



The MSP Institute

Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Sustainable Development eV

Gender and Chemicals Beyond2020

Policy Suggestions

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How to integrate gender in SAICM Beyond 2020

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Content

Introduction: Gender and Chemicals Beyond2020.....	4
Project Background and Goals	4
How to integrate Gender in SAICM - Policy Recommendations.....	4
Integrating Gender Now.....	5
Policy Suggestions	6
1. Vision.....	6
Suggested options for a brief vision.....	6
Suggested options for sub-titles / longer vision	7
2. Policy Principles	7
Gender aspects already mentioned in OPS	7
Suggested additions	7
3. Objectives and Milestones	9
4. Implementation and Governance.....	13
A. Implementation.....	13
B. Governance.....	13
5. High-Level Political Commitment and visibility.....	15
Glossary of Terms.....	16
Your support for a gender-just chemicals future beyond2020!	18

Introduction: Gender and Chemicals Beyond2020

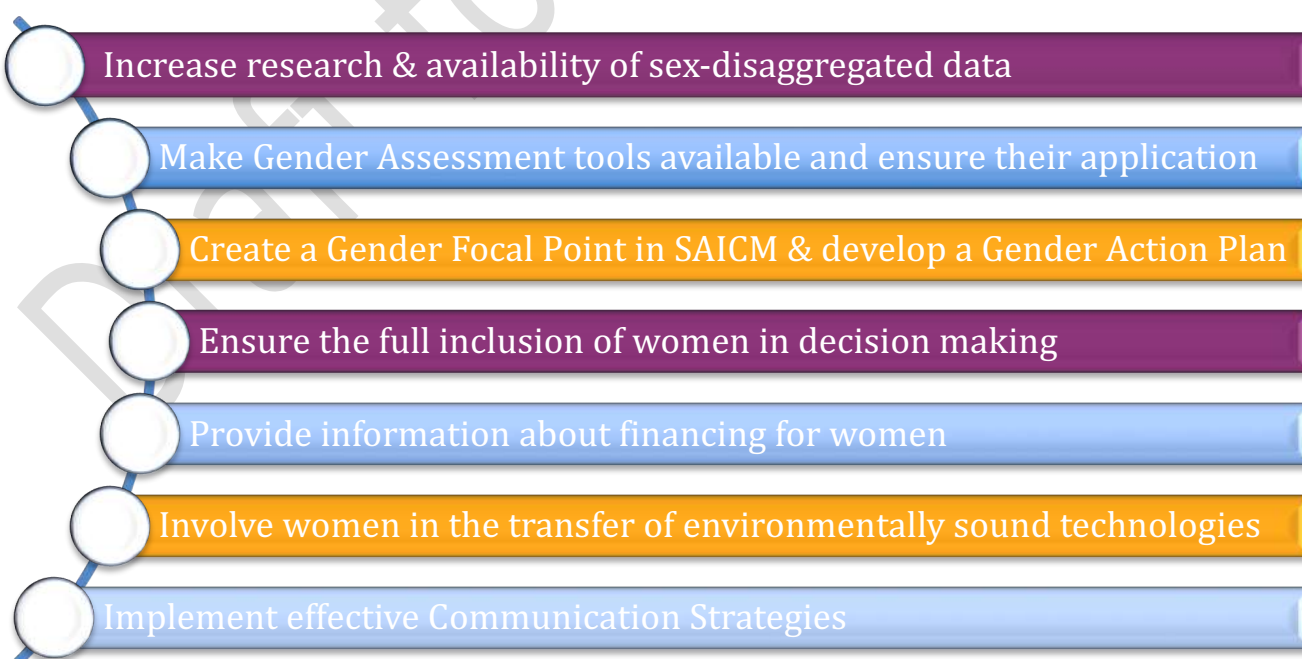
Project Background and Goals

There is a number of gender aspects relevant to chemicals and chemicals and waste management. However, many of them are not receiving the attention they should in order to ensure the best possible decisions in policy-making and effective implementation. MSP Institute is aiming to create more focus on gender aspects and to increase the participation of women's organisations and gender experts in the SAICM Beyond 2020 process. The goal is to improve integration of gender aspects in international chemicals and waste management policies and implementation.

Why Gender and Chemicals?

- ▼ **Gender, as a social category**, is linked to gender-specific norms of behaviour, roles in society as well as the development of 'feminine' and 'masculine' identities, which in turn influence people's behaviour, including their impact on the environment, their affectedness by environmental degradation, and their access to and power over resources.
- ▼ **Gender, as a biological category**, shows that women's and men's bodies are affected differently by certain chemicals – exposure, risk, and impacts can be different between the sexes.
- ▼ **Gender analysis** allows to ask questions that help us understand and unpack root causes of unsustainable behaviour and societies, and hence have a transformational potential. We need to tap into this potential in order to bring about sustainable development, justice and peace.

How to integrate Gender in SAICM - Policy Recommendations





Integrating Gender Now

SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy underlines the specific importance of women as stakeholders and their still evident lack of representation in the implementation and decision-making processes for the sound management of chemicals and chemical safety (SAICM 2012). Yet, specific and widespread knowledge on differentiated and long-term effects of chemicals on women and men is still lacking, and, even more so, comprehensive gender analysis of chemicals and waste management.

With the year 2020 approaching, SAICM and its stakeholders are currently developing pathways for the international management of chemicals and waste. The coming years therefore present a unique window of opportunity to increase attention and achieve results.

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Policy Suggestions

Inspired by the **Overview Paper** (Co-Chair) and the **Proposal on objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda and related milestones** (SAICM Secretariat 2018), we have developed suggestions on how to integrate gender in a SAICM Beyond 2020 decision, which we present in this paper. Gender should be included in vision, principles, objectives and milestones, implementation arrangements and governance (see. Fig.1).



Fig.1 Proposed structure for developing the future approach ¹

1. Vision

Suggested options for a brief vision

“Together for chemicals without harm” Or “Together for a detoxified future”

Or *“Healthy Environment, Healthy Lives for All: No Harm from Chemicals and Waste”*

¹ Co-chairs’ Overview paper to support preparations for the second intersessional meeting considering the strategic approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020: 2018.

Suggested options for sub-titles / longer vision

*To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution **to a transformation towards justice and sustainable development.***

Or

*To achieve the **precautionary** and sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution **to a transformation towards justice and sustainable development.***


2. Policy Principles

Gender aspects already mentioned in OPS

- ✦ That in many countries some stakeholders, particularly women and indigenous communities, still do not participate in all aspects of decision-making related to the sound management of chemicals, a situation which needs to be addressed.
- ✦ To promote and support meaningful and active participation by all sectors of society, particularly women, workers and indigenous communities, in regulatory and other decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety.
- ✦ To ensure equal participation of women in decision-making on chemical policy and management.

Suggested additions

- ✦ To promote gender-responsive chemical and waste policies and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of SAICM and the work of Parties, the Secretariat, IOMC members, and all stakeholders at all levels (SDG 5)
- ✦ To recognize the need for women to be represented in all aspects of the SAICM process and the need for gender mainstreaming through all relevant goals and targets in activities under the policy framework as an important contribution to increasing their effectiveness (SDG 5)

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- ❖ To support women's full and meaningful participation in decision-making and equal access to resources, e.g. for economic development, capacity building, health and other services (SDG 5)
 - ❖ To recognize the critical role of women as leaders and agents of change, and their transformative knowledge
 - ❖ To encourage Parties to give gender due consideration in their national chemical and waste policies, strategies and action plans and to integrate sex differences and gender aspects into the development of national indicators
 - ❖ To encourage Parties to give due consideration to issues of environmental justice in their national chemical and waste policies, strategies and action plans
 - ❖ To encourage Parties to build capacity to integrate considerations regarding chemicals and waste management into their national gender policies and action plans
 - ❖ To respect the capacity-limits of our planet and avoid risks of over-exploitation of natural resources
 - ❖ To apply eco-system and landscape level approaches to developing environmental management relating to chemicals and waste, deepening system understanding and engaging all relevant stakeholders
 - ❖ To maximize the benefits of green and sustainable chemistry in such ways that all sectors of societies benefit equally and that inequalities within and among countries are being minimized (SDG 10)

3. Objectives and Milestones

Objective	Milestones	Responsible actors	Indicators
Key Area 1: Legal and institutional frameworks, implementation and enforcement			
Objective 1: Legal frameworks that address the life-cycle of chemicals and waste			
Objective 2: Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant stakeholders	Countries have developed and are implementing comprehensive, transparent and inclusive stakeholder and sectoral engagement plans/platforms with women's full and meaningful participation , as well as active coordination and networking mechanisms.	Countries	Participation rate of women/gender balance in participation Inclusion of gender experts
Objective 3: Implementation of chemicals and waste-related multi-lateral environmental agreements, as well as health, labour and other relevant conventions and voluntary mechanisms		Countries, IOMC members, Science	Sex disaggregated data being taken into account (e.g. health, occupational health issues)
Key Area 2: Stakeholder participation and sectoral engagement			
Objective 4: Industry participation and defined responsibility across the life cycle	Industries generate health and safety data, including sex-disaggregated data , for their chemicals in commerce and make them available to all actors in the value chain. Industries work in partnership with government and other stakeholders to implement gender-	Industry, Science	Sex-disaggregated data available in all countries, taking into account different educational and alphabetization levels

	responsive cost recovery policies, risk reduction and occupational exposure measures, and innovative approaches to sound chemicals and waste management throughout the life-cycle.		
Objective 5: Strengthened capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to chemicals accidents, including institutional-strengthening for poison centres	Countries have formalised and/or strengthened legal, administrative, and technical infrastructures and capacities to deal with chemical accidents, including involvement of sub-national and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders at all levels.	Countries, other relevant stakeholders	Participation of women's organizations and gender experts
Key Area 3: Knowledge and information, risk assessment/reduction and monitoring			
Objective 6: Collection and systems for the transparent sharing of relevant data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach	Countries have established a system and are able to collect, with support of industries and other stakeholders, sex-disaggregated health and safety data and information on chemicals and waste throughout the life-cycle, and are making it publicly available.	Countries, Science, IOMC members	Sex-disaggregated data available in all countries, with a special emphasis on different educational and alphabetization levels
Objective 7: Chemicals risk assessment and risk reduction through the use of best practices	All relevant stakeholders (governments, industry, labour unions, civil society, etc) are taking effective action to protect workers and promote safety and health at workplaces dealing with any part of the life-cycle of chemicals and wastes, including systematic consideration of gender differences and migrant workers.	Countries, Industry, labour unions, NGOs, other relevant stakeholders	Participation of women's organizations and gender experts Availability and implementation rate of Gender (Impact) Assessment tools
Objective 8: Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment	Countries and stakeholders estimate, monitor and communicate the scope and magnitude of the impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment, in particular for vulnerable	Countries, Science, IOMC members, NGOs	Increased research on sex differences and gender specific issues and providing best practice of research



	populations, tailoring their communications to the specific needs of different target groups.		Increased availability of sex-disaggregated data
Objective 9: Development and promotion of environmentally sound and safer alternatives	Relevant stakeholders and academia identify and implement practical steps for hazards reduction in chemical design and use, incl. non-chemical solutions, with a special emphasis on developing and transition countries and different educational and alphabetization levels.	Countries, Science, Industry, other relevant stakeholders	Participation of women and gender experts in research and development of safer alternatives
Key Area 4: Political leadership, outreach, education and promotion			
Objective 10: Inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national health, labour, social, environment, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, research, education and economic budgeting processes and development plans	Countries and stakeholders are implementing target-group-specific public awareness, education and training programs on the importance of sound chemicals and waste management (including their health and environmental effects and alternatives), with a special emphasis and different educational and alphabetization levels especially for women and children	Countries, Science, Education Institutions, NGOs, other relevant stakeholders	Implementation rate of gender-responsive communication strategies



Suggested additions			
<p>Best practices and safe(r) alternatives are being used to positively impact all dimensions of sustainable development from chemicals production and use throughout their life cycle, including the sound management of waste</p>	<p>Sustainable agricultural practices are being used, including agro-ecological alternatives with equal distribution of its benefits across societies.</p> <p>Agreed ecological and social international standards, sustainable practices and codes of conduct are implemented by the private sector, including the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact, and the Women Empowerment Principles (developed by UN Women and the UN Global Compact).</p> <p>The private sector enhances scientific research, technology development and innovation of safer alternatives and production processes with equal distribution of its benefits across societies.</p>	<p>Countries, Industry, Science, NGOs, labour unions, other relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>Participation rate of women in sustainable agriculture and businesses</p> <p>Implementation rate of ecological and social international standards</p>

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4. Implementation and Governance

A. Implementation

Capacity-building

- Through the use of such mechanisms as workshops, technical assistance, etc, enhance the capacity of Parties and stakeholders to develop gender-responsive policies, plans and programs.
- Involve women, women's networks, and training institutions focusing on women's entrepreneurship in activities relating to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies
- Develop and implement effective strategies and build capacities of national governments and other stakeholders for communicating effectively with different target groups, including women and men, girls and boys and other genders

Financing

- Provide information about financing for women
- Consider earmarking funds for projects that integrate gender in their work; in such ways that do not create unsurmountable barriers to applicants but encourage including local women's organisations and drawing on local gender expertise
- Strengthen the capacity for the integration of gender-responsive budgeting into public and private chemical and waste financing through training, expert workshops, technical papers and tools.

Emerging issues and issues of concern

- Make women and chemical safety a high-level issue of concern².

National Action Plans

- National Action Plans should contain a section about gender-related activities and outcomes of all chemicals, wastes and agriculture projects (ibid.).

B. Governance

In general, steps should be taken at all levels to ensure the **full inclusion of women in decision making** and their full and meaningful participation in all aspects of chemicals and waste management in all sectors.

² based on IPEN/PAN "Beyond 2020: Women and chemical safety": 2017.

International /global level


- ❖ Develop a **technical paper** prepared by the Secretariat on achieving the goal of gender balance and gender justice in chemicals and waste management along the life cycle
- ❖ Create a **gender focal point** at the secretariat
 - key staff member for ensuring the success of the organisation's gender mainstreaming
 - Although the overall responsibility for gender mainstreaming is recognized as an institutional responsibility and all staff and senior management are held accountable for performance in this area, the gender focal point will act as a resource person on gender mainstreaming and be a catalyst for gender issues in divisions or offices.
The gender focal point shall, for example, organize in-session workshops on gender issues to discuss the development of a gender action plan;
- ❖ Establish a **multi-stakeholder working group** to develop recommendations for actions on gender and chemical safety that are included in work plans guiding SAICM emerging policy issues and issues of concern (ibid.).
 - Working group is coordinated by the gender focal point
 - develops a report for SAICM on gender and chemical safety for release in 2020 that includes case studies and concerns from all UN regions, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders
- ❖ Develop a **gender action plan**
 - in order to support the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates under the SAICM process, which may include priority areas, key activities and indicators, timelines for implementation, responsible and key actors and indicate resource requirements for each activity, and the further elaboration of its review and monitoring process.

Regional level

- ❖ Establish regular exchange meetings with gender focal point and multi-stakeholder working group
- ❖ Provide support for the preparation of the report on gender and chemical safety
- ❖ Coordinate exchange or secondment of personnel to train women and gender experts at national level

National level:

- ❖ Include women and gender experts in national policy and implementation mechanisms on chemicals and waste (like national committees)

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- ❖ Build capacities of national focal points with regard to sex differences, gender analysis and gender mainstreaming in chemicals and waste management.

5. High-Level Political Commitment and visibility

- ❖ Financial support for women's groups to strengthen engagement of all sectors and stakeholders, in the long-term.
- ❖ Engage women's networks and gender experts in chemicals and waste management
- ❖ Engage government Ministries responsible for gender, social, health and labour issues in matters relating to SAICM and communicating about chemicals and waste management

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Glossary of Terms

NB: If not otherwise indicated, the definitions provided below have been copied, or adapted, from UN Women's Gender Equality Glossary³.

Whereas the term '**sex**' refers to biological differences between women and men, the term '**gender**' refers to social differences. In societies, women and men fulfil different gender roles, and gender stereotypes describe 'typical' or 'ideal' sets of characteristics of women and men. Based on the societal 'images' of what is feminine and what is masculine, individuals develop gender-specific identities. As a reflection of roles, stereotypes and identities, women and men differ with regard to motivation and behaviour.

These roles and relationships are not fixed but can and do change. (UNDP 2011)

Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context, as are other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis including class, race, poverty level, ethnic group, sexual orientation, age, etc.

Social acceptance is one of the consequences of fulfilling gender roles, and social sanctions are likely to occur when people do not comply with gender roles - with some flexibility determined by subgroup membership and individual interpretation.

The ways in which women and men pursue certain goals differ. For example, women and men share the need for social acceptance and hence a basic motive to be accepted by their peer groups. However, based on their gender-specific roles and identities, they differ with regard to which behaviour will serve the goal of being accepted.


Gender equality (equality between women and men): This refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development.

The preferred terminology within the United Nations is **gender equality**, rather than gender equity. **Gender equity** denotes an element of interpretation of social justice, usually based on tradition, custom, religion or culture, which is most often to the detriment to women. Such use of equity in relation to the advancement of women has been determined to be unacceptable (see Beijing 5th World Conference on Women, 1995).

Gender analysis is a critical examination of how differences in gender roles, activities, needs, opportunities and rights/entitlements affect men, women, girls and boys in certain situation or contexts. Gender analysis examines the relationships between females and males and their access to and control of resources and the constraints they face relative to each other. A gender analysis should be integrated into all sector assessments or situational analyses to ensure that gender-based injustices and inequalities are not exacerbated by interventions, and that where possible, greater equality and justice in gender relations are promoted.

Gender stereotypes are simplistic generalizations about the gender attributes, differences and roles of women and men. Stereotypical characteristics about men are that they are competitive, acquisitive, autonomous, independent, confrontational, concerned about private goods. Parallel stereotypes of women hold that they are

³ <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36>



cooperative, nurturing, caring, connecting, group-oriented, concerned about public goods. Stereotypes are often used to justify gender discrimination more broadly and can be reflected and reinforced by traditional and modern theories, laws and institutional practices. Messages reinforcing gender stereotypes and the idea that women are inferior come in a variety of “packages” – from songs and advertising to traditional proverbs.

Gender mainstreaming has been defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as ‘a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated’. The relative status of women and men, the interaction between gender and race, class and ethnicity, and questions of rights, control, ownership, power, and voice—all have a critical impact on the success and sustainability of every development intervention.

In practice, gender mainstreaming means identifying gaps in gender equality through the use of sex-disaggregated data; developing strategies to close those gaps; putting resources and expertise into implementing strategies for gender equality; monitoring implementation; and holding individuals and institutions accountable for results. Gender mainstreaming is not an end in itself; it is a process whose ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality (Millennium Development Goal 3). (UNDP 2011)

Gender mainstreaming is the chosen approach of the United Nations system and international community toward realizing progress on women’s and girl’s rights, as a sub-set of human rights to which the United Nations dedicates itself. It is not a goal or objective on its own. It is a strategy for implementing greater equality for women and girls in relation to men and boys.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a way to make women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

The term ‘**gender perspective**’ is a way of seeing or analyzing which looks at the impact of gender on people’s opportunities, social roles and interactions. This way of seeing is what enables one to carry out gender analysis and subsequently to mainstream a gender perspective into any proposed program, policy or organization.

Gender-responsive budgeting or GRB is a method of determining the extent to which government expenditure has detracted from or come nearer to the goal of gender equality. A gender-responsive budget is not a separate budget for women, but rather a tool that analyzes budget allocations, public spending and taxation from a gender perspective and can be subsequently used to advocate for reallocation of budget line items to better respond to women’s priorities as well as men’s, making them, as the name suggests, gender-responsive.

Gender roles refer to social and behavioral norms that, within a specific culture, are widely considered to be socially appropriate for individuals of a specific sex. These often determine the traditional responsibilities and tasks assigned to men, women, boys and girls (see gender division of labor). Gender-specific roles are often conditioned by household structure, access to resources, specific impacts of the global economy, occurrence of conflict or disaster, and other locally relevant factors such as ecological conditions. Like gender itself, gender roles can evolve over time, in particular through the empowerment of women and transformation of masculinities.

Gender norms are ideas about how men and women should be and act. We internalize and learn these “rules” early in life. This sets-up a life-cycle of gender socialization and stereotyping. Put another way, gender norms are the standards and expectations to which gender identity generally conforms, within a range that defines a particular society, culture and community at that point in time.

Your support for a gender-just chemicals future beyond2020!

We are seeking to talk to colleagues from governments, UN and all stakeholders to discuss our ideas on how to integrate gender in SAICM Beyond 2020.

Visit our Homepage and Blog - www.gender-chemicals.org

See our suggestions, get information about the ongoing work and results, links to relevant organizations and processes, and read our blog.

Follow us on twitter – [@GenderChemicals](https://twitter.com/GenderChemicals) [@byMSPInstitute](https://twitter.com/byMSPInstitute)

Get news about Gender and Chemicals, stay in contact and show support.



Or talk to us directly!

Contact

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MSP Institute

MSP Institute is passionate about high-quality multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) for sustainable development. Meaningful participation, open dialogue and effective collaboration involving all sectors of societies will play a key role in achieving transformation towards sustainable development. Gender equality and high-quality engagement processes are important goals in themselves but they are also pre-requisites for just and peaceful societal transformation.

MSP Institute is an international charitable association based in Berlin, Germany, est. March 2016.

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