



**GENDER & CHEMICALS
PARTNERSHIP – G&CP**

A new multi-stakeholder partnership

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- Gender in chemicals management
- Gender inequalities in different sectors
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Gender

in Chemicals Management

1. Biological Aspects

Women's and men's bodies are often affected differently by chemicals.

Reasons:

- different composition of bodies; Hormone levels
- Different phases of life

Problems:

- Lack of sufficient data and research, therefore inadequate protection
- Chemical exposure can be passed on to the next generation

Sources: UNDP (2011): Chemicals and Gender; SAICM/IPEN (2020): Women, Chemicals and the SDGs; Levine et al. (2017): Temporal trends in sperm count: A systematic review and meta-regression analysis.

2. Social Aspects

Division of labor between the sexes leads to different exposure to chemicals:

- Men are more directly affected
- Women tend to be indirectly affected and more so in the long term
- Women are more affected by indoor pollution

Due to **gender roles**, women and men tend to use different products.

Social aspects are not sufficiently taken into account in **chemical management** and **science**.



Sources: UNDP (2011): Chemicals and Gender.; ILO 2021: Exposure to hazardous chemicals at work and resulting health impacts: A global review.; SAICM/IPEN (2020): Women, Chemicals and the SDGs.

3. The Potential of the Gender Perspective

- **Causes** of unsustainable behavior in chemical management can be identified.
- New **solutions** for sustainable chemical management can be found.

Example: Inadequate protective measures when handling chemicals



Sources: Ontario Women's Directorate (2006): Personal Protective Equipment for Women – Addressing the Need; Andrade-Rivas/Rother (2015): Chemical exposure reduction: Factors impacting on South African herbicide sprayers' personal protective equipment compliance and high risk work practices.

Gender inequalities

In sectors related to chemicals

Medicine/ Pharmacology



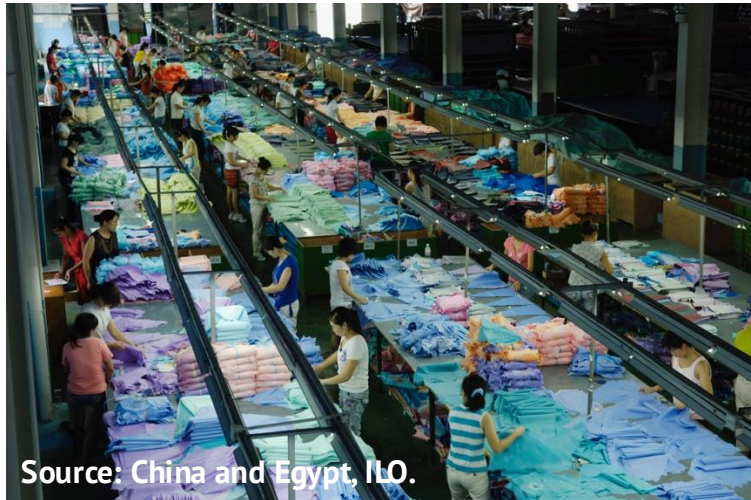
- Female workers constitute the majority of the workforce in health professionals, may face increased exposures to chemicals
- “Being a man or a woman has a significant impact on health” (WHO)
- Lack of gender data and gender research
- Growing medical approach: gender medicine

Agriculture and Mining



- Division of labour, men affected by more direct exposure, women more indirectly
- Societal/ traditional beliefs reproduces gender inequalities
- Use of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)
- Unsafe handling due to lack of training and illiteracy
- Children exposed while caring and working in the field/mines
- Women are agents of change for non-chemical alternatives

Textile industry



Source: China and Egypt, ILO.



- Women constitute more than 80 per cent of the workforce in the textile industry (ILO, 2019).
- Workforce is largely made up of young, low-skilled women
- Female workers are disproportionately exposed to a number of hazardous chemicals
- Work undertaken by women is often presumed to be less hazardous, consequently less attention on e.g. protective measures
- For consumer: lack of transparency on chemicals and supply chain

Gender mainstreaming

in chemicals management

International Chemicals Policy

	Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)	Basel, Rotterdam und Stockholm Conventions (BRS)	Minamata Convention	Plastics	Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution
Exists Since:	2023, Predecessor SAICM since 2006	Basel: 1989 Rotterdam: 1998 Stockholm: 2001	2013	Scheduled for 2025	Scheduled for 2025
Legal Status:	Voluntary Platform	Legally binding	Legally binding	Legally binding	Advisory Board
Theme:	Life cycle of chemicals, including products and waste Capacity building Financing Specific topics, future questions	Basel: hazardous waste and its disposal Rotterdam: dangerous chemicals; Pesticides in international trade Stockholm: Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	Mercury	Life cycle of plastics	Providing scientific expertise and advice to policy makers on chemicals, waste, pollution
Gender action plan:	Development up to IC1	Since 2013, updated in 2023	Since November 2023		

Gender at the World Chemicals Conference ICCM5

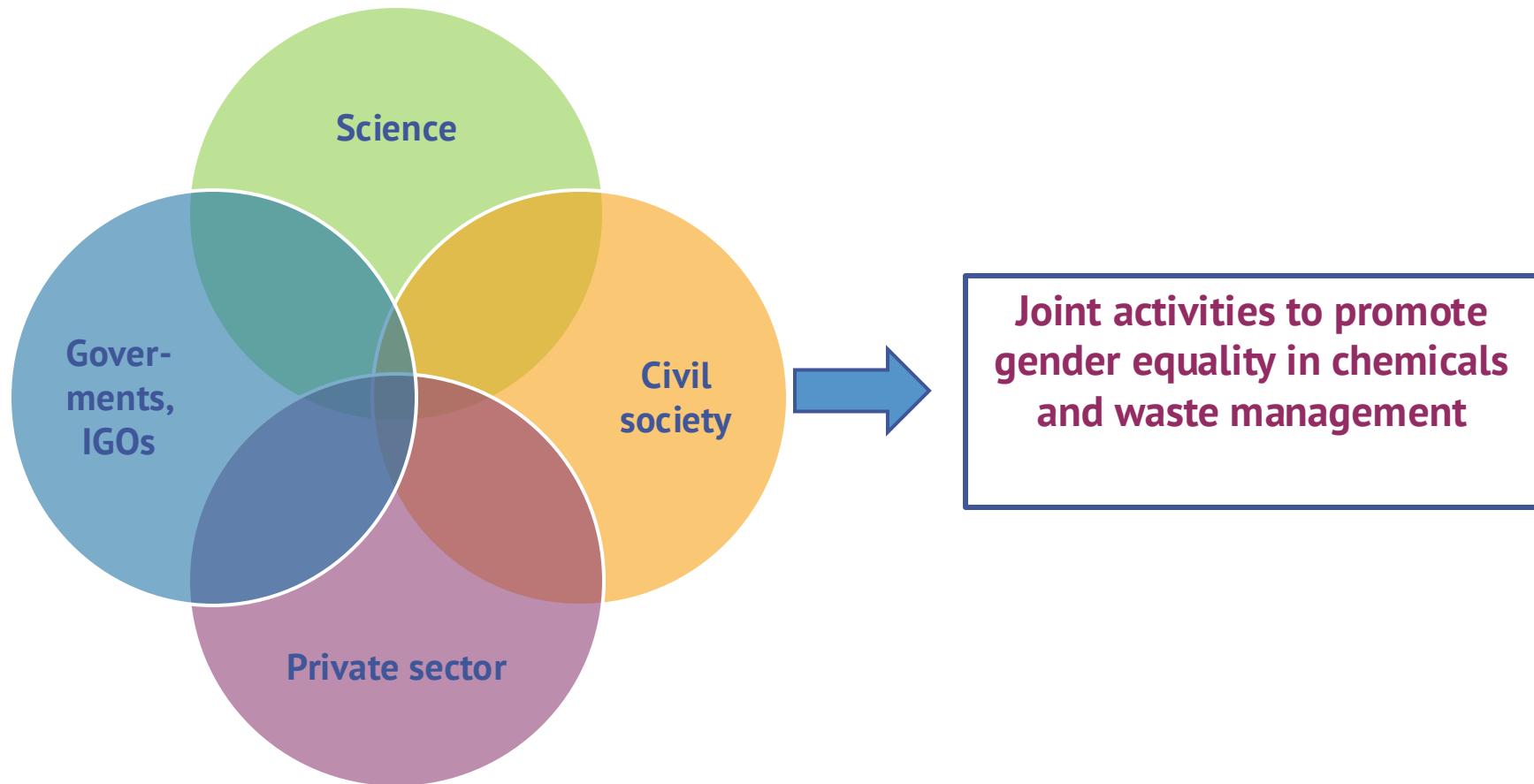
- Gender equality is a principle of the new Global Framework on Chemicals.
- The 'Bonn Declaration' mentions the connections between gender and chemicals.
- The resolution on gender was passed.
- The Gender & Chemicals Partnership (G&CP) was officially launched.



Gender & Chemicals Partnership

G&CP - a new MSP

Why a MAP on gender and chemicals?



Launch of the G&CP



- Thursday, October 28th, 6-8pm at WCCB during the ICCM5 High Level Segment
- Around 25 participants
- Panel discussion with BMUV State Secretary Rohleder and members of the interim board
- Discussion with all participants about the activities
- Joint celebration for the official start

Brief report:

<http://gender-chemicals.org/event-report-launch-of-the-gender-chemicals-partnership>



South Africa UNIDO regional inception workshop

12.11.24

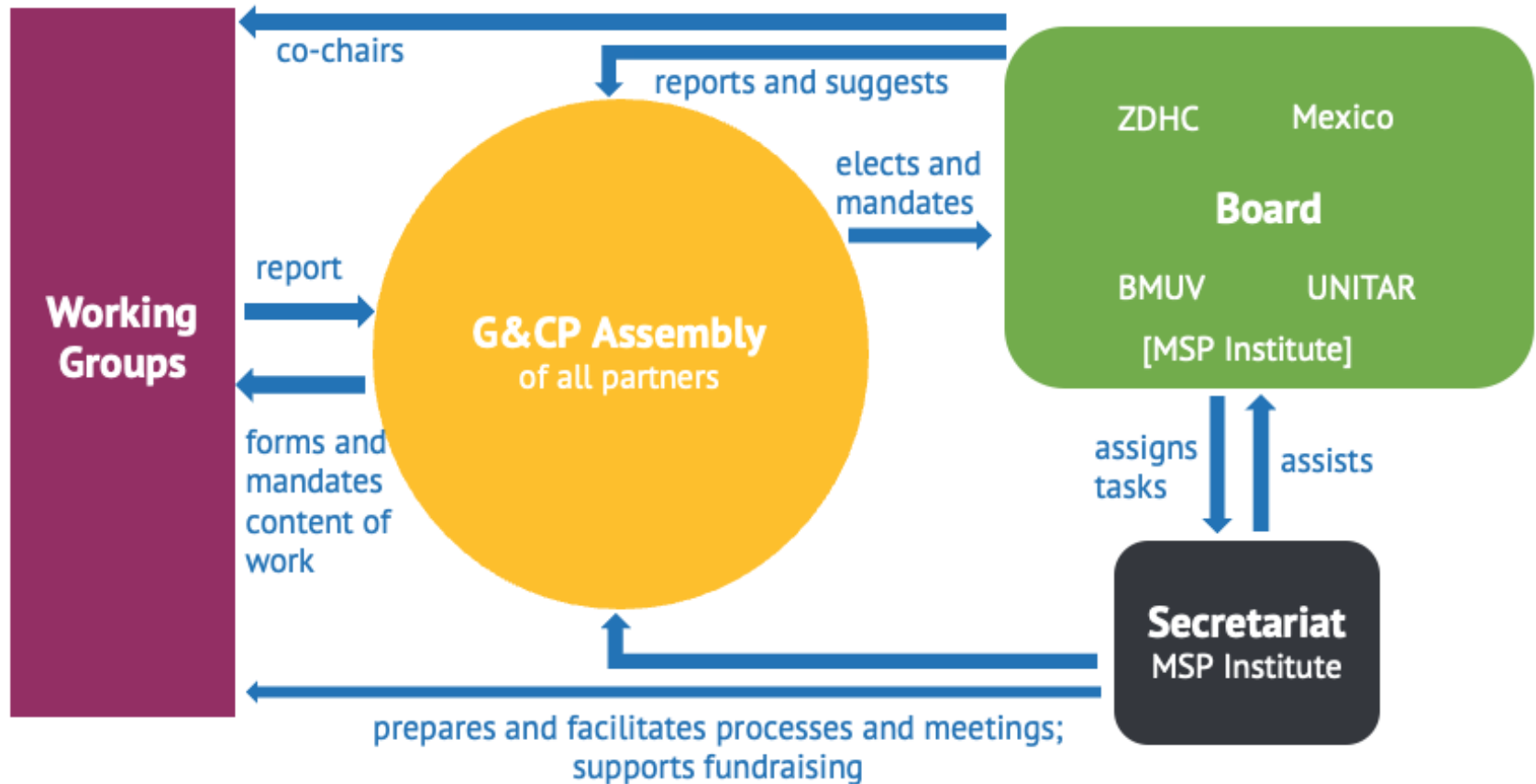
Goal & first Activities

Goal of the partnership: Promote gender equality and empower women and girls in chemicals and waste management

First Activities:

- Engagement in international processes (e.g. terminology in the SPP; GFC Gender Action Plan)
- Knowledge exchange and dissemination (Knowledge Platform)
- Gender mainstreaming in national capacity building
- Promote the collection of gender-specific data and research

Governance-Structure



Next Step

First G&CP Assembly, Nov 18-19, in Berlin

- Adoption of the Partnership Rules,
- Election of the first board
- Kick-off of the Working Groups



Thank you for your attention!

More info at: <https://gandcp.org/>

G&CP Secretariat

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