

WELCOME TO THE UCT CHEMICALS NETWORK DISCUSSION



Division of Environmental Health
School of Public Health and Family Medicine
Isikolo Sempilo Yoluntu kunye Namayeza Osapho
Departement Openbare Gesondheid en Huisartskunde



Introduce yourself (name, job title, organization and country) in the **chat section**.

Only the presenter and facilitator will speak. Any comments or questions from attendees should be typed in the **chat section**.

Please kindly keep you microphone muted and cameras off during the discussion

NOTE: If you are having **technical difficulties**, please join the WhatsApp group for assistance:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CdEJNdPEva30263AB3KYBq>

Discussion 2 Topic:

GHS Mapping Session

- Date: 6th October 2020
- Time: 13:00 – 14:30 (GMT+2.00)
- Presenter: Oliver Wootton, UNITAR
- Facilitator: Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town
- Chair: Maxine Brassell, MPH student, University of Cape Town

CHEMICALS NETWORK DISCUSSION

GHS MAPPING SESSION



Oliver Wootton,
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
Specialist, UNITAR's Chemical and Waste Management Programme

INTRODUCTION - UNITAR



- UNITAR – a training arm of the UN; focusing on capacity building, training, support for activities and research
- Several Divisions and varied work areas; peacebuilding, diplomacy, trade and more
- Division for Planet, Chemicals and Waste Management Programme; experience in:
 - Developing guidelines; national waste management, developing mercury inventories, studying socio-economic impacts of mercury
 - Supporting national activities; mercury and POPs management, Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, chemicals and waste implementation and action plans, nanotechnology, among others

INTRODUCTION – UNITAR AND THE GHS



And the GHS-

- Work closely with UNECE; hosts the secretariat to the sub-committee of experts on the GHS
- Co-lead of the Global Partnership to Implement the GHS, with the ILO and OECD, and a range of coalition partners
- National activities for training, developing implementation strategies, and supporting the drafting and review of legislation
- Working with our partners in the lead up to ICCM5 and the Beyond 2020 Framework

INTRODUCTION –THE GHS

The GHS-



- An **internationally-harmonized system** to classify the hazardous properties of chemicals, according to set criteria.
- Its most prominent components are **safety data sheets and labels, including pictograms**.
- Implementation can be defined in many ways, but for most tracking purposes is considered as having legislation that requires use of the GHS in a country (or region)
- It is an IOMC indicator of progress (ILO, UNECE and UNITAR support tracking of new countries implementing the system), and will most likely be a key indicator in the Beyond 2020 Framework
- The Beyond 202 Framework may also include the **GHS as a target**, with a proposal:
 - “Alt I Target A.3: By 20XX [legal requirements] to implement the GHS have been adopted in countries”

BACKGROUND TO QUESTION 1

The **GHS** is often regarded as a fundamental component of the sound management of chemicals, applicable to all sectors; health, labour, agriculture, environment, transport, trade, and more.

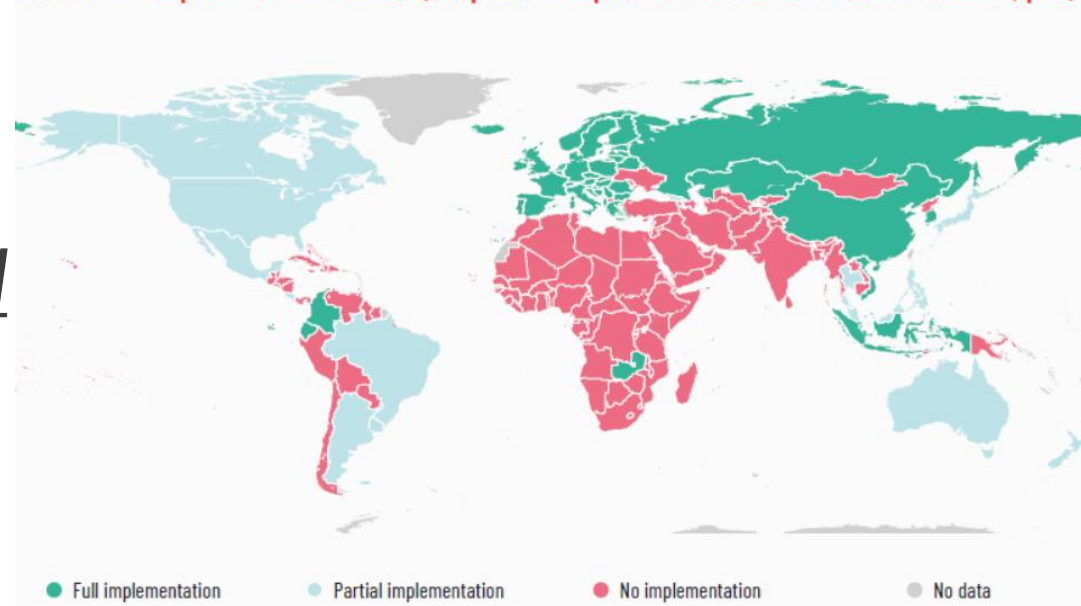
- In its Plan of Implementation, adopted in Johannesburg on 4 September 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) encouraged **countries to implement the GHS as soon as possible**.
- The High Ambition Alliance stated at IP3 (Bangkok, 2019): “...**essential that the [GHS] be implemented by all countries**”
- The GCO-II (2019), under Action 1 on developing effective management systems calls for “**full implementation of the GHS**”.

BACKGROUND TO QUESTION 1

However, the GHS is still **not operational in more than 120 countries**, mostly developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Despite the widely-acknowledged desire and benefits to implementing the GHS around the world, what is holding us back?

Global GHS implementation status (adapted and updated based on Persson et al. 2017, p. 8)



QUESTION 1

Has your country implemented GHS? What do you understand by implementing GHS and what does this implementation look like (i.e., legislation has been implemented, compliance by manufacturers, monitoring and enforcement by authorities etc)?

There will be 25 minutes to discuss this question in the chat section.

Please keep your cameras off and microphones muted.

Make use of the chat function to discuss

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BACKGROUND TO QUESTION 2

There is global, political commitment to implementing the GHS.

In addition, there is regional commitment (and sometimes authority) to implement the GHS:

- the **Andean Community** has mandated the implementation on the GHS (on pesticides)
- **Southern African Development Community** has a target date of 2020 for implementation
- the **Eurasian Economic Union** has planned for 2021.

BACKGROUND TO QUESTION 2

Sectoral importance and promotion-

- The **WHO** Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard:
 - “The 2009 version of the guidelines introduced revised criteria for classification for the WHO Hazard Classes to take into account the GHS”
- **ILO** Convention 170:
 - (a) ensuring that all chemicals are evaluated to determine their hazards;
 - (b) providing employers with a mechanism to obtain... information about the chemicals used at work...
 - (c) providing workers with information about the chemicals at their workplaces...
 - (d) establishing principles... to ensure that chemicals are used safely

QUESTION 2

Has the implementation of the GHS been prioritized in your country? If yes, what prompted this prioritization? If no, are there any discussions underway? Is it specified as a priority in any national planning documents?

There will be 30 minutes to discuss this question in the chat section.

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BACKGROUND TO QUESTION 3

The **Beyond 2020 process** will define a framework for action for the next decade (tbc). **GHS will likely play a major role in this**, most probably in the texts and as an indicator and possibly even as a target:

- an IP3 proposal was made for “Alt 1 Target A.3: By 20XX [legal requirements] to implement the GHS have been adopted in countries”

BACKGROUND TO QUESTION 3

Under the **Global Partnership to Implement the GHS**, different activities are being undertaken to appreciate the **various elements that can help push a successful transition to global implementation of the GHS**:

- Greater understanding of the **lessons-learnt and barriers** to implementation
- Research of **which entities are supporting implementation activities**, and how these could be aligned
- Gathering knowledge of how **international and regional trade agreements** (could) include the GHS
- Developing **guidance** on the main components and considerations for GHS **legislation**

QUESTION 3

What needs does your country have in order to bring in the GHS successfully into legislation? Are there different needs at the national, regional, and global level?

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING UCT'S CHEMICALS NETWORK DISCUSSION

Please take a moment to fill out the following **evaluation form** for this discussion! Your feedback is appreciated.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NUNFkk5Wz0ywsCREW4wD9xEGIM2Og-dLiLPla0l63_JUMFc2OFBZSkc4NDhNSjjOMjlaVIFPUIBBNiQIQCN0PWcu

SAVE THE DATE:

Discussion 3

3rd November 2020

14:00 – 15:30

(GMT+2)

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