

The Unsound Management of Chemicals and the Rights of the Child



Side Event

23 September 2016

13:15 - 14:45 h

Room XII

Palais des Nations

Geneva



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Special Rapporteur on Human Rights
and Hazardous Substances and Wastes



Uruguay

CRIN CHILD RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Terre des Hommes
International Federation

About the Event

Childhood exposure to toxic chemicals and pollution is a systematic problem everywhere and the impacts of such exposure materialize in different forms, at various stages of life, and from a myriad of routes of exposure. There is a “silent pandemic” of disease and disability associated with exposure to hazardous chemicals during childhood, many of which do not manifest themselves for years or decades. That is because children have higher levels of exposure and are more sensitive to it, which makes them ultimately more vulnerable than adults. Children in low-income, minority, indigenous and marginalized communities are particularly affected, raising the question of environmental discrimination. While some States have started to prioritize the issue of childhood exposure to hazardous chemicals, more emphasis on human rights considerations should be given when implementing policies. It is ultimately clear that more precaution is warranted globally in preventing childhood exposure, as children are too often left without access to an effective remedy.

Objectives

The Side Event will offer a space to analyse with experts relevant aspects of the relationship between children’s rights and environmental toxics and pollution, including the impact on children in vulnerable situations, the obligations of states and the business sector and the role of other relevant stakeholders.

During the Side Event, the Special Rapporteur on the implications of human rights for the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Mr. Baskut Tuncak, will comment on his 2016 report to the Human Rights Council on the impact of hazardous chemicals and the rights of the child (A/HRC/33/41).

This Side Event also takes place in the context of the Committee on the Rights of the Child’s Day of General Discussion on children’s rights and the environment.

Opening Statement

H.E. Mr. Ricardo González Arenas, Ambassador of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to the UN in Geneva

Speakers

- Mr. Baskut Tuncak, UN Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes (key note)
- Ms. Andrea Carmen, Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council
- Ms. Marie-Noel Bruné, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, WHO
- Dr. Stephan Böse-O’Reilly, International Network on Children’s Health, Environment and Safety

Moderation

Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

* Sandwiches and light refreshments will be served prior to the event

* NB: valid UN accreditation for the HRC session is needed to attend the event. Please notify the organizers at least 3 working days before the event should you need accreditation to access the Palais des Nations via mission.uruguay@mreee.gub.uy