



Integrating Gender Perspectives in National Implementation Plans

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Gender in the UN

International mandates passed in the last 20 years have required UN member states to *integrate gender into environmental management*:

- ✓ Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration
- ✓ Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- ✓ 1995 Beijing Platform of Action
- ✓ Paragraph 20 of the UN Millennium Declaration
- ✓ Paragraph 20 of the Johannesburg Declaration
- ✓ 2005 World Summit Outcome document
- ✓ 2012 Rio+ 20 Outcome document
- ✓ SDGs - Goal 5 Target 5a

5 GENDER
EQUALITY





BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM
S E C R E T A R I A T



B A S E L
C O N V E N T I O N



ROTTERDAM
C O N V E N T I O N



STOCKHOLM
C O N V E N T I O N

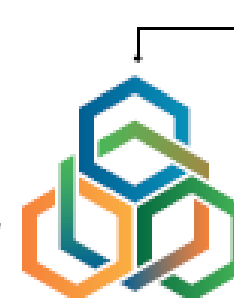
Gender mainstreaming in the chemicals and waste MEAs

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.

Pocket Guide to the BRS Gender Action Plan

Integrating a gender perspective in the
sound management of chemicals and waste



- **Gender mainstreaming within the Secretariat**

Developing an understanding amongst and support from BRS staff on the issue of gender equality, particularly in the context of BRS operations and activities.

- **Implementing gender mainstreaming activities with partners**

Ensuring that the Secretariat's programmes and projects are planned and implemented from a gender equality perspective.

- **Integrating gender considerations in the implementation of the BRS Conventions**

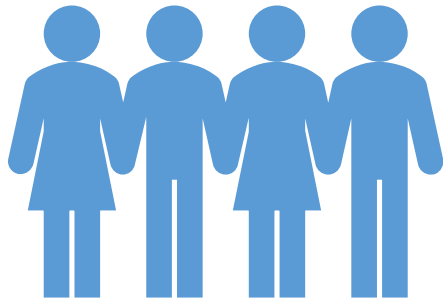
Promoting consideration of gender issues in hazardous chemicals and waste management at the national, regional and global levels.

BRS Gender Action Plan

Developed in 2012, updated each COP cycle

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.

Gender mainstreaming



- A strategy that integrates women's and men's different concerns and interests into the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages of all policies, programmes, projects, policies and laws at all levels and in all economic, political and societal spheres.
- Programmes or services are analysed and evaluated regarding their impacts on gender equality.
- Appropriate action is taken to achieve gender equality so that women and men benefit equally.
- Ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.



From a chemicals and waste perspective

Biological Factors: Different Physiology Affects Exposure and Impacts

Women:

- Biologically more sensitive to pesticides than men
- Women have time periods (e.g. adolescence, pregnancy, lactation, and menopause) during which they are more vulnerable to the exposure to chemicals
→ major health impacts

Men:

- Exposure to environmental toxicants (particularly in industrialized countries) can affect their reproductive health.
- Environmental factors linked to the use of chemicals are one of the major causes of more than 76 % of male infertility cases.

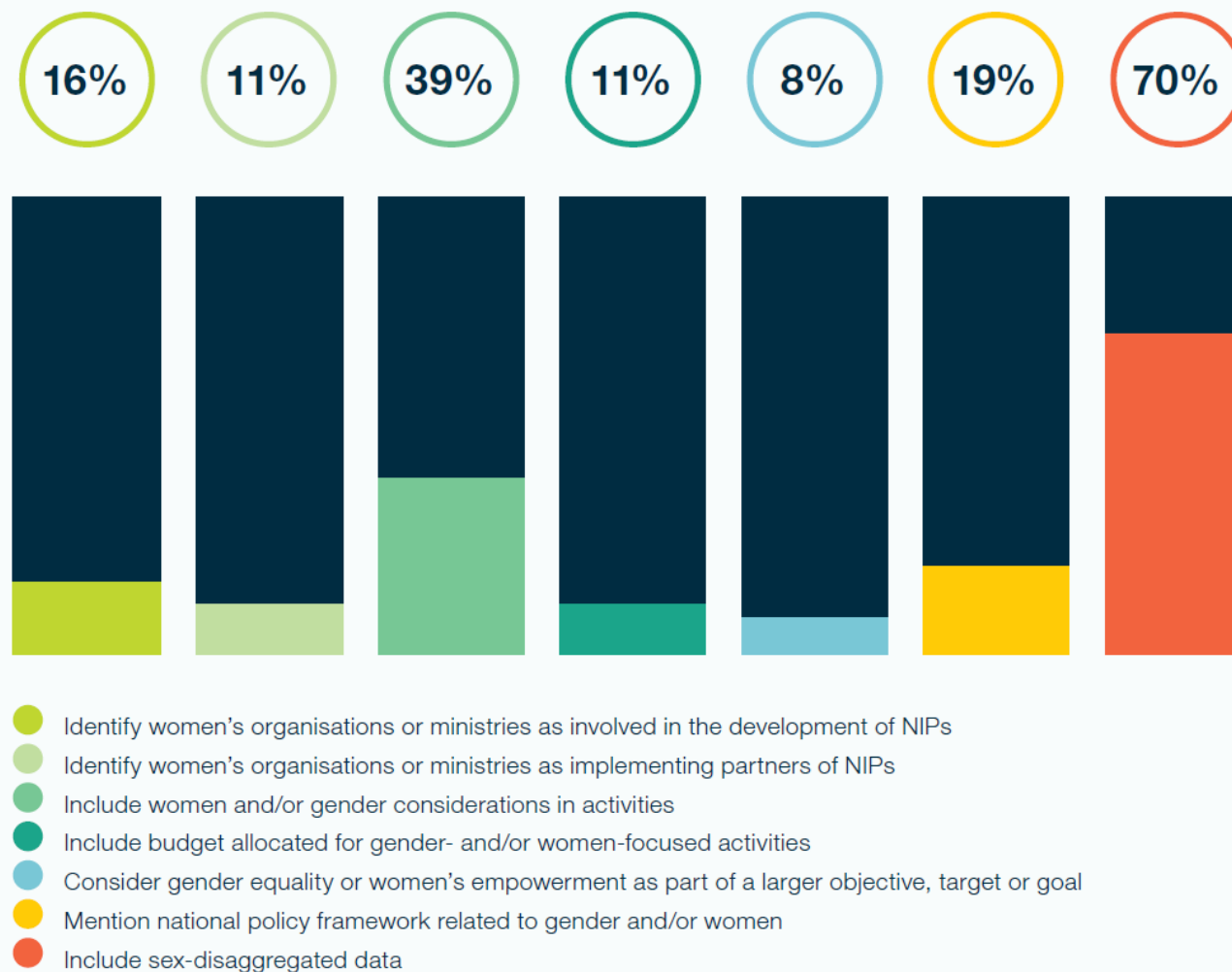
Babies:

Women's exposure to various harmful chemicals can result in serious consequences for their babies.

Examples: chemicals transferred during fetal development can cause lifelong harm, such as birth defects, and childhood and adult diseases.

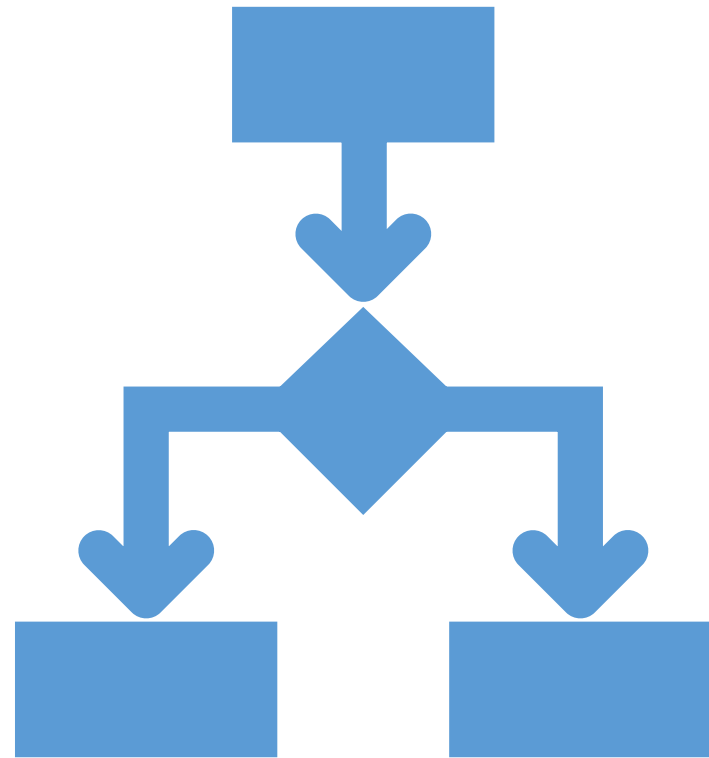
A growing number of chemicals have been shown to exert multigenerational and transgenerational effects.

Gender considerations included in NIPs, by percentage of total NIPs

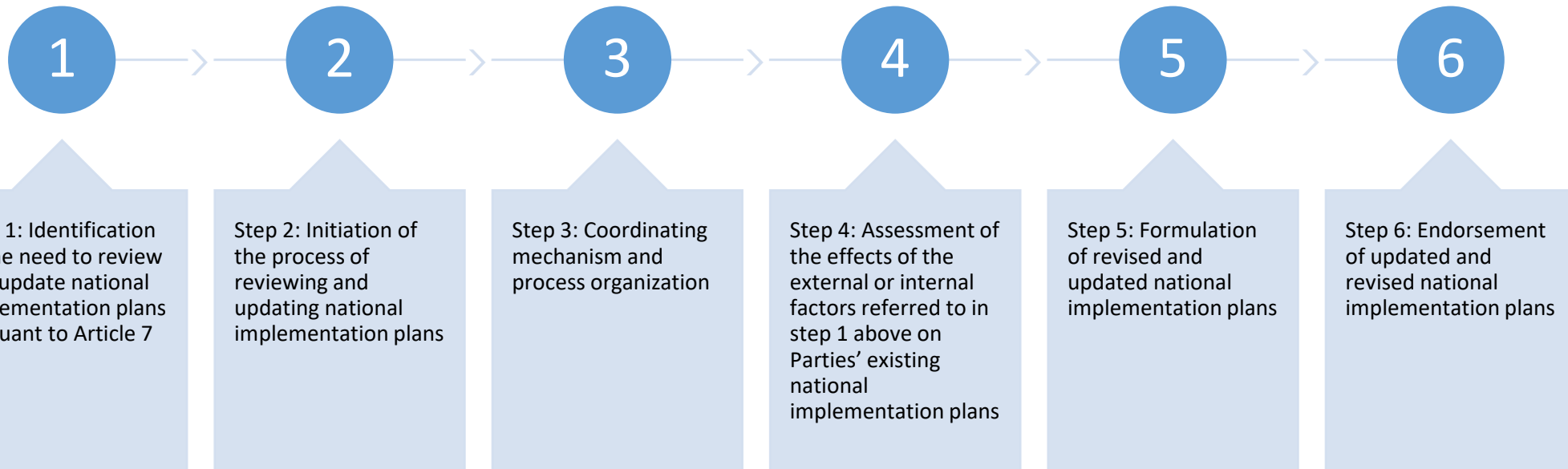


Gender and NIPs

- Of 150 National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,
 - only 2 % characterize women as “agents of change”,
 - while 41 % consider them as “vulnerable”,
 - 33 % as “beneficiaries”,
 - and 35 % as “stakeholders”.



Steps to review and update NIPs



Assessing the gender dimension and incorporating it into National Implementation Plans (NIPs) - 1

Gender Analysis: Conduct a gender analysis to understand the differentiated impacts of hazardous chemicals on women, men, girls and boys

Identify Gender-Specific Risks: Identify and document the gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities associated with exposure to POPs and other hazardous chemicals.

Mainstream Gender in NIPs: Ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed across all aspects of the NIPs. This includes integrating gender-responsive strategies in areas such as monitoring and assessment, risk reduction, chemical substitution, waste management, capacity building, and information sharing.

Assessing the gender dimension and incorporating it into National Implementation Plans (NIPs) - 2

Promote Women's Participation and Leadership: Facilitate the meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes related to chemical management.

Strengthen Data Collection: Enhance data collection systems to include gender-disaggregated data on exposure, health impacts, and participation in chemical management.

Capacity Building and Awareness: Provide training and capacity-building programs to raise awareness among policymakers, stakeholders, and communities about the gender dimensions of chemical management.

Assessing the gender dimension and incorporating it into National Implementation Plans (NIPs) - 3

Collaboration and Partnerships: Foster collaboration and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including women's organizations, environmental groups, and research institutions, to leverage their expertise and promote gender-responsive implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

Monitoring and Reporting: Establish robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress in integrating the gender dimension into NIPs.

Project management cycle

Assessment

Design

Implementation

Monitoring

Evaluation

Resources available



[Guidance on NIP updates and information on gender mainstreaming in the chemicals and waste agenda](#)



[UN Women](#)



[UN Environment](#)



[SDG Goal 5](#)

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