

WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network



World Health
Organization

What the Network is

The WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network (the Network) is a global forum for discussion among senior-level policy-makers and representatives about issues related to health and chemicals.

The mandate for establishment of the Network by the WHO Secretariat is provided in the WHO Chemicals Road Map.

Network goal

The goal of the Network is to facilitate implementation of the WHO Chemicals Road Map by promoting collaboration on common policy challenges, perspectives and priorities of health ministries in managing chemicals, especially in light of the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (the intersessional process), and to facilitate continuity of contact among health ministries and with WHO.

Network objectives

The objectives of the Global Chemicals and Health Network are to:

- Provide a forum to discuss implementation of the road map, including what different countries are doing, what the challenges are and how they are being met, as well as sharing of success stories
- Improve awareness of the health impacts of chemicals and the health sector's role in chemicals management at national, regional and global levels
- Identify common issues for discussion and collaboration
- Foster greater inclusion of health sector perspectives in international chemicals discussions
- Provide a platform for mutual support among Member States – for example, through sharing information and best practices, as well as funding opportunities

Network members

The Network comprises senior-level policy-makers and representatives of WHO Member States, officially nominated by health ministries, who have responsibilities relevant to chemicals and health as well as to issues covered by the Network.

What it means to be a Network member

Network members share information, participate in discussions and cooperate with WHO and other members, primarily through an online workspace (SharePoint site) and via email. Members nominate a contact point to the WHO Secretariat and for inclusion on the SharePoint site.

The inaugural face-to-face meeting of the Network took place in November 2018. The next meeting is planned to take place in 2021, and will provide an opportunity to discuss progress in implementing the road map and further actions to be taken by the Network in light of the arrangements for chemicals beyond 2020.

Activities

Activities of the Network that aim to help in implementation of the road map action areas on risk reduction, knowledge and evidence, institutional capacity, and leadership and coordination include:

- Identifying and promoting health priorities among Member States and at the international level
 - Identifying country needs (guidance, training and information)
 - Identifying and promoting the relevance of linkages between chemical exposures of concern and noncommunicable diseases
 - Encouraging and supporting Member State participation in the SAICM intersessional process
 - Encouraging health sector engagement in implementation of multilateral environment agreements on chemicals
 - Promoting Member State participation and engagement in WHO networks and other chemicals-related forums
 - Facilitating exchange of information and experiences between Member States
 - Promoting the objectives of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint among Member States
 - Identifying health sector needs and sources of information for the SAICM online information platform
 - Sharing information on establishing and using indicators for measuring progress
- The Network complements and does not duplicate the work of technical forums (such as the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network) and regional networks. It is coordinated by WHO headquarters and leverages the capacities of the WHO regional offices.

Invitation to become a member

Being a member of the Network benefits Member States because the Network aims to foster dialogue and collaboration on common policy challenges, perspectives and priorities of health ministries in managing chemicals, facilitating health sector implementation of the road map.

To participate in the Network, Member States are requested to provide the WHO Secretariat (gchn@who.int) with the name and relevant information of a contact point.

WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network

<https://www.who.int/activities/implementing-the-who-chemicals-road-map>

WHO Chemicals Road Map

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/chemicals-road-map>



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