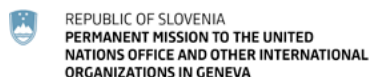


Non-toxic environments to live, work, study, and play



Background

A non-toxic environment is one of the six substantive elements of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, along with clean air, a safe climate, healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, safe and sufficient water and healthy and sustainable food. Hence, guaranteeing a non-toxic environment

in which people can safely live, work, study and play is key to ensure the full enjoyment of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as recognized by Resolution 48/13 of the Human Rights Council, adopted on 8 October 2021.

The ongoing toxification of people and the planet is causing environmental injustices and creating “sacrifice zones”. These are extremely contaminated areas, where vulnerable and marginalized groups bear a disproportionate burden of the health, human rights and environmental consequences of exposure to pollution and hazardous substances.

In this context, the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Dr. David Boyd, dedicated his upcoming thematic report (A/HRC/49/53), to be presented at the 49th session of the Human Rights Council, to a non-toxic environment as one of the substantive elements of the right to a healthy environment. Prepared in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights, Dr. Marcos Orellana, the report highlights State obligations, business responsibilities and good practices related to ensuring a non-toxic environment by preventing pollution, eliminating the use of toxic substances and rehabilitating contaminated sites. This side event will provide an opportunity to further discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the report.

Modality

The panel will be composed of a range of human rights and environmental experts from different geographic regions and the virtual discussion will allow for interactive exchange with the participants through a Q & A.

Opening remarks:

- H.E. Ms. Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN
- H.E. Ms. Doreen Debrum, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the UN

Introduction: Message from the youth

Moderator: Ms. Lindsey Fielder Cook, Representative for Climate Change, QUNO

Registration

<https://ungeneva-vc.webex.com/ungeneva-vc/j.php?MTID=m61bb42ff07863c22bf5daf998b1a871d>
Meeting number (access code): 2744 099 8065 Meeting password: PgnFJ89dTm3



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès
de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres
organisations internationales à Genève

Objectives

The objectives of this virtual event are to discuss the report of Special Rapporteurs, including in the context of the implementation of right to a healthy environment as recognized by Human Rights Council Resolution 48/13, and to address issues including the following:

- The current impacts of toxic environments (characterized by the unhealthy levels of pollution and high risks of exposure to toxic substances) on human rights;
- The State obligations and business responsibilities to ensure a non-toxic environment;
- The role of key actors including governments, businesses, conservation organisations, Indigenous peoples, local communities and youth;
- The common challenges to prevent people's exposure to toxic substances and the realisation of related SDGs including SDG 3 (health), SDG 6 (clean water) and SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production);
- Potential solutions and good practices to prevent, mitigate, or rehabilitate toxic environments;
- The recommendations provided in the report both at the national and international levels and ways forward.

ONLINE

The event will take
place on Webex,
for registration
please see below

**11
March
2022**

15:30-17:00

Panel:

- Dr. David Boyd, Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment;
- Dr. Marcos Orellana, Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights;
- Ms. Juliane Kippenberg, Associate director, Children's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch;
- Dr. Robert Bullard, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, Texas Southern University;
- Ms. Liliana Avila, Senior Attorney, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defence
- Mr George Kande, Environmental Youth Activist, Environment Africa Youth Network