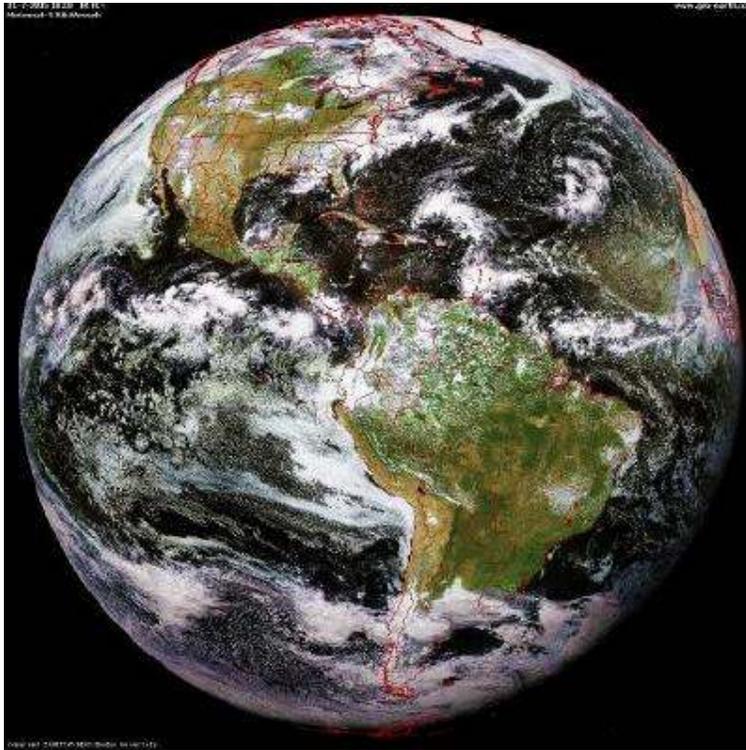


**CONSULTANT'S REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

**ON MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER ISSUES IN SOUND
MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS (SMC)**



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December, 2007

*MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER ISSUES IN S.M.C - M^a Catalina Bosch – Consultant for the
Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States - December, 2007*

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This Report was developed in the framework of the Regional initiative “*Strengthening of trade-related environmental management capacities*” being implemented with the active participation of the Department of Sustainable Development of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (DSD/OAS). One of the main objectives of this Initiative consists of enhancing the management of hazardous chemical substances –a matter of obvious government and private concern in our Hemisphere.

My task involves providing technical support to the DSD/OAS in **channeling gender issues into sound management of chemicals**. One of the basic activities expected consists of discussing ways and means of, and needs for LAC States to better mainstreaming gender issues in chemical substances management plans, particularly by gathering data disaggregated by sex and differentiating risks and effects of chemical products so as to help induce gender-equity in hazardous chemical management plans.

The main output requested was identified as a discussion on the importance of *Integrating gender analysis into management plans, and developing a public information component to support gender equality, and expound information and data desegregation methods on gender-related issues concerning the use of chemicals and agro-chemicals, and the varying levels of risk based on gender key sectors (notably agriculture)*.

As apparent from such guidelines, the task has been designed with the specific features and needs of the Region in mind, reference to agriculture being a conclusive evidence in that respect. However, the overall toxics/gender issue will first have to be considered, particularly its methodological constraints and complications.

The study pursued covered the following fundamental areas, which commanded its structure:

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- An understanding of the problem, including the nature of the hazards involved, and the overall OAS mission in the area of gender issues mainstreaming.
- Its specific features in Latin America and the Caribbean
- A diagnosis of data availability and quality in LAC, and data-gathering efforts made for this study
- Conclusions and recommendations

Annexes and Reference sections conclude this Report.



(1) PROBLEM DEFINITION AND SCOPE, AND THE RÔLE OF THE OAS

The issue of **chemical substances hazards and sound management (SMC)** is cross-cutting in nature. In fact, the presence of chemicals makes itself felt in a remarkable number of fields. At play are issues on health, trade (including trade liberalization), national/international regulations, customs, macro- and microeconomics (including development and fight against poverty), along with policy and political affairs (including “Biopolitics”), and demographic realities, human rights, educational matters... In turn, **gender** issues have reached added relevance as parts and parcels of the general United Nations Millenium Goals, which provide for the full mainstreaming of gender issues in all of the spheres of concern at international, regional, subregional, national, and subnational levels, such as participatory democracy, indigenous peoples’ rights, human rights, etc. Consideration had also to be given to the fact that most of such objectives have been given prescriptive status by the domestic legislation in the countries of our Hemisphere, that is to say, they have become *jus cogens*, in addition to being programmatic goal statements.

The Environment and Energy Group of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has stated the nature and importance of the subject in most clear terms:

"Why is gender relevant to policymaking and programming in the area of sound management of chemicals?"

"Efforts to ensure sound management of chemicals (SMC) within a context of sustainable development, have important gender dimensions. In daily life, men, women, and children are exposed to different kinds of chemicals"



in varying concentrations. The level of exposure to toxic chemicals—as well as the resulting impacts on human health—are determined by social as well as biological factors.

"Social factors, primarily gender-determined occupational roles, have a direct impact on human exposure to toxic chemicals, including the kinds of chemicals encountered as well as the level and frequency of such exposures. For instance, in agricultural communities in developing countries, men may be at higher risk of direct exposure to chemical pesticides during application, while women (and sometimes children) may be more likely to be indirectly exposed during planting and harvesting.

"At the same time, biological factors—notably size and physiological differences between women and men, and between adults and children—also influence susceptibility to health damage from exposure to toxic chemicals."¹²

1. GENDER

The most relevant Millenium Goal, for the purposes of this paper, is that of ***"Equality. No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured."*** (Item 3).

Item 20 of the Declaration of the Millennium, in turn, sets to ***"promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable."***³

Such guidelines can also be traced to previous synergies among various UN specialized agencies, the SEAGA program being a case in point. The Socio-economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) had been established in 1993 to promote gender awareness when meeting development challenges. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initially undertook the development of the SEAGA materials.⁴ Particularly the



Work Bank has made consistent efforts in this realm, one of the most relevant being PROGENIAL, created in 2000 by the LAC gender team of the World Bank with the aim of integrating gender issues into the implementation of Bank–financed operations by giving equal weight to male and female issues.⁵

The General Assembly of the **Organization of American States** has echoed such guidelines of the international community by adopting Resolution AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03) on “Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality,” which reaffirms the support of the Member States for the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as the principal forum for generating policies on gender equity, equality and women’s human rights within the Hemisphere. It also supports the efforts by CIM to follow up on and implement the Inter-American Program and the implementation of activities and programs to integrate a gender perspective into the results of ministerial meetings on labor, justice and education. The General Assembly requests that CIDI follows up on its plan to develop the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005 regarding the integration of a gender perspective into its program. In addition, it called the Secretary General to convene the Second Meeting of Ministers or the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States in April 2004, and encouraged the CIM to continue developing the topic of “Women, Free Trade, and Economic Integration” as the primary focus of the meeting. Lastly, it called the Permanent Council to consider augmenting CIM’s budget in order to assist carrying out its mandate.

Such resolution, in turn, stemmed from resolution AG/RES. 1625 (XXIX-O/99), “Status of Women in the Americas and Strengthening and Modernization of the Inter-American Commission of Women,” whereby the OAS convened a meeting of ministers or of the highest-ranking authorities responsible for the advancement of women in the Member States. At that meeting, which was coordinated by the CIM, the ministers adopted the “Inter-American Program on



the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality"

(IAP). The IAP was presented to the session of OAS General Assembly held in Windsor, Canada, from June 4 to 6, 2000, which adopted it in resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), "*Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality.*" As highlighted by the Organization's Secretary General in doc. CP/doc.3886/04 (May 3, 2004),

"[t]he Program provides an unprecedented comprehensive approach to gender mainstreaming within both the inter-American system and the member countries. It is intended to support the efforts of OAS Member States and inter-American organizations in the systematic integration of a gender perspective in their policies, programs, and strategies. Moreover, it is a tool for achieving gender equity and equality in all public policy arenas, such as the legal and judicial areas, and the areas of education, labor, politics, and health."

Through resolutions AG/RES. 1941 and 1952 (XXXIII-O/03) the 2003 OAS General Assembly reiterated the mandates of the Secretary General and the OAS organs, agencies, and entities to report at the next regular session on implementation of the IAP.

The Program also recommends convening meetings of Ministers to be held every four years. to contribute to the follow-up activities of the Summit of the Americas. The Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas was the first to adopt a chapter on gender equality, which endorsed the Inter-American Program.



One of the project's main objectives is to strengthen OAS capacity, through the CIM, to serve as a focal point and hemispheric forum for the exchange of information regarding best practices. It will also serve to guide and direct gender mainstreaming in the design of projects and/or policies in specific areas, and as an interactive forum where OAS staff members and individuals from all of the Member States may seek answers to their questions on gender mainstreaming-related topics. This interactive forum has already been implemented and has produced concrete results, including greater visibility for the CIM within the OAS General Secretariat, and better working relations. Other OAS units and organs have begun to work with the CIM, and to request information, suggestions, and participation in events.

From the plethora of OAS resolutions adopted in fulfillment of such guidelines, I would like to underscore AG/RES. 1432 (XXVI-O/96), "Status of Women in the Americas," which recommended that Member States strengthen existing mechanisms or create new ones for the advancement of women. It further recommended that they take gender analysis into account when devising and executing public policies. It urged the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to consider a gender perspective in designing and executing development projects and reiterated the importance of full compliance with the Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

The Organization has also cared to impart every unit, agency and department of the OAS to submit annual progress reports to the General Assembly as well as progress reports related to specific mandates each year. (The full text of these guidelines is included as Annex I to this Report).

The participation of the OAS **Department of Sustainable Development** (DSD/OAS) in this initiative is but one example of the association of the Department to the overall effort to help accomplish the above-mentioned goals designated by the governing bodies of the Organization. Besides, such efforts are to be viewed within the larger picture of the DSD concern for sound



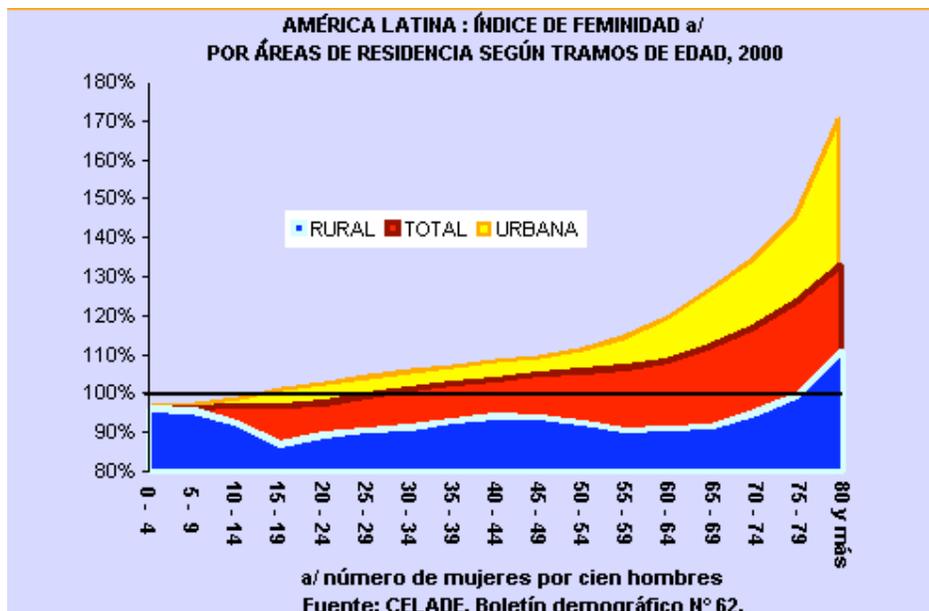
management of chemical substances in our Region, which reflects in a prolific research work.⁶ and the organization and coordination of high-level regional events -- an October 2007 workshop on sound management of chemical substances being a most recent example.⁷ Also worth mentioning are the joint efforts of the DSD and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in this area.⁸

2. Chemicals

As to the other prong of this study –hazardous chemicals—this Report is, to an extent, a follow-up of my thesis paper for the DSD/OAS regarding Central America, available at www.oas.org/dsd/Quimicos/presentacionTradeToxic.pdf
www.oas.org/dsd/Quimicos/Volume%20I%201.pdf

Such previous work focused on the trade aspects of the regional problem of chemicals; yet, it included considerations and provided reference sources for the major international regulations of chemicals, as well as weaknesses regarding effective enforcement thereof⁹. Labelling, customs regulations harmonization, inventories, stockpiling, registers, data bases, aquifer contamination (by lixiviation, runoffs, etc.), are some of the issues directly affecting the agricultural activity – i.e. women to a larger extent than to men, given the larger female representation in the agricultural realm. Also relevant is the fact that agriculture, in Central America and in Latin America and the Caribbean at large, is a vital economic and social sector, and considerations in such area are entirely applicable to this study, again because of the significant participation of women in the agricultural sector in the LAC countries, as illustrated by the following chart:





Moreover, pesticides, an omnipresent yet controversial item in today's agriculture, is one of the main sources of health- and environmental problems. The following chart includes just a sample of potentially damaging pesticide substances¹⁰:

Selected Pesticides and Their Health Effects

Pesticides	Symptoms of Exposure
DDT, heptachlor	Headache, excitability, skin rash, disorientation, weakness, seizures
Aldrin, dieldrin	Dizziness, vomiting, irritability, uncontrolled muscle movements, convulsions and kidney damage at high doses
Methomyl	Sweating, abdominal pain, vomiting, blurred vision, flu-like symptoms
Paraquat	Eye, skin, and upper respiratory tract irritation, vomiting and abdominal pain after ingestion
Parathion	Dizziness, blurred vision, headache, sweating, vomiting, skin rash, lack of coordination, abdominal cramps



The above illustrative listing of compounds is expanded in Annex III of this paper – “Questionnaire for the Network Of National Coordinators And Experts of the CIDA/OAS Project ‘Support for the Strengthening of Capacities Linked to Environmental Management’ for a Regional Survey on Inclusion of Gender Issues in Chemical-Management Plans”.

Specific features of the chemical substance problem in the developing world, including LAC

The problem is disproportionately acute in the world’s developing areas.

According to UK PubMed Central ¹¹

The majority of pesticides are toxic to humans, the World Health Organization (WHO) classifying their toxicity from Class Ia (extremely hazardous) to Class III (slightly hazardous) and then ‘active ingredients unlikely to present acute hazard’. Most Class I technical grade pesticides are banned or strictly controlled in the regulated industrialized world. This is not the case in the developing world, where Class I pesticides are freely available in an environment in which resources are not available for their safe use.

Women are a key factor in agricultural activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. The United Nations Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) writes about a “**feminization of agriculture**” in Latin America. In an excerpt from a recent paper by Carmen Diana Deere¹² one finds the following conclusions:

[T]he dominant trend in the region over the past several decades has been towards the feminization of agriculture.

The growth in women’s agricultural wage employment has been concentrated in the non-traditional agro-export sector....: specifically, in the production and packing of fresh vegetables, fruits and flowers for Northern markets, what now constitutes Latin America’s leading agricultural export rubric. In many countries women and children make up half or more of the field labour for these crops, while women constitute the vast majority of the workers in the packing houses geared to the export market.



Nonetheless, the characteristics of this employment, principally its temporary, seasonal and precarious nature, have made it difficult to capture quantitatively in national censuses and household surveys. The essay analyses the role of gender-segmented labour markets in increasing the demand for female labour, as well as the significance of women's increased participation in wage labour for female empowerment.

There is also evidence, stronger for some countries than others, of a feminization of smallholder production, as growing numbers of rural women become the principal farmers—that is, own-account workers in agriculture

An enlightening paper by Dr. Pamela Ramson¹³ provides additional details on that matter:

Worldwide it is estimated that women compose about 43% of the total agricultural labour force and this is growing dramatically as men move to urban centers to work. As this proportion increases, the exposure of women to pesticides is going to increase accordingly.

The International Labour Organization has shown that agricultural workers have at least twice the risk of dying on the job as workers in other sectors as tens of thousands of agricultural workers die each year, and millions suffer injuries, or are poisoned by chemicals. However, in addition to this risk shared by all agricultural workers women must face gender specific risks. For example, women may have to wash pesticide soaked clothing which increase their risk of poisoning dramatically. Women may also have lower literacy levels than men, which may compromise their ability to read warning labels. It has also been noted that many agricultural extension programmes target men, thus assuming that women are not interested or do not have a say in pesticide use.

The second aspect of pesticide use dealt with by Dr. Ransom is the health effect on women particularly. While pesticide poisoning is estimated to cause 20 000 deaths annually and 1 million illness in men and women (United Nation's Environmental Programme), women also face specific health risks. There is an increased risk of late pregnancy, miscarriage and stillbirth among women who work with pesticides or whose partners work with pesticides. In addition, some herbicides may interfere with women's estrogen levels, altering normal menstrual cycle patterns. The transfer of farm chemicals in breast milk is also a concern - it is estimated that in Deli the average infant receives 12 times the acceptable level of DDT, an extremely hazardous pesticide.

(...) [F]arm chemicals are often stored in the home, thus putting all members of the family at risk. As well, agriculture tends to be excluded from national and international laws regulating labour standards. Due to varying literacy levels labels are often not read or are read incorrectly



and there have been some reports of women using old pesticide containers to store or transport crops in. In addition, protective clothing is rarely worn, in fact some studies have indicated that many women in Asia are not aware that protective clothing exists. (...) Legislation and enforcement dealing with agricultural safety remains weak or non-existent and the cultivation of women's knowledge of alternative farming has been overlooked. (...)

Internationally approximately 2.5 million tons of 20 pesticides and others farm chemicals are applied annually. As has been noted by many sources, women are extremely active in agriculture (...) A variety of programmes that have been started to reduce women's exposure to pesticides. (...). In Latin America the Farmworker Women's Leadership Network-Lideres Capesinas and Pesticide Action Network North America compiled information and personal stories to document pesticide related health problems faced by women workers in 1998. The Guatemala Foundation has also started outreach efforts with rural women to educate them about pesticide risks. (...)

As well, since 1993, the ILO has worked with authorities and representatives of employers and workers in Central America to establish national policies on occupational safety and health in agriculture.

Nonagricultural sectors

Other occupational sectors, besides agriculture, also determine gender differences in chemical substances effects.

As remarked by the World Bank,¹⁴

Depending on social circumstances in particular communities, men may be at greater risk of exposure to toxic chemicals used in artisanal gold mining (such as toxic mercury vapours that are released when gold is extracted from ore), while women may be at greater risk from pesticides used in agriculture (e.g., by exposure through inhalation during application, from 'pesticide drift' from aerial spraying, or through the skin). In the health care sector, women generally represent the majority of the workers (e.g., nurses, pharmacy workers), which increases their chances of exposure to chemical agents used in medical procedures

Women represent a large portion of workers employed in health care services. In both developed and developing countries, many health care workers (such as nurses) receive low remuneration and face hazardous working conditions, including exposure to chemical agents that can cause cancer, respiratory disease,



neurotoxic effects, and other illnesses. Especially in developing countries, the health sector is a major source of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other toxic substances, mostly the result of incineration of medical wastes as well as the breakage and improper disposal of mercury-containing devices (such as thermometers and blood pressure meters).

Because of their low status, especially in many developing countries, women exert less control over their work environment and the risks they are exposed to there (WHO 2004). As developing countries strengthen and expand the coverage of their health-care systems, associated releases of toxic chemicals could rise substantially, magnifying the risks experienced by health-care workers and the public.

Men also have unique vulnerabilities based on their physiology and the types and frequency of chemical exposure they typically encounter in the workplace. Illnesses associated with men's occupational exposures to toxic chemicals include a variety of cancers, chronic diseases, and reduced reproductive capacity. In many societies, it is generally accepted that men can be asked to do more dangerous jobs than women therefore increasing the likelihood of exposure to hazardous situations and chemicals (WHO 2004).

Social features are also to be weighted:

Women's workload may be increased when family members fall ill due to occupational or environmental exposure to chemical hazards, since women usually bear the primary responsibility for caring for the sick. Similarly, chemical contamination of water and food sources may add to the workload of women and girls if they have to travel farther to find safe water and food.¹⁵

Gender specificity of a large number of effects of certain harmful chemicals, a matter of very serious concern.

A case in point is that of Dioxins, toxic chlorinated substances, PCBs, which are a source of a wide range of diseases (skin diseases, skin disorders, liver problems, impairment of the immune system, the endocrine system and reproductive functions, effects on the developing of the nervous system and other developmental events, as well as certain types of cancers), mutagenic and reprotoxic effects, as well as the so-called "gender-bending effects". There exists consensus in the leading



literature on the finding that such products share a number of highly undesirable characteristics, including a) **toxicity at very low levels of exposure**; b) **persistence**; c) **long-range airborne transportability**. Such factors, in turn, are affected by gender.

In EPA's [United States Environment Protection Agency] dioxin report, they refer to dioxin as hydrophobic (water-fearing) and lipophilic (fat-loving). This means that dioxin, when it settles on water bodies, will rapidly accumulate in fish rather than remain in the water. The same goes for other wildlife. Dioxin works its way to the top of the food chain.

Men have no ways to get rid of dioxin other than letting it break down according to its chemical half-lives. Women, on the other hand, have two ways which it can exit their bodies:

- It crosses the placenta... into the growing infant;*
- It is present in the fatty breast milk, which is also a route of exposure which doses the infant, making breast-feeding for non-vegan/vegetarian mothers quite hazardous.¹⁶*

Profound studies developed in North America on the latter “route of exposure” led to serious estimates of the concentration of dioxins and furans “transferred” to lactants:

Owing to the accumulation of dioxins and furans in breast milk, intake of these compounds by breastfeeding infants is estimated to be relatively high. In a cross-Canada survey of samples collected in 1986-87, dioxin and furan levels averaged 15.6 ng TEQ/kg milk fat, and were similar among the various Canadian provinces (Ryan et al., 1993). Schechter et al. (1991) reported a very similar mean concentration in breast milk samples from 42 women from Binghampton, NY and Los Angeles, CA (i.e., 16.6 ng TEQ/kg milk fat). Based on the levels of dioxins and furans in whole human milk reported by Ryan et al. (1993) (i.e., 0.57 ng/kg whole milk), and an average breast milk consumption and body weight over the first six months of 750 g/day and 7 kg (Health Canada, 1994), the average intake of dioxins and furans by breastfeeding infants is estimated to be 61 pg TEQ/kg bw/day.¹⁷



The perverse effects of the combination of prenatal exposure with occupational exposure –“plurisourced effects”, if I may christen them that way-- reappear once and again, and seems to indicate the need for promptly distinguishing, and eliminating or reducing, mother’s (and future mother’s) exposures, i.e. gender causes. As mentioned before, women are disproportionately represented in agriculture in LAC, which “guarantees” the presence of a second source of harm:

Recent information on health effects have included (a) results ...suggesting perinatal exposure to background levels of dioxins and furans and PCBs is associated with a variety of subtle clinical, immunological and neuro-developmental alterations in human newborns (b) an increased incidence of certain adverse health outcomes (diabetes, cancer) for a number of occupational cohorts highly exposed to TCDD and other industrial chemicals. ¹⁸

In a major work for Greenpeace, “**Legado Químico. Contaminación en la infancia.**” Dr. Catherine N. Doney, PhD (with vast bibliography) **underscores the following revealing facts (among many others that would exceed the limits intended for this Report, but whose reading I strongly recommend):**

Babies being breastfed are at the end of the food chain (i.e., they concentrate toxics from all of the previous stages –my comment, MCBF).

The placenta is not an effective barrier to toxic chemical elements that had contaminated the mother. The small molecules with neutral charge of the chemical substances in the maternal blood can easily go through the placenta, whatever its toxicity. Methylmercury, for instance, is actively pumped from the blood of the mother, so that the levels of mercury in the umbilical cord end by surpassing those of the maternal blood.(,,) The fetus continuously sucks and swallows such liquid, formed by tissues stemming from both the mother and the child, and its digestive apparatus absorbs it. The baby inhales it when breathing through the skin.(...) The amniotic liquid –with any chemical substance that has contaminated it-- bathes the inside and outside of the developing baby’s body. The baby is exposed both to the chemical products its mother be exposed on a daily basis,



and to the substances already stored in its mother's tissues.(...) Bisphenol A is a good example of this problem. Bisphenol A's levels in the fetal plasma are often higher than those in the maternal blood.(Schonfelder et al., 2002b). (...) The rate of elimination of bisphenol A from blood is slower in the fetus, because the enzymes needed for the elimination are not present until after birth. Besides, concentrations in blood are higher in women than in men, due to exposure or metabolism differences between both sexes. (Schonfelder et al., 2002).

(Translated from Spanish by this Consultant, M^a C. Bosch)

In addition, burning of fuels for agricultural purposes is also an important source of dioxins and furans. In other words, **unborn children and infants bear a multiple hazard probability**, stemming from 1) the mother exposure to the toxics, 2) the larger presence of women in such productive activities, 3) their direct toxic intake (dioxins and furans are known to be subject to long-range transport “**over regional and continental scales**” (!)¹⁹ We see, then, that some persons can simultaneously belong to several subpopulations at risk, with the attendant increase in assessment complexities.

Other limitations

A feature that is particularly remarkable for the purposes of this paper is that even in developed countries, **thorough studies of effects of such substances in pregnant and lactating women are surprisingly scarce**. Even studies on places where serious catastrophes have occurred, such as Seveso, Italy, or Chapayevsk, Russia, the reports abound in *caveats* remarking the limitations of the data gathered, which severely impair the actual use of such studies.²⁰ Hence, developing countries like those of our Region are to be expected to be still more seriously affected by lack of sufficient scientific materials to inform sound policies and public health-alert efforts. Brown et al.²¹ mention, in particular, such paucity in a relevant area, by noticing that



“Women constitute the majority of both the leadership and the membership of local toxic waste activist organizations; yet, gender and the fight against toxic hazards are rarely analyzed together in studies on gender or on environmental issues. “

Wasserman’s comments are equally unequivocal:

“What data are available and, more strikingly, the paucity of published epidemiologic studies warrant deep concern and support calls for urgent, multi-disciplinary research into the health effects of the combined, multiple assaults of hazardous industrial waste, inadequate water and sewage treatment, and occupational exposures”²²

As we will see below, the assumption that LAC data are even less abundant than in the First World is substantiated by the results of our efforts to gather existing materials on the issue for LAC.

Another environment-linked area of health concern directly relevant for the agricultural sector –therefore for women-- in LAC is that of the Relationships of Thyroid Hormones with Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Dioxins, Furans, and DDE, since

“Thyroid hormone homeostasis can be disrupted by exposure to ubiquitous and bioaccumulative organochlorines such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs).”²³

The intricacy of the methodological tenets of such gender-affected studies, as well as the absolute need for developing methods to take them into account, is illustrated by the following excerpt of the above-quoted 2007 study:

“Associations of Σ PCBs with T_4 and TSH were inconsistent in women. In older women, Σ PCBs were negatively associated with T_4 and positively associated with TSH, with statistically significant associations only in the second cycle (Table 4). In men, TSH was negatively associated with Σ PCBs; associations were statistically significant in older men during the first cycle and during the second cycle with further adjustment for Σ TEQs and DDE. Associations of T_4 with Σ PCBs in men were inconsistent and were not statistically significance (Table 5).



“T₄ was positively associated with DDE in all women and in younger women, with a statistically significant association only in the first cycle in younger women. In older women, the direction of the association differed by cycle (Table 4). In men, T₄ was negatively, but not significantly, associated with DDE; again the direction of the association differed in older participants (Table 5). Associations of TSH with DDE were inconsistent and not significant.”²⁴ (stress added to highlight the numerous parameters to be combined for the assessment, MCBF)

Reproduction is another area where differentiated sex-connected dioxins and furans effects make themselves felt. In fact, in coincidence with conclusive studies in animals,

In some studies in humans, there have also been apparent effects on reproduction following exposure to 2,3,7,8-TCDD. For example, in the zone which was most heavily contaminated with TCDD in the Seveso incident, there was a significant excess of female over male offspring born in the seven years after, based on 74 births in all. In nine families in which both parents were from the most contaminated zone and had high serum levels of 2,3,7,8-TCDD, 12 female children were born during this period, compared with no males (Mocarelli et al., 1996).^{25 26}

(The authors insist on the fact that the occupational and gender factors are also intertwined with data for the general population. Again, this is another consideration that shows the need for serious planning –including financial planning, maybe also supported by international technical assistance-- for studies of this sort in our continent, a matter I will further develop in this paper).

Covariants

Studies on this aspect of the chemicals health problems appear to be particularly relevant for this paper, given the direct connection between research results and gender factors such as pregnancy and menopausal status, which have been identified as covariants or effect modifiers, and strongly support the need for differential conclusions if studies are to be policymaking-pertinent in our Region.



Even though most studies in this realm seem to focus on occupational exposure, gender-differences in the population at large appear also as deserving consideration and research.

Assessment hurdles

Another most important element to be factored in any gender mainstreaming effort is that of assessing the impact of toxic chemical substances.

A review of the current literature on this subject evidences (a) the incipient stage of development of the relevant methods; (b) the importance of accurate assessments in view of the need to isolate chemical substance factors from other influences (the problem of effect modifiers, please see *supra*) to achieve useful results.

A detailed background paper on Pesticide Impact Assessment Systems for an OECD Workshop on Pesticide Risk Indicators held in Denmark²⁷ by Lois Levitan leaves no doubt about the complexity –and obvious time, resources- and expertise requirements— of such efforts. Just ranking pesticides by their environmental impact is a process involving an impressive number of steps:

The reader is confronted with most diverse methods and classification standards, the following being just some examples:

- US EPA Classification by Acute Human Health Hazard;
- World Health Organization Classifications;
- CLM Environmental Yardstick for Pesticides;
- USDA ERS Chronic and Acute Risk Indicators;
- UC Berkeley Environmental Health Policy Program;
- Toxic Substances Chemical Scoring System ;
- CHEMS-1: Chemical Hazard Evaluation for Management Strategies;
- WWF/Consumers Union BioIntensive IPM Continuum



I insist this is only a partial list, to which the following considerations are to be added:

1. The author limits his scope to Pesticide Impact Assessments – he does not attempt to identify and score gender-determined indicators (which would obviously make the task even more demanding).
2. He stresses the limitations of the existing ranking methods –This is a work in process (his last chapter being “Future Directions”)
3. The methods depicted in his work seem to be adapted to special needs (e.g. the Growers, Managers, etc.) – In other words, I wonder whether they are interchangeable, universal.

From the above I infer that given their known budgetary constraints, the countries of our Region will be faced with an unsurmountable hurdle in furthering the necessary assessment undertaking with the added component of detecting and measuring the gender factor. In equivalent terms, that external assistance is indispensable. This conclusion will be reflected in one of my final Recommendations, *infra*.

In sum: (i) Scientists are to discern between gender and nongender effects of chemicals; (ii) both series of effects are closely intertwined, and ascribing any effect solely to any of such categories does not seem to be an easy task; (iii) gender-dependent effects are not fully known at the present stage of knowledge; (iv) even in developed countries, studies on gender and chemicals are relatively scarce, complexity, time and costs being the main reasons; (v) for all of the above, it is safe to assume pursuing such important, long-lasting scientific research efforts is an even greater challenge for LAC and the developing world at large.



(2) SURVEY DEVELOPED AND ADMINISTERED

The final product to be delivered being a series of conclusions and recommendations on the needs of the LAC countries for gender-dependent research and implementation tools on Sound Management of Chemicals --that is to say, a comparison between the situation “as is” and the “best scenario”-- I thought the first step, after the definition of the problem --to which I devoted the previous pages of this report— was to establish a baseline. This was tantamount to establishing **whether, and to what extent, the countries of the Region have developed and are executing --or not--studies on gender-dependent hazardous chemical substances within their jurisdictions.**

To this effect this Consultancy started by developing two sets of questions, one for the Region’s National Committees and Focal Points associated with environmental activities of the DSD, and another one for key health and environment government authorities of the Hemisphere, plus OPS country representatives. The total number of officers and organizations receiving the questionnaires (after deducting no-longer-valid mail addresses) was approximately eighty. The questionnaires were in English or Spanish, depending on the official language of the respective country.

The idea was also to compare the responses received with the published documents and data found and analyzed during the initial stage of my work.

The text of the standard Questionnaire for the National Committees and Focal Points has been appended as Annex III of this paper. It includes both very specific questions and more flexible questions to give the respondents leeway to highlight aspects not literally covered in the questionnaire,

The mails sent to government agencies --also in English or in Spanish, as pertinent-- however, were fully generic in nature. Nonetheless, to help the addressee fully understand the needs of the Consultancy, I also attached a copy of the questionnaire designed for the Focal Points.

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The findings from this exercise were conclusive, and consisted on **virtual absence of gender-sensitive larger studies, programs or events on hazardous chemicals and SMC in our Region** –a conclusion unmistakably stated by most respondents. The responses still pending would not alter such conclusion. Legislation, when to any extent covers the issue, confines itself to programmatic statements of intentions, and none of them –so far as my research efforts permitted me to find out-- specifically addresses the chemicals/gender connection.

I considered it appropriate to include Annex V with the responses of the Dominican Republic consultee, as representative of the above finding. The reader will notice the precision and fullness of the responses, and the efforts developed by the Dominican Country to address the issues of SMC, contrasting with the open statement ***“No research of such sort is in existence. No reliable data thereon are registered.”***

The DR response confirms, moreover, a finding from our previous work for the DDS on chemicals and of the above-referred Managua Workshop: there is a gap between adoption of international conventions/treaties on SMC and actual enforcement of such regulations.²⁸

I find it essential, however, to stress that such possibly surprising results were an **indispensable requirement for realistically addressing the problem** and, in that perspective, not at all negative or discouraging. The key methodological step that follows is to find out the reasons of the gap revealed by such absence of scientific data, determine whether such deficit is or not acceptable, and, if unacceptable, ascertain feasible means to close it.

Discovery of this facet of the problem should become a breakthrough in the Region’s efforts to mainstreaming gender issues in the crucial area of Sound Management of Chemicals.



This will be the subject of the following section, on Findings and Recommendations.



(3) FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(A) FINDINGS

1. From the legal point of view, both components of the matter –gender mainstreaming and Sound Management of Chemicals—have become *jus cogens* at regional and national levels. In other words, they are no longer policy options. A program to address this issue is no longer just a sensible idea –it is the subject matter of enforceable rules.
2. Both components are closely interconnected. It is a definitively proven fact that various chemical undesirable effects are linked to gender. Males and females differ also in their biological responses to chemicals. In particular, serious unwanted effects of hazardous chemicals harm the unborn and newborn through their mother’s intoxications. The scope of harmful effects covers a wide range of fundamental bodily functions and abilities.
3. Chemical toxicity exists even at a very low exposure levels.
4. Latin American countries’ economies greatly depend on agriculture, where toxic pesticides are a major health-threatening issue. Within the agricultural sector, Latin American women have a vital role. The particulars of such role are not easy to ascertain, since a large component of female presence in agriculture is located in the informal, unregistered subsector.
5. Rural LAC women and children are simultaneously exposed to various sources of contamination, linked with sex, occupation, place of abode, etc. It is estimated that information gaps on hazards of chemicals and SMC also affects women more severely than men.
6. Studies on gender-ascribable sources of chemical hazards are scarce even in affluent countries. This logically leads one to infer the issue is even more serious in developing countries –such as those of our Region –a conclusion clearly substantiated by our survey for this Consultancy.



7. Studies performed in industrial countries to establish the link within gender and chemical effects are extremely complex and expensive. Also, they need to be regional in scope and regionally coordinated, because one of the characteristics of hazardous chemicals is that of being subject to long-range air/water transportation.
8. Most LAC countries have ratified international instruments for chemical sound management/trade. Equally true, and recognized, is that effective enforcement of such rules is widely inadequate.
9. International efforts to control contamination sources will presumably be ineffective unless gender factors are ascertained and measured.
10. Studies demonstrate women show more concern for environmental subjects than men. However, their participation is less active in this sphere than that of males. (This issue is specifically addressed in Recommendation No. 8, *infra*)
11. LAC countries cannot be expected to pursue realistic plans for gender-issues mainstreaming in the sphere of SMC, unless international financing and technical assistance is available for their efforts.

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Actions to implement coordination in the mainstreaming of gender issues into the sound management of chemicals should include nomination of national counterpart organizations, field work workshops, in-country gender consultants (possibly using PROGENIAL as a paradigm), and search for technical assistance for national studies on Gender/SMC from within the OAS and from other entities.**
- 2. International assistance should include not only theoretical research, but also developing of assessment tools. Particular**



mention should be made to checklists recommended by the World Bank (to which I add some of my own):

- a. Age differences for each sex (conception, early age, adolescence, adulthood, etc.)
- b. Involvement of all of the stakeholders, including NGOs, business, trade unions, laboratories, universities, etc.
- c. Social factors influencing response to chemicals
- d. Awareness programs ability to reach all stakeholders. Extension work. Updating of legislation. Development of surveillance systems.
- e. Effective coordination and monitoring, partnerships building
- f. Are the basic steps set by UNEP to assist countries in gender mainstreaming efforts being made? Namely: *Step 1: Ensure collection of sex-disaggregated data and information relevant to SMC. Step 2: integrate sex-disaggregated data in data analysis and diagnostics.*

The same process should be followed for chemicals, i.e.:

- g. Step 3: Integrate gender aspects in identification of national opportunities and priorities for SMC.

Finally, both areas are to be integrated:

- a. Step 4: Costing mainstreaming of gender dimensions in SMC.
 - b. Step 5: Integrate gender considerations in enabling legislation related to SMC.
 - c. Step 6: Address gender aspects of mainstreaming SMC into national strategies
3. Such aid activities cannot be conceived without international aid, prompted *inter alia* by the common interest of the world community to (a) check persistent toxic chemicals wherever their source, given their propensity to propagate to far-off places, and (b) inability to fulfill the global international commitments to achieve gender equality, unless enforced worldwide.



4. National programs should be encouraged and coordinated by the OAS, for instance learning from the experience of Guatemala's *Programa de Organización y Capacitación Campesina (POCC)*.
5. One of the first steps should be “nomination” of substances that are to be considered for gender-dependent toxicity studies. Again, the role of a central coordination unit is of the essence.
6. Gender extension manuals should promptly be developed and distributed.
7. Research, in the Region, should include the consideration of the work roles of women (the so-called “social etiological framework”). Given their importance in the agricultural sector in LAC, women need to be empowered to actively participate in all gender-mainstreaming efforts, including decision making. The OAS should strive to close the gap between women's concern for the environment and women's activism in such area.
8. Coherence between trade and environment in national policies and legislation should be fostered.
9. Finally, I wish to recommend a thorough OAS multistakeholders discussion on the following methodological guideline included in the World Bank study on “Mainstreaming Gender in Indigenous Projects and Projects: *The approach is demand driven, which is different from most top-down organizational.* Considerations on women's voice and participation would probably support this approach.



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ANNEX I

OAS GUIDELINES FOR PROGRESS REPORTS ON PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER-EQUITY AND EQUALITY

Reporting Gender Equality Results

Each unit, agency and department of the OAS is required to submit annual progress reports to the General Assembly as well as progress reports related to specific mandates each year.

This includes progress on the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00) (IAP) was adopted at the thirtieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly in June 2000.

What makes this mandate somewhat different from the majority of the other OAS mandates is that it is cross cutting in nature. In other words, all OAS entities are required to integrate this mandate into their regular policies and programs as appropriate and to report on the progress made in this regard. Specific actions on which the General Secretariat staff have been asked to report include:



1. Dissemination of the IAP program among Member States.
2. Integration of a gender perspective into the preparation and application of international instruments, mechanisms and procedures within the framework of the OAS.
3. Adoption of measures needed to integrate a gender perspective into the execution of program and activities by all organs, agencies and entities of the OAS.
4. Promotion of the incorporation of this perspective into the work of the agencies of the inter-American system.
5. Implementation of measures to ensure full and equal access by men and women to all categories of posts in the OAS system, particularly in decision-making positions.
6. Support for the integration of a gender perspective into the overall programs of the Organization and the inter-American system, including their budget allocations.

To assist in this reporting process we have prepared a set of gender equality reporting guidelines.

Gender Integration Reporting Guidelines

Regardless of the type of report you are drafting or which body of the OAS you report to, it is likely that you will need to report on one or more of the following categories in order to report effectively on progress on the implementation of the IAP:

- Any activities your entity engaged in which contributed to the achievement of the IAP and increased gender equality
- What results these activities generated
- The amount of resources (staff time, funds, etc.) you allocated to these activities
- A brief outline of any future plans within your entity related to the implementation of the IAP.



Reporting on Activities

There are three types of gender-related activities on which you can report.

The **first** are specific activities which your organ, agency or entity has undertaken explicitly to foster increased gender equality and for which there has been a clear allocation of resources (e.g., in 2003, the Office of Education, Science, and Technology (OECT) included the office of Gender and Science and Technology among its priority action areas and, during that same year, at the special meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT) held in Lima, Peru (May 2003), the OAS Member States defined this area as a hemispheric priority.)

The **second** type of activity includes any general activities related to a policy/project that are contributing to increased gender equality or equity as an integrated part of an overall program (e.g., the decision to collect sex disaggregated data for the CICAD statistics program on all aspects of both legal and illegal drug problems as opposed to simply collecting data that reflects only the overall numbers of people affected.)

The **third** type of activity includes any actions that are part of the general activities of your program or policy, but which integrated a component or sub-activity designed specifically to contribute towards increased gender equality, (e.g., the Trade Unit has developed and incorporated a module on gender and trade in their annual training program for trade officials from the OAS Member States.)

Reporting on Gender Equality Results



There are three types of gender equality results on which you can report. These include documenting changes related to:

- The adoption of a formal gender integration process
- Progress made on specific gender equality objectives previously identified by your organ, agency or entity
- The actual impact of your policy or program on women and men (including unexpected impacts).

In reporting progress on gender equality results, it can be useful to group them into short, medium and long term results. Short term results generally occur shortly after the completion of a specific activity. Medium term results tend to take between two to five years to achieve and often require inputs from a series of activities. Long term results generally take over five years to achieve; you may not find it possible to report on the long term results unless the policy or program in question has been in place for a longer period of time. However, short and medium term results should be laying the foundation for the policy/project's longer term goal.

For example:

- Integration of gender-sensitive indicators in the CICAD monitoring and evaluation system is an example of an activity that supports gender integration.
- The short term result is the increased availability of sex-disaggregated data related to drug control and enforcement.
- The medium term result is that Member States will be able to determine the different patterns of behavior between men and women in terms of their involvement in producing, trafficking, and using drugs. This information can then be used to plan specific, gender-differentiated interventions.
- The long term results could include the development of more effective drug control programs within the OAS Member States and a reduction in the numbers of women and men involved in specific aspects of drug production and distribution.

Reporting on Results related to the Gender Integration Process

To report on results related to the gender integration process you would be documenting the formal steps your organ, agency or entity has taken to incorporate a formal gender integration system into your area of responsibility.

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Questions to assist in determining if this has been done and should be reported include:

- Has your organ, agency or entity established a formal process to integrate the achievement of increased gender equality?
- If so, provide a brief description of what this process involves
 - e.g., a gender equality action plan, a gender integration policy specific to your organ, entity or agency, use of gender analysis in the policy/project planning process, resource allocation to support gender equality objectives, etc.
- If so, are the staff in your organ, agency or entity making use of this process?

Other aspects of the gender integration process on which you can report include:

- If the specific objectives of your sector's policy/project have explicitly taken gender equality into account
- If the anticipated results have distinguished between the possible effects of the policy/ project on both women and men
- If the composition by sex of the target group has been appropriate with regard to the achievement of gender equity or equality objectives
- If the gender characteristics of women and men of the target group(s) have been taken into account
- If the policy/project methodology has ensured equitable access to project benefits for women and men
- If your organ, agency or entity has ensured that there are sufficient human and material resources to effectively integrate gender issues during the policy / project's implementation and that women and men have equitable access to these resources
- If responsibilities and decision-making been distributed equally between both sexes on the policy or project team
- If your organ, agency or entity has planned an evaluation of the gender issues (e.g., the impact on the gender relations of the beneficiaries, participation levels of women and men, etc.) in the policy/project concerned.



Reporting on Progress on Gender Equality Objectives

To report on progress towards the achievement of gender equality objectives, ideally your organ, agency or entity would first have established explicit gender equality objectives for the policy / project. You can then report directly on the actual results of these objectives.

However, currently not all OAS policies and projects, have explicitly defined or stated gender equality and gender integration objectives. In this instance, you would need to report on gender equality results generated by your policy/project that happened as a result of general policy / project activities.

Reporting on Policy / Project Impact on Women and Men

In addition to reporting on the implementation of a gender integration process and on the results of specific gender equality objectives, you will have the opportunity to assess the actual impact of a policy / project on different groups of women and men as well as to determine if your policy / project is contributing to a differential impact on men and women. To do this effectively, it is necessary to establish baseline data at the beginning of the policy / project's implementation so that you can track and report on changes over time.

To report on policy / project impact on women and men, essentially you will be assessing what kinds of changes have taken place as a result of the OAS's intervention.

General areas on which you can report include changes in:

- Women's and men's situations/condition either *vis-à-vis* each other or changes in the conditions of specific groups of women compared to other groups of women and/or of specific groups of men compared to other groups of men
- Women and men's access to and control over resources
- Men and women's participation levels in decision-making
- Women and men's human rights
- Men and women's livelihoods
- Men and women's gender roles and the division of labor by sex.

The specific aspect of gender roles and relations you would report on will depend upon the initial gender analysis conducted for the policy / project. For example, if you are monitoring the impact of trade liberalization policy in any



given sector you would need to examine the impact on women and men in their different roles:as business owners

- as family caregivers
- as consumers
- as workers.

Other categories of information you might want to report on that could reflect changes in gender equality include:

- Which specific groups of women and men (based on age, class, education levels, ethnic background, occupation, etc.) have benefited from the policy/project
- A brief description of how have they benefited, e.g., have specific groups of men and /or women experienced any changes in their:
 - Welfare - i.e., income, services that meet basic needs and personal security or which alter their life expectancy or health conditions
 - Access to new opportunities, new markets, technology, education and training, information, credit, time or other resources
 - Empowerment – changes in status, access to decision-making processes, control over their own lives, their ability to organize, network and advocate on their own behalf, etc.
 - Critical awareness – women and men’s understanding of the underlying structural causes of their situation and of the gender relations that have a significant impact on their lives.

Other questions you can ask to help determine what information you should integrate into your report to reflect changes in gender equality include:

Has the policy/project:

- Contributed to women and men having proportionate and fair access to related goods and services and other project benefits?
- Addressed the priority needs of both women and men?
- Generated positive or negative results for women and men?
- Increased external risks for women and disadvantaged men in any way?



- Had a differential impact on men and women?
- Invested equitable amounts of inputs into serving women's and men's interests and needs

Where possible it is useful to express any changes in gender equality in both qualitative and quantitative terms and to present sex-disaggregated data to document the changes you are reporting (e.g., at the quantitative level you could report on the number of men and women who received a training course, and at the qualitative level a summary of how useful men and women found the course or an analysis of the backgrounds of the male and female participants in the training course).

Other Reporting Tips

Language and word choices

When the Secretary General submitted his recent report on compliance with the IAP, a member state requested that, in that and other reports, the Secretariat seek to use consistently, "integration" (as in "integration of a gender perspective") instead of "incorporation" and, in the English, "a gender perspective", but in the other three official languages, "the gender perspective". Thus, a revised version was issued, as document CP/doc.3740/03 rev.1, using the following terminology :

Spanish: Integración de la perspectiva de género

English: Gender mainstreaming, or Integration of a gender perspective

French: Intégration de la parité homme-femme

Portuguese: Integração de perspectiva de gênero

Reporting on Budget Allocations:

Following his participation in the pilot Gender Integration workshop in 2002, the Director of Budgets issued a directive that all annual reports from the General Secretariat must include a section reporting on funds expended on gender integration activities.

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The Assistant Secretary for Management sent a memorandum in this regard to all Executive and Assistant Secretaries, Executive Coordinators, Unit, Department and Office Directors, in December 2003, on *Guidelines for the Preparation of the Program-Budget for the Year 2004* , that included the following text:

Managers are reminded of AG/RES. 1853 (XXXII-O/02) Implementation of the I-A Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, in that it ... "requests the Secretary General to instruct the OAS organs, agencies, and entities, through the appropriate channels, to include in their reports to the General Assembly a detailed account of the measures taken to implement the Inter-American Program and to mainstream the gender perspective into the programs, projects, and activities carried out." In this regard, areas are urged to incorporate in the descriptive sections of the objectives of the department adequate language describing how the area has introduced the concept of gender equity and equality.

Use of Gender Analysis and Equality Frameworks

You can also use the following chart and series of questions to help determine what level and quality of gender equality result the policy / project has generated and report on these specific types of changes.



Gender Equality Results Framework

Results Desired ¹	Report on how the OAS Has Effected Increased Gender Equality
<p>1. Decision making More equal participation of women with men as decision makers in shaping sustainable development of their societies</p>	<p>1.2 Capacity for Public Participation Has your organ, agency or entity adopted measures that have increased the capacity of women and men’s organizations for advocacy and for participation in public life and decision making?</p>
	<p>1.2 Representation among decision makers Has your organ, agency or entity increased representation of women and marginalized men in democratic processes and in decision making positions in partner institutions and communities, and in target sectors?</p>
	<p>1.3 Household & individual decision making Has your organ, agency or entity supported measures that have led to more equal power relations between women and men at the household level as well as increased decision making capacity of individual women and marginalized men?</p>
<p>2. Rights Women and girls and marginalized men more able to realize their full human rights</p>	<p>2.1 Legal System Has your organ, agency or entity supported the strengthened promotion and protection of the human rights of women, girls and marginalized men in law and the action of police, prosecutors, judges & courts?</p>
	<p>2.2 Public Awareness Has your organ, agency or entity supported measures that increase knowledge and recognition by the general public and decision makers of the human rights of women and girls and marginalized men?</p>

¹ Adapted from Draft of CIDA Gender Equality Results Framework, 2005



	<p>2.3 Response to gender-specific rights Has your organ, agency or entity improved services and mechanisms that respond to gender-specific constraints on rights or to rights violations (e.g., domestic violence, trafficking, gender-based violence in conflict zones)?</p>
<p>3. Development Resources & Benefits Reduced inequalities between women and men in access to and control over the resources needed to generate sustainable development</p>	<p>3.2 Livelihoods & productive asset Has your organ, agency or entity supported measures that increase control by women and marginalized men over productive assets (land, capital/credit, technology, skills training, etc.)?</p>
	<p>3.2 Institutional Capacity Has your organ, agency or entity supported measures that increase the capacity of partner institutions, governments and civil society organizations to design and implement policies, programs and projects that reflect the priorities and interests of both women & men?</p>
	<p>3.3 Policy and program change Has your organ, agency or entity supported changes that promote increased gender equality and which respond to both women & men's different priorities & interests?</p>



ANNEX II

AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03)

PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY

(Resolution adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 10, 2003)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Secretary General (CP/doc.3740/03 rev. 1);

REAFFIRMING that the empowerment of women, their full participation in the development of our societies, and equal opportunity for them to exercise leadership are essential to the strengthening of democracy and the economic and social development of our peoples;

RECALLING the endorsement by the Heads of State and Government, in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP);

BEARING IN MIND that the objective of resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), "Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality," is the integration of a gender perspective as a decisive strategy for implementing the Program and achieving the ultimate aim of promoting and protecting women's human rights and gender equity and equality;

EMPHASIZING that the adoption of the Inter-American Program reaffirmed the Member States' commitment to promote equal rights and opportunities for women and men, with a gender perspective, which will require the ongoing participation of the OAS and, in particular, of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policy on gender equity and equality, as well as cooperation between the OAS and the different regional and subregional agencies and entities;

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 1853 (XXXII-O/02), "Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality," whereby the General



Assembly received the second report of the Secretary General on implementation of the Program;

RECALLING ALSO resolution AG/RES. 1741 (XXX-O/00), “Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas,” in which the General Assembly recommended that the Meetings of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States be held every four years, and that they take the Inter-American Program into account and contribute to the preparatory and follow-up activities of the Summits of the Americas;

CONSIDERING the commitment made by the Organization of American States, in particular through the CIM, to facilitate the integration of a gender perspective in the work of its organs, agencies, and entities by developing training programs and disseminating information on women’s human rights, and to support governments in the systematic compilation and dissemination of statistical data disaggregated by sex; and

RECALLING that a firm political commitment and ongoing action from the Member States and the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization is essential to attainment of the objectives established in the Inter-American Program,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its support for the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policy on gender equity and equality and the promotion of women’s human rights.

2. To support the efforts of the CIM to:

- a. Follow up on and implement the Inter-American Program, including coordination of the ad hoc Inter-institutional Forum on Gender Equality;
- b. Integrate a gender perspective as a decisive strategy for developing the programs and actions of each of the Organization’s organs, agencies, and entities;



- c. Implement activities and programs for integrating a gender perspective into the results of ministerial meetings on labor, justice, and education;
 - d. Implement its Plan of Action on Women's Participation in Power and Decision-Making Structures; and
 - e. Continue developing the topic "women, free trade, and economic integration," the main item on the agenda for the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM-II), with a special focus on women's economic empowerment.
3. To request the Permanent Council, in fulfillment of the mandates of the Summit of the Americas and the Inter-American Program, to:
- a. Integrate a gender perspective into its resolutions, activities, and initiatives, as appropriate, to ensure that they benefit women and men on an equal basis, availing itself of the expertise of the CIM;
 - b. Consider convening a special meeting, in conjunction with the CIM and with the participation of civil society organizations, in order to move forward with the implementation of the Inter-American Program in the Member States; and
 - c. Continue promoting, in coordination with the CIM and the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD), activities related to the participation of women in political processes, in follow-up to the special meeting held in November 2002 at OAS headquarters.
4. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), through its Permanent Executive Committee, to follow up on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005, regarding the integration, by CIDI and its subsidiary bodies, of a gender perspective, both in policy formulation and in the implementation of cooperation programs, projects, and activities in the different priority areas of the Strategic Plan.



5. To take note of the third report of the Secretary General on the implementation and promotion of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, presented in fulfillment of resolution AG/RES. 1853 (XXXII-O/02); and to urge him to continue to give it his full support, with special emphasis on the priorities set by the Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women at its thirty-first regular meeting.

6. To encourage efforts by Member States to develop public policies, strengthen institutional mechanisms, and ensure compliance with laws that promote women's human rights and gender equity and equality, including equal opportunity for women and men at all levels.

7. To call upon the Secretary General to:

- a. Convene, for April 2004, pursuant to operative paragraph 4.c of resolution AG/RES. 1853 (XXXII-O/02), the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States;
- b. Continue to integrate a gender perspective into all programs and policies of the Organization, building on the work thus far carried out in developing and implementing the OAS gender analysis training program;
- c. Reiterate the request to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to include in their annual reports to the General Assembly information on their efforts to integrate a gender perspective into their policies, programs, projects, and activities;
- d. Support the activities marking the 75th anniversary of the CIM; and
- e. Report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth regular session, in coordination with the CIM, on the implementation of the Program and of this resolution by the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system.



8. To instruct the Permanent Council to consider increasing the resources allocated to the CIM in the program-budget, enabling it fully to carry out its mandates.



ANNEX III



**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE NETWORK OF NATIONAL COORDINATORS
AND EXPERTS OF THE CIDA/OAS PROJECT “*SUPPORT FOR THE
STRENGTHENING OF CAPACITIES LINKED TO ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT*”**

**FOR A REGIONAL SURVEY ON INCLUSION OF GENDER ISSUES IN
CHEMICAL-MANAGEMENT PLANS**

JURISDICTION: _____

DATE: _____

NOTES: (1) Answers can be supplemented by comments or clarifications on separate sheets; please indicate the question numbers they correspond to. (2) In view of the deadline set for this research work, pray send the information available by November 15th, even if not all of the information requested is available by that date.



I. GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. To what extent gender issues have been included in chemical-management plans in your jurisdiction? (Please circle what applies).
 - a. To no extent
 - b. Preparatory work (e.g. draft legislation)
 - c. Ongoing work; some regulations already approved
 - d. Full detailed regulations on the subject (please identify with Nos. and date of statutes, decrees, etc.)

2. How do you assess the degree of effective enforcement of such legal provisions? (If you checked c) or d) above)
 - a. Not enforced
 - b. Minimal/random
 - c. Significant
 - d. Full

3. How do you assess the level of awareness by the public, industries, NGOs, and governmental authorities, on the subject matter of the previous questions?

GROUP	High (active participation)	Medium	Low (Ignorance, Indifference, Resistance)
PUBLIC			
INDUSTRY			
NGOs			
GOVERNMENT			
OTHER			

4. To what leading factor can the inadequate enforcement/awareness/information on this subject in your jurisdiction be ascribed? (if applicable):

5. Your main recommendation to improve the situation described in Question No. 5, above:



-
-
6. Is your country a Party of any international/regional Conventions on dangerous/harmful chemical substances? Please identify.

II. THE GENDER COMPONENT IN THE CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE ISSUE

1. Principal factors responsible for qualitative and/or qualitative dissimilarity of the effects of chemicals, by sex of the individual involved. (Please number by decreasing order of influence)
- a. Trade/profession of the victim (with particular reference to agriculture)
 - b. Biological factors inherent to the sex of the individual affected
 - c. Serious unawareness on the issue among people of your sex
 - d. Legislative/regulatory gaps (factors a), b), c) not considered)
 - e. Inadequate protection of prenatal health (lack of attention of additional protection need during pregnancy)
 - f. Economic factors
 - i. Personal, familiar
 - ii. National
 - g. Prevalence, in your country, of toxic substances disproportionately affecting males/females (sex-specificity)
 - h. Lack of public information on the gender factor involved in the chemical-substance issue
 - i. No conclusive evidence of a higher level of influence on males or females in our jurisdiction.
2. If you checked b), please detail



3. If you checked c), please identify the sources of the problem

4. If you checked f), please summarize the causal relationship (why the economic factor is affecting to a larger extent to males/females?)

5. If you checked g), please check all that applies in the following table:

Name	No CAS	Phytosanitary/Biocide	Males affected to a larger extent	Females affected to a larger extent
1. Aldrina (Aldrin)	309-00-2			
2. Clordano (Chlordane)	57-74-9			
3. Clordecona (Chlordecone)	143-50-0			
4. DDT	50-29-3			



5. Dieldrina (Dieldrin)	60-57-1			
6. Endrina (Endrin)	72-20-8			
7. Heptacloro (Heptachlor)	76-44-8			
8. Hexabromobifenilo (Hexabromobiphenyl)	35694- 06-5			
Polibromobifenilos (Polybrominated biphenyls PBBs)	118-74-1			
9. Hexaclorbenceno (Hexachlorbenzene HCB)	118-74-1			
10. Hexaclrciclhexas (Hexachlrcyclhexanes HCH)				
alfa-HCH	319-84-6			
beta-HCH	319-85-7			
gamma-HCH	58-89-9			
delta-HCH	319-86-8			
11. Mirex	2385-85- 5			
12. Hydrocarbon Aromatic Polyciclics (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons PAHs)				
13. Polychlorbiphenyls (Polychlorinated biphenyls, PCB),	1336-36- 3			
14. Polychlordibenzdixines (Polychlorinated				



dibenzdixines PCDDs),				
15. Policlorodibenzfurans (Polychlorinated dibenzfurans PCDF)				
16. Txafen (Txaphene)	8001-35-2			
17. Endsulfán (Endsulphan)	115-29-7			
18. Dicfl (Dicfl)	115-32-2			
19. Pentaclorphenil (Pentachlorphenil)	87-86-5			
20. Pentabromdifenil éter (pentabromdiphenyl ether)	32534-81-9			
21. ctabromdifenil éter (ctabromdiphenyl ether)	32536-52-0			
22. Pentaclorbenceno (Pentachlorbenzene)				
23. Hexaclorbutadien (Hexachlorbutadiene)	87-68-3			
24. Naftalenos policlorados (Polychlorinated naphthalenes)	-			
25. Perflurctan sulfonatos (Perflurctane sulfonated)				
26. Cloral canos de cadena corta (Short	85535-			



China (Chlorinated Paraffins)	85-9			
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6. If you checked h), please indicate what measures would reasonably be viable to mitigate the problem within the country's budgetary means

III. REGIONAL NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

Note: This section is designed to help identify possible causal links between unequal distribution by sex of the individuals affected by harmful chemical substances, and the regional nature of their presence or inconsistency of customs regimes among the countries of the Region, or lack of effective enforcement, in any other nation, of provisions of international conventions.

1. If you identified certain substances as more harmful for males/females, please indicate if the problem stems, to any extent, from the entry, in any other country, and its (legal or illegal) deviation to your country.
2. If you identified certain substances as more harmful for males/females, please indicate if the problem stems, to any extent, from the fact that the relevant provisions of the international conventions are not strictly enforced (even if they are enforced in your country – “contagion effect”).



IV. ASSISTANCE NEEDS

- 1. What type of external aid could help mitigate the problem in your country?**
 - a. Technical**
 - b. Economic**
 - c. Information (including workshops, courses, seminars, scholarships)**
 - d. Training for governmental, academic personnel**
 - e. Cooperation in development and implementation of surveys, sample analysis, etc.**

- 2. Please indicate whether any of the above-mentioned types of assistance is already being provided, and their results. Please specify the agency/entity providing such help, and whether or not reimbursable.**

V. SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

- 1. Have any local significant surveys been made on data disaggregation by gender of problems connected with use of chemical/agrochemical substances and/or various risk levels with gender differentiation (especially in agriculture)? Please provide any available data on the relevant reports (titles, dates, authors, Web site, and the like.)**



2. **Have the University Environmental Sciences chairs and the relevant Ministries/agencies of your country developed any surveys/research works on the subject matter of this questionnaire? Details and sources thereon would be much appreciated.**

THANK YOU!



ANNEX IV

**REQUEST FORM SENT BY CONSULTANT
TO MINISTRIES/OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
OF THE HEMISPHERE**

TO: Minister of /Head, Department of....., Republic of

FROM: María Catalina Bosch, Consultant, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States (DSD/OAS)

SUBJECT: Information request for OAS regional initiative

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Department of Sustainable Development of the GS/OAS (DSD/OAS) is working in the regional initiative "*Strengthening Trade-Connected Capacities for Environmental Management*". One of the leading objectives of this initiative consists of strengthening the management of toxic chemical substances –a source of serious public and private concern in our Hemisphere.

In this framework I am responsible for providing technical support to the DSD/OAS on issues connected with **channeling of gender themes in sound management of chemicals**. One the activities involved in such effort consists of including gender concerns in chemical management plans, particularly by **compiling information, by sex, and analyzing differentiated risks and effects of chemicals, so as to channel gender equity into the realm of hazardous chemicals management**.

This is to request the valuable cooperation of your Department for this regional initiative by providing us with as much information as possible for your country in the above-referred are (e.g. relevant statutes and regulations; major needs of your country in such sphere; academic research developed; publications or events; projects/programs being implemented or developed).

The attached form I am separately sending Focal Points and National Experts might facilitate the understanding of the scope of our research. Please do not consider such issues as limitative.

For any questions, please contact me and/or the Senior Specialist, Environmental Affairs, Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS, Mrs. Michela Miletto: mmiletto@oas.org.

MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER ISSUES IN S.M.C - M^a Catalina Bosch – Consultant for the Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States - December, 2007

December, 2007



Thank you in advance for your help in this important regional diagnosis- and cooperation initiative.

Sincerely,

María Catalina Bosch

Consultant for DSD/OAS - E-mail: mc.bosch@hotmail.com

*MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER ISSUES IN S.M.C - M^a Catalina Bosch – Consultant for the
Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States - December, 2007*

December, 2007



ANNEX V

AN ILLUSTRATIVE CASE: RESPONSES FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



**CUESTIONARIO PARA LA RED DE COORDINADORES Y
EXPERTOS NACIONALES DEL PROYECTO CIDA/OEA
“APOYO AL FORTALECIMIENTO DE LAS CAPACIDADES
RELACIONADAS AL MANEJO AMBIENTAL”**

**PARA UN ESTUDIO REGIONAL SOBRE INCLUSIÓN DE LA
TEMÁTICA DE GÉNERO EN LOS PLANES DE MANEJO DE
QUÍMICOS**

JURISDICCIÓN: __SANTO DOMINGO, DE PUBLICA DOMINICANA

FECHA: 18 de Octubre de 2007

*MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER ISSUES IN S.M.C - M^a Catalina Bosch – Consultant for the
Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States - December, 2007*

December, 2007



NOTAS: (1) Las respuestas pueden ser acompañadas por comentarios o aclaraciones en hojas adicionales, indicando los números de preguntas a los que correspondan. (2) Dado el cronograma establecido para el estudio, se ruega remitir la información disponible a más tardar en la última semana de octubre, aunque no se haya podido llenar en su totalidad el formulario.

VI. GENERALIDADES

7. ¿En qué medida se ha incluido ya en su jurisdicción la temática de género en los planes de manejo de químicos? (encerrar en un círculo lo que corresponda)
- En ninguna medida
 - Esfuerzo preparatoria (ej., proyectos de leyes)
 - Labor en curso, con algunas normas ya sancionadas
 - Reglamentación detallada y completa sobre el tema (sírvase identificar – No. y fecha de leyes, decretos, etc.)

Resp. d

- **LEY 64/00: (2000)**
- **LEY DE MEDIOAMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES**
- **LEY 311 SOBRE MANEJO DE PLAGUICIDAS y su reglamento 1986**
- **DECRETO 217-91 QUE PROHIBE EL USO DE CIERTO PLAGUICIDAS 1991 INCLUIDOS LOS ORGANOCORADOS**
- **LEY 218 QUE PROHIBE LA IMPORTACION DE DESECHOS (1984) INDUSTRIALES Y EL TRANSPORTE TRANSFRONTERIZAO DE LOS DESHOS PELIGROSOS.**
- **LEY 42:01 LEY DE SALUD 2001**
- **LEY 78:01 SOBRE LA SEGURIDAD SOCIAL 2001**
- **LEDY 280 SOBRE MANEJO DE ACEITRES USADOS 1980**
- **LEY DE TRABAJO DE LA REPUBLICA DOMINICANA 1970**
- **REGLAMENTO DE SEGURIDAD Y SALUD EN EL TRABAJO, PRIMERA EDICION , ABRIL DE 2007**
- **PROHIBICION DE USO DE GASOLINA CON PLOMO.)CONTENIDO EN LA LEY SOBRE MEDIAMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES**
- **Reglamento de restricción de uso de los PCBs y manejo adecuado de los mismos 2003**
- **Reglamento sobre manejo de sustancias y residuos químicos peligrosos. Etiquetado y transporte 2003**
- **Reglamentos sobre manejo de aceites usados 2005**



8. ¿Cómo evalúa el grado de cumplimiento efectivo de esas normas? (Si marcó c ó d arriba)?

- a. Nulo
- b. Mínimo/aleatorio
- c. Considerable
- d. Pleno

Resp. **b**

9. ¿Cómo evalúa el nivel de sensibilización del público, las empresas, las ONG y las autoridades gubernamentales, sobre el tema?

ENTIDAD	Alto (Participación activa)	Mediano	Bajo (Ignorancia Indiferencia, Resistencia)
PÚBLICO	b		
EMPRESAS		c	
ONG		b	
GOBIERNOS	b		
OTRAS		b	

10. ¿A qué factor principal puede atribuirse la inadecuada aplicación/sensibilización/información sobre el tema en su jurisdicción? (si corresponde):_

Resp:

Coordinación interinstitucional, falta de información y educación en sentido general_____

11. ¿Cuál sería su principal recomendación para avanzar al respecto?

Rep:

El diseño de estrategias e implementación de políticas de estado claras sobre gestión de productos químicos con apoyo técnico y financiero que permitan el cumplimiento de los objetivos en este temas, según las necesidades nacionales y los compromisos internacionales del país.

12. ¿Su país es Parte de uno o más Convenios internacionales/regionales sobre sustancias químicas peligrosas/nocivas? Identificar.

Resp:



- El país firmó el Convenio en mayo de 2001. y fue ratificado en noviembre de 2006. Entro en vigor para el país el 2 de agosto de 2007. Durante el periodo Octubre/ Diciembre del 2006 se inició el Plan Nacional de implementación del convenio, con fondos del Gef y apoyo del PNUD como agencia fiscalizadora. Esta en su fase final.
- El país es parte del convenio de Róterdam mediante la resolución 506-2005 del Congreso Nacional. Pertenece a la Región de América Latina y el Caribe.
- La Convención de Basilea
El control de los movimientos transfronterizos de desechos peligrosos y otros desechos. Esta Convención fue ratificada por la República Dominicana el 3 de noviembre del año 2001.
- Protocolo de Montreal
protección de la capa de ozono
Somos signatarios del protocolo desde el 1999. Con fondos internacionales de us\$ 420,000.00 se cubrió el nivel nacional y se realizaron 27 talleres de refrigeración automotriz

VII. COMPONENTE DE GÉNERO EN EL PROBLEMA DE LAS SUSTANCIAS QUÍMICAS

7. Principales factores que provocan la desigualdad cuantitativa y/o cualitativa de los efectos de los químicos según el sexo de la persona afectada. (Numerar por orden decreciente de influencia)
 - a. Actividad laboral de la víctima (con particular referencia a la actividad agrícola)
 - b. Factores biológicos inherentes al sexo de la persona afectada
 - c. Mayor desconocimiento del problema entre las personas de su sexo
 - d. Vacío legislativo/reglamentario (no se contemplan los factores a, b, c)
 - e. Insuficiente protección de la salud prenatal (falta de atención de las necesidades adicionales de protección en la gravidez)
 - f. Factores económicos
 - i. Personales, familiares
 - ii. Nacionales
 - g. Prevalencia en el país de sustancias tóxicas que afectan en mayor medida a varones o a mujeres (especificidad de sexo)



- h. Falta de información pública sobre el factor género en el problema
- i. No se ha comprobado que en esta jurisdicción las sustancias químicas peligrosas/nocivas afecten en mayor medida a varones o a mujeres.
- j.

8. Si marcó (b), detallar

9. Si marcó (c), causas del problema

Resp.

Los individuos involucrados o expuestos no tienen conocimiento de la peligrosidad de los químicos ni de sus riesgos

10. Si marcó (f), sintetizar la relación causa-efecto (¿por qué el factor económico afecta más o menos a hombres/mujeres?)

11. Si marcó (g), marque todo lo que corresponda en el la tabla siguiente:

Nombre	Nº CAS	Fitosanitario/Biocida	Afecta más a varones	Afecta más a mujeres
1. Aldrina (Aldrin)	309-00-2			
2. Clordano (Chlordane)	57-74-9			
3. Clordecona (Chlordecone)	143-50-0			
4. DDT	50-29-3			
5. Dieldrina (Dieldrin)	60-57-1			



6. Endrina (Endrin)	72-20-8			
7. Heptacloro (Heptachlor)	76-44-8			
8. Hexabromobifenilo (Hexabromobiphenyl)	35694-06-5			
Polibromobifenilos (Polibrominated biphenyls PBBs)	118-74-1			
9. Hexaclrbencen (Hexachlrbenzene HCB)	118-74-1			
10. Hexaclrciclhexas (Hexachlrcyclohexanes HCH)				
alfa-HCH	319-84-6			
beta-HCH	319-85-7			
gamma-HCH	58-89-9			
delta-HCH	319-86-8			
11. Mirex	2385-85-5			
12. Hidrcarburs Armáticos Plícíclics (Plycyclic Armatic Hydrcarbns PAHs)				
13. Plíclrbifenils (Plychlriated biphenyls, PCB),	1336-36-3			
14. Plíclrdibenzdixinas (Plychlriated dibenzdixins PCDDs),				
15. Plíclrdibenzfurans (Plychlriated dibenzfurans PCDF)				
16. Txafen (Txaphene)	8001-35-2			
17. Endsulfán (Endsuphan)	115-29-7			
18. Dicfl (Dicfl)	115-32-2			
19. Pentaclrfeni (Pentachlrfeni)	87-86-5			
20. Pentabrmdifenil éter (pentabrmdiphenyl)	32534-81-9			



ether)				
21. ctabrm difenil éter (ctabrm)diphenyl ether)	32536-52-0			
22. Pentac lr bencen (Pentachlrbenzene)				
23. Hexac lr butadien (Hexachlrbutadiene)	87-68-3			
24. Naftalens pliclrads (Plychlrinated naphthlenes)	-			
25. Perflurctan sulfnats (Perflurctane sulfnated)				
26. Clralcans de cadena crta (Shrt Chain Chlrinated Paraffins)	85535-85-9			

12. Si marcó (h), indique qué medidas serían razonablemente viables para mitigar el problema dentro de las posibilidades presupuestarias del país.

Resp: Diseñar programas de educación y capacitación a todos los niveles y sectores involucrados en la gestión de sustancias químicas y residuos peligrosos.

VIII. REGIONALIDAD DEL PROBLEMA

Nota: Esta sección procura ayudar a identificar posibles vínculos causales entre la desigual distribución por sexos de las personas afectadas desfavorablemente por las sustancias y el carácter regional de la presencia de éstas o la disparidad de regímenes aduaneros entre los países de la región, o bien la falta de aplicación efectiva, en otro país, de normas de convenios internacionales.

3. Si marcó determinadas sustancias como más perniciosas para uno de los sexos, indique (anotando el número de sustancia que aparece en la tabla que



antecede) si el problema se debe en alguna medida al ingreso de la sustancia en otro país y su desvío (legal o ilegal) hacia el suyo.

4. Si marcó determinadas sustancias como más perniciosas para uno de los sexos, indique (anotando el número de sustancia que aparece en la tabla que antecede) si el problema se debe en alguna medida a que en la región no se aplican estrictamente las previsiones de los convenios internacionales en la materia (por más que en el suyo sí se apliquen – “efecto de contagio”).

Obsevación: Como se ha señalado en secciones anteriores el país ha prohibido mediante decreto el uso de las mayoría de las sustancias contenidas en la tabla de arriba, principalmente todos los organoclorados.

IX. NECESIDADES DE ASISTENCIA

3. ¿Qué tipo de asistencia externa podría contribuir a aliviar el problema?
 - a. Técnica
 - b. Económica
 - c. Informativa (incluidos talleres, cursos, seminarios, etc.)
 - d. Capacitación de personal gubernamental, académico
 - e. Cooperación en preparación y realización de encuestas, muestreos, etc.

Resp. Todas las anteriores.
4. Indique si alguno de los tipos de asistencia anteriores ya se está recibiendo, y en términos generales qué resultados está dando. Entidad u organismo que brinda ese apoyo, indicando si es a título oneroso o gratuito.

X. CUESTIONES COMPLEMENTARIAS

3. ¿Se han realizado estudios locales significativos sobre desagregación de datos de problemas relacionados con el género referentes al uso de sustancias químicas y agroquímicas y/o distintos niveles de riesgos basados en sectores clave con diferencias en cuanto a género (notablemente el agro)? Sírvanse indicar los que sean de su conocimiento. Se agradecerá aportar los datos para su ubicación (título, fecha, autor, sitio web, etc.)



4. **¿En qué medida las cátedras universitarias sobre Medio Ambiente y los Ministerios pertinentes de su país han realizado encuestas o estudios sobre el tema al que se refiere este cuestionario? Si es posible, dar detalles y fuentes en que se pueda obtener información adicional al respecto.**

Resp:

No existen estas clases de investigaciones, no hay datos confiables registrados. No tenemos unidades de epidemiología establecidas a nivel nacional aunque reconocemos que la Secretaria de Estado de Salud Publica y Asistencia social esta haciendo esfuerzos en este sentido en coordinación con la Organización Panamericana de la Salud, OPS. Solo tenemos casos aislados de intoxicaciones y muerte, por exposición a agroquímicos (pesticidas). En sectores poblacionales expuesto al plomo , existen casos documentados de intoxicaciones que van de severas a niveles bajos en adultos y niños.

Se han realizado estudios de individuos en este caso.

Recientemente se ha de realizado un diagnostico nacional, sobre el manejo de los COPs, a través del convenio de Estocolmo. A los fines se integró un grupo de profesionales de término de una Maestría de Química Ambiental, en la Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (Universidad Estatal) para el desarrollo del Plan Nacional de Implementación del Convenio y la ejecución de los diagnósticos. Esto como un logro del acuerdo entre la Secretaria de Estado de Medioambiente y recursos Naturales y la universidad para fortalecer e ir incorporando la Gestión Ambiental a nivel Profesional.



ENDNOTES

¹ Chemicals Management: The why and how of mainstreaming gender in chemicals management – Energy and Development, UNDP 2007-09
<http://www.energyandenvironment.undp.org/undp/index.cfm?module=Library&page=Document&DocumentID=6448>

² Confirmed: FAO, http://www.fao.org/sd/SEAGA/1_en.htm
[http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/LAC/lacinfoclient.nsf/8d6661f6799ea8a48525673900537f95/d0144e3d0eba650385256f6300628b6a/\\$FILE/JUquillas-10a.pdf](http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/LAC/lacinfoclient.nsf/8d6661f6799ea8a48525673900537f95/d0144e3d0eba650385256f6300628b6a/$FILE/JUquillas-10a.pdf)

³ 8th plenary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 8th September, 2000. Declaration 55/2.

⁴ SEAGA - http://www.fao.org/sd/SEAGA/1_en.htm

⁵ See “PROGENIAL—Directorio de Experiencias sobre Género derivadas del Trabajo en los Proyectos de las Carteras de Ecuador y Centroamérica.”, available in <http://www.ruta.org>

⁶ See, for instance, “Preliminary Diagnostics on the available information on Hazardous Chemicals in the Region”, by Michela Miletto and Andrea Salinas, October, 2006, Washington, DC.

⁷ Managua, Nicaragua, 3-5 October, 2007. Proceedings available at www.oas.org/dsd/Quimicos/Documents/AgendaWorkshopCA.pdf

⁸ For example, the 2006-2008 project “Supporting Trade-Related Capacity Building in Environmental Management”, financed by the CIDA.

⁹ Annex V is a concrete example of this problem. See response to question No. 8.

¹⁰ Source: Weeks, James L., Barry S. Levy, and Gregory R. Wagner (eds.), *Preventing Occupational Disease and Injury* (Washington, D.C.: American Public Health Association, 1991): 480–481.
<http://www.prb.org/Articles/2001/PesticidesAThreattoCentralAmericasChildrenandtheRegionsFuture.aspx>

¹¹ <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1475923#R4>,
citing World Health Organization. *WHO recommended classification of pesticides by hazard and guidelines to classification 2000–2001*. Geneva: WHO, 2001 (document reference WHO/PCS/01.4), and Bull D. *A growing problem: pesticides and the third world poor*. Oxford: OXFAM, 1982.

¹² The Feminization of Agriculture? Economic Restructuring in Rural Latin America, 2005.
<http://www.unrisd.org/publications/opgp1>

¹³ <http://www.awid.org/go.php?stid=153> - Summary of “Women, Pesticides and Sustainable Agriculture”, by Pamela Ransom – Association for women’s rights in development-AWID. The full article can be found at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/wcaucus>.



[http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/LAC/lacinfoclient.nsf/8d6661f6799ea8a48525673900537f95/d0144e3d0eba650385256f6300628b6a/\\$FILE/JUQuillas-10a.pdf](http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/LAC/lacinfoclient.nsf/8d6661f6799ea8a48525673900537f95/d0144e3d0eba650385256f6300628b6a/$FILE/JUQuillas-10a.pdf)

¹⁵ Ibidem

¹⁶ Dioxine Homepage - <http://www.ejnet.org/dioxin/>

¹⁷ Commission for Environmental Cooperation- 22.IV.1998

Nomination Dossier for Dioxins and Furans - Submission by Canada to the Working Group of the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) for consideration as a candidate substance for development of a NARAP 22 April 1998

¹⁸ Ibidem.

¹⁹ Ibidem.

²⁰ Source: [Environmental Health Perspectives](#), 3/1/07 by [Marcella Warner Brenda Eskenazi David L. Olive Steven Samuels Sunita Quick-Miles Paolo Vercellini Pier Mario Gerthoux Larry Needham Donald G. Patterson, Jr. Paolo Mocarelli](#)

²¹ Brown, Phil and Faith I. T. Ferguson, 1998 "*Making a Big Stink: Women's Work, Women's Relationships, and Toxic Waste Activism*." *Gender and Society*, 9(2):145-172.

²² Wasserman, Ellen. 1997. "Environment, Health, and Gender in Latin America: Trends and Research Issues." *Environmental Research*, 80(3):253-273..

²³ Relationships of Thyroid Hormones with Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Dioxins, Furans, and DDE in Adults - Mary E. Turyk, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA; Henry A. Anderson, Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, and Victoria W. Persky Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA. *Environment Health Perspectives*, August, 2007 - <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1940071>

²⁴ Ibidem.

²⁵ Ibidem.

²⁶ One fact to be borne in mind is that animal studies –often more abundant than those for human beings- reinforce the sex-specificity of the hypothesis on the differing effects of toxic chemicals. *See, for example*, Gender related differences in the oxidative stress response to PCB exposure in an endangered goodeid fish (*Girardinichthys viviparus*) Armando Vega-López Marcela Galar-Martínez, Fausto Alejandro Jiménez-Orozco, Ethel García-Latorre and Maria Lilia Domínguez-López. http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6VNH-4JVBVDG-2&_user=10&_coverDate=04%2F30%2F2007&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&view=c&_acct=C00050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=1a8a540f1730ef5727e6893e5cbb8f27



²⁷ An Overview of Pesticide Impact Assessment Systems based on Indexing or Ranking Pesticides by Environmental Impact. Background Paper Prepared for the OECD Workshop on Pesticide Risk Indicators, 21-23 April, 1997, Copenhagen, Denmark - Lois Levitan,,Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA 14853

²⁸ See Response to question No. 8.

