

Basel Convention OEWG-14 side event



Pharmaceutical waste:
practices and challenges in
ensuring their
environmentally sound
management

Friday, 28 June 2024

13:15-14:45 CEST || Hybrid

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR ONLINE PARTICIPATION](#)



About the event

Pharmaceuticals are essential for maintaining human and animal health, enhancing food production, and supporting economic prosperity. However, they pose environmental and public health risks when released into the environment. Pharmaceuticals contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance, endocrine disruption, and can have toxic effects. While these substances can enter the environment during production, use, and through the excretion and disposal of unused medications, improper disposal of unused medicines is considered one of the major pathways for environmental contamination.

The main objective of this event is to shed light on current practices and pressing challenges in addressing pharmaceutical waste from various sources (health care, agriculture, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and household), and raise awareness on the need to ensure the environmentally sound management of unused pharmaceuticals through a One Health approach. It will also allow to share some of the existing best practices and approaches to foster collection and management. The event will feature experience from selected countries, IGOs and other relevant stakeholders.

The event is organized by UNEP in cooperation with the Geneva Environment Network in the margins of the Basel Convention OEWG-14. It will take place both online and in person at the meeting venue (CICG) on Friday, 28 June 2024, from 13:15 to 14:45 CEST. In-person participation is open to the registered participants to the OEWG-14.

This event is organized in the context of the project “Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals management (SAICM) (EDCs, Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs))” funded by the Global Environment Facility.

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Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
13:15-13:20	Welcome and opening remarks	Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez Head, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP
13:20-13:50	Ensuring the safe management of pharmaceutical waste	Ms. Nada Hanna Pharmaceutical and Antimicrobial Resistance Expert, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP Ms. Kei Ohno Woodall Senior Coordination Officer, Science and Technical Assistance Branch / Governance Branch, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Ms. Margaret Montgomery Technical Officer, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health, World Health Organization (WHO)
13:50-14:30	Experiences in managing pharmaceutical waste	Mr. Yang Zheng Director, Hazardous Waste Management Division, Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Technology Centre, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China Ms. Judith Torres Officer Cooperation and International Relations Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Uruguay Ms. Lilian Corra International Society of Doctors for the Environment Mr. Alpha Tarusenga Chikurira Environmental Quality Manager Department of Environment Environmental Management Agency, Zimbabwe
14:30-14:40	Questions and Answers	All panelists
14:40-14:45	Closing remarks	UNEP