

Webinar Report

Global NIP Update: Integrating Gender Perspectives in National Implementation Plans

21 June 2023



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Introduction

This webinar marked the third event in a series of training activities organized by the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) under Component 4 (Knowledge Management and Information Sharing) of the GEF project ID 10785, titled *Global Development, Review, and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)*.

The webinar provided participants with an overall understanding of gender in chemical management and the importance of strategies for incorporating the gender dimension into NIPs. By focusing on gender mainstreaming in NIPs, it aimed to share information on more inclusive and effective actions to address the disproportionate social, economic, health, and environmental burdens faced by vulnerable social groups in the process of POPs management.

CEST 13:00	Welcome and opening remarks
	Moderator: Ms. Anastasiya Buchok - Senior Project Assistant, Component 4, Global NIP Update, GGKP
13:05	1. Overview of gender in chemicals management Speaker: Ms. Melanie Ashton – Project Coordinator of Component 4, Global NIP Update, GGKP
13:20	2. Gender mainstreaming strategies and approaches for NIPs • Practical approaches to gender analysis, gender-responsive planning, and gender budgeting in NIPs. • Overview of methodologies for identifying and addressing gender disparities and inequalities in policy formulation and implementation processes. • The importance of gender-disaggregated data and indicators in monitoring and evaluating NIPs. Speaker: Mr. Fouad Bergigui – Gender Expert, International Consultant
13:35	3. Gender dimension through the lens of the Stockholm Convention • Suggested activities for NIPs from a gender perspective. Speaker: Ms. Susan Wingfield – Program Management Officer, UNEP
13:55	Q&A session
14:00	4. Gender sensitive POPs inventories Speaker: Ms. Anastasiya Buchok – Senior Project Assistant, Component 4, Global NIP Update, GGKP
14:15	5. Implementing projects with a gender focus Speaker: Ms. Natalia Maciel – Technical project assistant, Component 3, Global NIP Update, BCCC – SCRC Uruguay

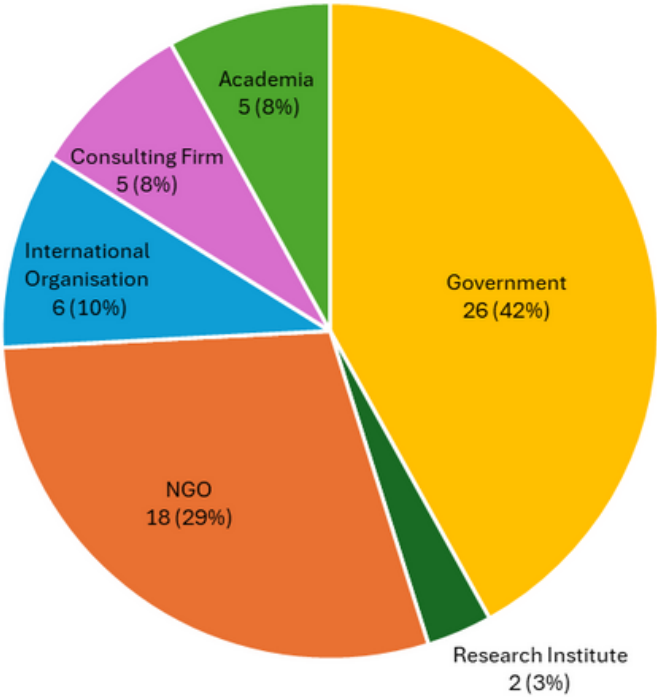
Registration and Attendance

Number of registrants: 80 / Total attendance: 62
(Approx. 53% female and 47% male)

Participants by country

Country	Count	Country	Count	Country	Count
Ethiopia	13	Zambia	1	Italy	1
Madagascar	6	Cambodia	1	Kazakhstan	1
Trinidad and Tobago	6	Switzerland	1	Kenya	1
Senegal	5	North Macedonia	1	Republic of Korea	1
Uruguay	3	Czech Republic	1	Lithuania	1
China	3	Burundi	1	Malawi	1
Côte d'Ivoire	3	France	1	Panama	1
Georgia	3	Ghana	1	Sri Lanka	1

Participants by sector



Key Highlights

During the webinar, speakers highlighted key concepts, enabling conditions, and institutional mechanisms to integrate gender into NIPs, ensuring that national policies and actions acknowledge and address gender inequalities in the context of POPs management.

Overview of gender in chemicals and waste

Gender mainstreaming is a globally recognized strategy for identifying and addressing gender inequalities within policies, programmes and initiatives. The webinar outlined the four levels of gender responsiveness, emphasizing the need to move beyond neutral approaches towards more transformative actions:

- *Gender-neutral*: Ignores economic, social, and legal gender differences, potentially reinforcing inequalities.
- *Gender-sensitive*: Acknowledges gender differences and considers varying needs, constraints, and opportunities.
- *Gender-responsive*: Actively integrates gender considerations into policies and programs to address inequalities.
- *Gender-transformative*: Seeks to redefine power structures, dismantle systemic inequalities, and create lasting change.

Achieving gender equality in chemicals and waste management means ensuring equal rights, opportunities, and recognition for all individuals, regardless of gender identity, while addressing vulnerabilities and disproportionate burdens in chemical exposure and waste-related health risks.

Enabling conditions for gender integration in NIPs

To effectively mainstream gender into NIP development and implementation, several enabling conditions must be in place:

- *Institutional arrangements*: Establishing government gender focal points and integrating national gender bodies across relevant sectors.
- *Stakeholder engagement*: Ensuring the active participation of civil society, including women's rights organizations and gender advocacy groups.
- *Policy harmonization*: Aligning gender-responsive strategies with national policies, sectoral strategies, and action plans.
- *Financial resources*: Allocating dedicated funding for gender-responsive actions and ensuring gender-sensitive budgeting.
- *Data collection and knowledge sharing*: Prioritizing the collection of sex-disaggregated data and strengthening information-sharing mechanisms to enhance understanding of gender-specific impacts.

Speakers emphasized that integrating these elements into NIPs ensures that gender is not treated as a secondary issue, but rather as a fundamental pillar of effective chemicals and waste management.

Institutionalizing gender in NIP development and implementation

To translate gender-responsive principles into concrete actions within NIP processes, experts highlighted several practical measures:

- *Ensuring gender-responsive hiring and representation*: All posted positions and terms of reference (ToRs) should be open to both women and men with provisions encouraging women's participation and requiring at least basic gender-mainstreaming knowledge and experience.

Key Highlights

- *Mainstreaming gender in National Coordinating Committees:* NIP update committees should include representatives from women's organizations and ministries focused on gender equality to ensure equitable decision-making.
- *Developing gender-sensitive POPs inventories:* Incorporating gender-disaggregated data and considering gender-specific impacts in POPs exposure, risk assessment and management strategies.

Integrating gender perspectives in NIPs

During the webinar, the BRS Gender Action Plan was presented as a key framework for integrating gender considerations into the sound management of chemicals and waste. The plan emphasizes the need to educate both men and women on the risks associated with chemicals, recognizing gender disparities in access to information and exposure risks. It promotes mandatory chemical labeling, the polluter-pays and precautionary principles, and a multi-stakeholder approach that ensures women and vulnerable populations actively participate in policy development and decision-making. Additionally, it highlights the importance of gathering gender-disaggregated data and strengthening women's rights in chemical production, use, and disposal. By implementing these actions, the plan aims to reduce gender disparities, enhance policy effectiveness, and promote equitable protection from hazardous chemicals and waste.

Assessing the gender dimension and incorporating it into NIPs

Of the 150 NIPs submitted, only 2% recognize women as "agents of change" while 41% identify them as "vulnerable," 33% as "beneficiaries," and 35% as "stakeholders." This data underscores the need for a more transformative approach that moves beyond viewing women primarily as recipients of assistance and instead positions them as active leaders and decision-makers in POPs management.

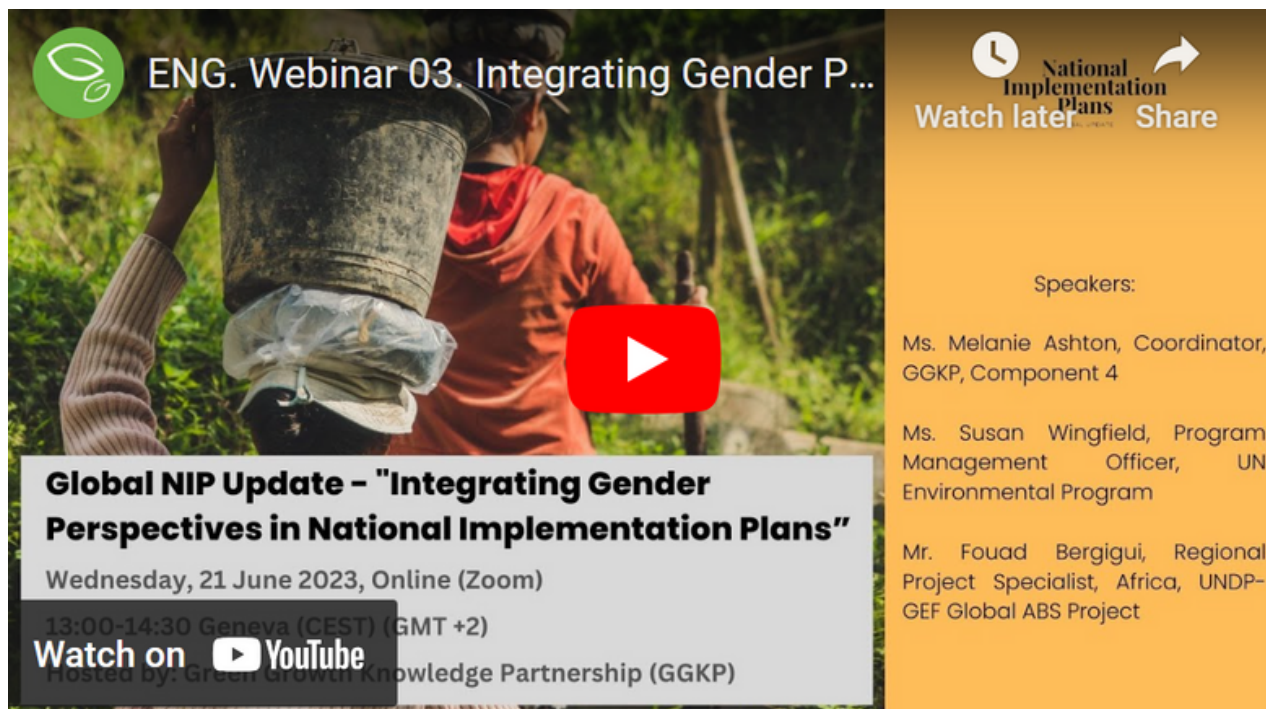
To address this, experts outlined key steps for assessing and incorporating the gender dimension into NIPs:

- *Gender analysis:* Conduct a comprehensive gender analysis to understand how hazardous chemicals affect women, men, girls and boys differently.
- *Identify gender-specific risks:* Document the gender-specific vulnerabilities linked to POPs exposure, ensuring that risk assessments reflect these disparities.
- *Mainstream gender in NIPs:* Integrate gender-responsive strategies across monitoring, risk reduction, chemical substitution, waste management, capacity building and information sharing.
- *Promote women's participation and leadership:* Actively facilitate women's involvement in decision-making processes related to chemical management.
- *Strengthen data collection:* Enhance data collection systems to include gender-disaggregated information on exposure, health impacts and participation in NIP development and implementation.
- *Capacity building and awareness:* Provide targeted training to policymakers and stakeholders on the gender dimensions of chemicals management.
- *Collaboration and partnerships:* Engage with women's organizations, environmental groups and research institutions to promote gender-responsive actions.
- *Monitoring and reporting:* Establish robust tracking mechanisms to measure progress in gender mainstreaming within NIPs.

Implementation of these steps should enhance countries' transition beyond a passive characterization of women in chemicals management and instead empower them as key actors in shaping policies, strategies and actions under the Stockholm Convention.

Resources

- A concept note, presentation materials and video recording in **English**, **Spanish**, **French** and **Russian** of the webinar are available on the Global NIP Update platform: <https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/webinar/global-nip-update-integrating-gender-perspectives-national-implementation-plans>



The graphic features a background image of a person in a red shirt carrying a large metal water pot on their head. Overlaid on this is a large red YouTube play button. Text elements include: 'ENG. Webinar 03. Integrating Gender P...' at the top left; 'National Implementation Plans' with a clock icon and 'Watch later' button, and a share icon with 'Share' at the top right; 'Speakers:' followed by three names and titles: Ms. Melanie Ashton (GGKP), Ms. Susan Wingfield (UN), and Mr. Fouad Bergigui (UNDP-GEF); and a central text box with the title 'Global NIP Update - "Integrating Gender Perspectives in National Implementation Plans"', date 'Wednesday, 21 June 2023, Online (Zoom)', time '13:00-14:30 Geneva (CEST) (GMT +2)', and 'Watch on YouTube' with the YouTube logo. At the bottom of this box, it says 'Hosted by: Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)'.

Spanish



French



Russian



- **Pocket Guide to the BRS Gender Action Plan**
<https://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/Gender/BRSGenderActionPlan/PocketGuide/tabid/7999/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- **UNEP (2021) Incorporating gender dimensions into national strategy setting in chemicals management**
<https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/resources/guidance/incorporating-gender-dimensions-national-strategy-setting-chemicals-management>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the GGKP team.

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