



BASEL CONVENTION



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UN
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*Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the implications
for human rights of the environmentally
sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes*

Concept note and programme on the side-event during the meetings of the Conferences of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

“Human rights, Children’s Rights, and Hazardous Substances & Wastes”

Time and date: Friday 5 May, 13:15-14:45

Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), Room No. 3

Geneva, Switzerland

1. Introduction

The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions (BRS), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) together with the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances, including chemicals and wastes, Mr. Baskut Tuncak, will hold a side-event on “Human Rights, Children’s Rights and Hazardous Substances & Wastes”, on the occasion of the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS COPs) from 24 April to 5 May 2017.

This side-event will allow discussions on rights-based approaches to the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous chemicals and wastes, with a particular focus this year on children’s rights, and other vulnerable groups, having in mind also the broader human rights/environment picture and related relevant developments since the BRS 2015 COPS e.g. the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, the conclusion of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) in May 2016, the latest report of the Special Rapporteur as presented at the Human Rights Council’s September session in September 2016, which focuses on the rights of the child.



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2. Main objectives of the side-event

- To show how human rights issues, in particular children's rights, and other vulnerable groups, are connected with the sound management of hazardous substances, including pesticides, and wastes;
- To raise awareness on the human rights impacts of chemical and waste mismanagement, in particular on children and other vulnerable groups;
- To identify areas where rights-based approaches have major impact on the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; and
- To take stock of what has been achieved and look ahead as to what would be needed, setting the debate within the broader context and agendas pertaining to human rights and the environment, SDGs, etc..

3. Background information

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions¹: these international treaties are three Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) administered by the UN Environment, and by the FAO (for the Rotterdam Convention); their common objectives are to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous chemicals and wastes. The Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 and entered into force in 1992; to date, there are 186 Parties. The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2004; as of to date, there are 157 Parties. The Stockholm Convention was adopted in 2001 to deal with Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); it entered into force in 2004, like the Rotterdam Convention, and has now 181 Parties.

¹ See <http://www.brsmeas.org/>



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The UN Special Rapporteur on hazardous substances and wastes, Mr. Baskut Tuncak:

In 1995, the then United Nations Commission on Human Rights (now Human Rights Council) adopted its resolution 1995/81 affirming that the illicit traffic and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes constitutes a serious threat to the human rights to life and health, and established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to examine the human rights aspects of the issue. Subsequently, in 2011, the scope of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur was reviewed and strengthened so as to cover not only the movement and the dumping of hazardous substances and wastes, but also the whole life cycle of hazardous products, from their manufacturing to their final disposal (cradle-to-grave approach).

In August 2014, Mr. Baskut Tuncak (Turkey) assumed the position of the Special Rapporteur. In 2015, his report to the Human Rights Council focused on the right to information. In 2016, he submitted a report on the rights of the child in the context of hazardous substances and wastes².

4. Draft programme of work

13:15 – 13:20 (5 minutes)	Welcome by moderator: Mr. Yves Lador, Earthjustice
13:20 – 14:10 (50 minutes maximum: 7 min per speaker)	Panel discussion:
(7 minutes)	Mr. Baskut Tuncak, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Hazardous Substances and Wastes
(7 minutes)	Ms. Marie-Noël Bruné Drisse, Technical Officer, Children's

² See http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/33/41.



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	Environmental Health, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization (WHO)
(7 minutes)	Ms. Johanna Gusman, Technical Officer (legal), Legal, Trade and Protocol Team, World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)
(7 minutes)	Ms. Jacqueline Demeranville, Child Labour expert from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
(7 minutes)	Government representative: Mr. Patrick Hassan Morlai Koroma, Director, Human Rights & Compliance, Legal Affairs & International Conventions Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Sierra Leone .
(7 minutes)	Non-Governmental Organization representative: Ms. Isabelle Kolebinov, Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
(7 minutes)	Non-Governmental Organization representative: Ms. Rochelle Diver, International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)
14:10 – 14:40 (30 minutes)	Questions from the floor
14:40 – 14:45 (5 minutes)	Closing remarks by moderator