



Title	CHEMICALS FORUM: The road towards global sound management of chemicals and waste
Co-Organizers	Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat; UNEP Chemicals Branch, including Minamata Convention on Mercury Secretariat and SAICM and GEF Secretariat
Time and Date:	27 May 2014 from 12:30-2:00pm
Venue	Moon Palace, Cancun, Mexico

Background and Agenda

Chemicals are omnipresent in the environment as they are involved in almost every industrial process and are essential in other industries, making the Chemical Industry a major contributor to national and global economies in the modern world. At the same time, chemicals can have adverse effects to human health and the environment. Toxic chemicals leach from common household products and other materials commonly used in daily lives. Some communities have higher hazardous chemical exposure from factory emissions or from pesticide use and other communities live in close proximity to hazardous waste landfills, incinerators or dumps. Sound management of chemicals is therefore essential if we are to maximize the benefits that chemicals bring to our lives, while minimizing the adverse effects to human health and the environment. While significant progress has been made in the pursuit of chemical safety, coordinated global efforts are still the key to environmental sustainability and social prosperity to ensure that chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimize adverse effects on human health and the environment.

Agenda Item	Theme	Facilitator/Panelists
INTRODUCTORY SESSION		
Introduction: Background and objective of the Forum	Introduction to the Forum: The road towards global sound management of chemicals and waste Setting the scene and stocktaking: what has been done so far	GEF SEC BRS/ MCS
SESSION: SOLUTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTES		
Facilitator and Panelists	Topics	Questions to be addressed
<p>Facilitator: Mr. Fernando Lugris (Government of Uruguay and Chair of the Minamata Convention on Mercury)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government of Switzerland or Sweden - Government of Mexico - Mr. Paul Anastas (Yale University) - Jack Weinberg (IPEN) - Sheila Watt-Clouthier (The Inuit Circumpolar) - Ellen Kuhlmann (CEO of DuPont) 	<p>1. Where are we on the road towards the sound management of chemicals and waste?</p> <p>2. Way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Links to SDG process/ Green Economy (mainstreaming) o Multifocal area/ integrated approaches (mainstreaming) o New and innovative/cost-effective approaches (e.g. green chemistry) o Involvement of all stakeholder groups in providing solutions (industry involvement) 	<p>1.a. What has not been implemented so far and what are the reasons for the gaps?</p> <p>1.b. What are the main lessons learned?</p> <p>2.a. What is the way forward and which actors are capable to fill the gaps?</p> <p>2.c. What are the opportunities for improving the sound management of chemicals and waste?</p> <p>2.d. How do chemicals and wastes impact local, national, regional and global economies and contribute to achieving sustainable development?</p>
CONCLUSION/CLOSING		GEF SEC, Facilitator