15:30  
Online | Webex  
UNEP, OEWG SPP CWP

Chemicals and Pollution  
 SDG12



**CONFERENCE**

**Advancing a Human Rights-based Approach to Accelerate the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste for People and the Planet | ICCM5 Side Event**

27 SEP 2023 13:15 – 14:45  
Bonn and Online | Webex  
OHCHR, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Human Rights and Environment  
 SDG12



**CONFERENCE**

**Briefing on the 5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

05 OCT 2023 14:00 – 15:30  
International Environment House I, Room 2 & Online | Webex  
Minamata Convention on Mercury, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution  
 SDG3 | SDG12

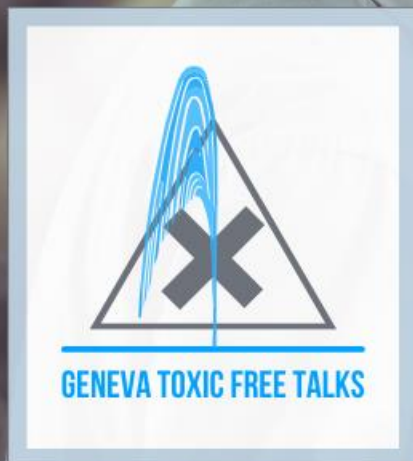


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# PATHS FOR ALTERNATIVES AND A JUST TRANSITION FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS

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