Gender and the BRS Conventions

WEBINAR 5: 45 MIN FOR GENDER

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Gender mainstreaming in the chemicals and waste MEAs

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)

Multilateral environmental agreements that aim to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes by promoting environmentally sound management.

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is an international environmental treaty that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is the most comprehensive global environmental treaty on hazardous and other wastes.

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade is a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibilities and open exchange of information in relation to the trade of hazardous chemicals.
BRS Gender Action Plan
Developed in 2012
BRS Gender Action Plan (BRS GAP)

Provides the guiding framework to ensure that gender concerns are mainstreamed throughout the work of the BRS Conventions.

Objectives

- Promote the consideration of gender issues in hazardous chemicals and waste management at the national and regional levels
- Develop an understanding and support from BRS staff on the issue of gender equality
- Ensure that the Secretariat’s programmes and projects are planned and implemented from the gender equality perspective
- Support staff in achieving a sustainable work-life balance

The plan envisions gender equality as “an integral part of the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including the secretariat”.
Gender responsive decisions

- **2017 COPs** - Parties adopted decisions BC-12/20, RC-8/13, SC 8/23 on gender mainstreaming
  - Women and men are equally involved in the implementation of the three conventions and are represented in their bodies and processes, and thus participate in decision-making on gender-responsive hazardous chemicals and waste policies.
Celebrating our gender heroes

The BRS Secretariat’s publication “Gender Heroes: from grassroots to global action” features stories that illustrate actions being taken every day by individuals and communities to protect the most vulnerable members of our population from the potentially harmful effects of certain chemicals and wastes. The authors of these stories come from all different corners of the world.

These gender heroes should be recognized and celebrated, and the Secretariat endeavours to do just that through its website and publications.

www.brsmeas.org
| **Educate** | Educate both men and women on the risks associated with chemicals, taking into account gender disparities in access to information. |
| **Raise** | Raise awareness of the linkages between chemical exposures, the effects on human health and the environment, and gender differences in risks and impacts. |
| **Support** | Support mandatory labeling of all chemicals in products to ensure the right to information. |
| **Promote** | Promote a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure the participation of women and vulnerable populations in policy development and decision-making processes for the sound management of chemicals and waste. |
| **Implement** | Implement the polluter pays principle and the precautionary principle for chemicals that are harmful or suspected to be harmful to human health and environment, through regulatory measures. |
| **Gather** | Gather gender-disaggregated data and research on the intersection between women and chemicals. |
| **Strengthen** | Strengthen women’s rights, in particular their participatory rights, in all aspects of decision making, chemical production, use and disposal. |
Embed gender considerations in emerging policy issues

Develop gender mainstreaming guidance addressing all stages of project cycle

Seek primary stakeholder endorsement (e.g. COP decision for BRS Conventions)

Develop an overarching gender framework and action plan

Integrate gender training modules in TA and capacity building activities

Baseline of sex-disaggregated data against which progress can be measured

Increase leadership opportunities for women, facilitate their participation in decision making processes

Communicate with impact
Resources available

- BRS Gender Action Plan (BRS GAP)
- UN Women
- UN Environment
- SDG Goal 5

- UN-system resources
- Open-online courses on gender
- Regional and national initiatives
Thank you

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