

# PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE REPORT 2017

19th -20th April 2017  
United Nations Complex, Nairobi, Kenya,

*“Partnership for capacity development on sustainable urbanization, protection against hazardous chemicals and waste towards achieving 2030 agenda for sustainability in Africa”*

Organised in partnership with:



Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources of Kenya





“Partnership for capacity development on sustainable urbanization, protection against hazardous chemicals and waste towards achieving 2030 agenda for sustainability in Africa”

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## Day One: Wednesday, April 19th 2017

8:30 am to 9:30 am:	Opening and Welcome
10.00am to 11.30 am:	The role of government, Private sector and development partners in Urbanisation and hazardous chemicals & waste management.
11.30am to 13.00 pm:	Plenum 2- Case Studies -global perspectives on hazardous chemicals and Waste management.
14.00pm to 15.00 pm:	Plenum 3- Conversation with Youth on Environmental Pollution and Urban sustainability towards the United Nations Environmental Assembly- UNEA.
15.00pm to 16.00pm:	Plenum 4: Break Out Session on Key thematic Areas.
4.00pm to 4.15pm:	Report of plenary outcomes and close day..

## Day Two: Thursday, April 20, 2017

8:30 am to 10:30 am:	Plenum 5- Partnership for action on capacity development to spur Green Cities in Africa towards achieving sustainable development Goals.
10.30am to 11.30 am:	Implementation of urban sustainability dialogue: from Decision to Action 2030 Agenda for sustainability.
11.35am to 13.00 pm:	Capacity development on implementation of waste management infrastructure and associated services for sustainability at local levels.
14.00pm to 14.30 pm:	Consolidation of key issues raised from the discussion and way forward by the Breakout Group Rapporteurs.
14.30pm to 15.00pm:	Presentation and Adoption of the Action plan and the Pan-African Youth Statement.

According to the three conventions developed under UN-Environment auspices together they provide an international framework governing the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and ozone depleting substances. Hazardous Chemical and waste including ozone depleting substances (HFCs) are inevitable by-products of consumption and production processes. Sound management of these chemicals and waste is therefore necessary to avoid substantial adverse human, health and environmental effects that are associated with poor management in most of the urban areas in Africa. The typology of wastes generated in Africa from point and non-point sources encompass industrial, agricultural, sewage, municipal and other wastes including wastes from the medical, electrical and electronic industry.

The chemical and Waste management problems in Africa are varied and complex. The region is faced with infrastructure, political, technical, social/economic, organizational/managerial, regulatory and legal issues and challenges that need to be addressed to ensure sound waste management and to achieve sustainable development. Waste is typically disposed of without consideration for environmental and human health impacts, leading to its accumulation in cities, towns and uncontrolled dumpsites and landfills.

The Pan- African Youth Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 19th and 20th April 2017 at the United Complex, Gigiri. The conference was themed: Partnerships for Capacity Development on Sustainable Urbanization, Protection against Hazardous Chemicals and Waste towards Achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainability. It was an historic event that brought together over 200 youths from across Africa and a number of

international delegates. The conference was the first-ever of its kind to take place in African soil and the first that was youth driven, as the UN Environment, UN-Habitat and IETC as well as the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources demonstrated real ownership in its preparation and management.

---

“Sound management of chemicals and waste is therefore necessary to avoid substantial adverse human, health and environmental effects”



Figure 1: Prof. Judi Wakhungu making her opening remarks

The speakers gave their commitments, with focus on the theme of the conference and how they intended to support the outcome of the conference, sustain the conversation with young people as well as offer alternative to implementation mechanisms. The session was moderated by Ester Muiru, of Kenya Red-Cross. Opening remarks were given as follows:

In her opening remarks in her capacity as the Chief Guest, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, the Cabinet Secretary for Environmental and Natural Resources, expressed her appreciation to the organizers. This is an excerpt from her speech:

“I feel honored by the invitation to speak at this historic conference and share in the proclamation of the role of the African youth in driving the sustainable management of hazardous chemicals and waste towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development.

There’s a famous African proverb that says; if you wish to move mountains tomorrow, you must start by lifting stones today. The conference marks the beginning of empowering the future generations of Africa to collectively contribute to the small pieces that will finally deliver the sustainable development goals. It’s important to acknowledge the National Youth Green Growth Secretariat and the African Youth Partnership initiative for Development cooperation as the conveners of this important conference, it’s indeed a great demonstration that if we develop a strong partnership with our African Youth organizations we will be able to achieve More toward realizing the 2030 and 2063 Agenda.

The conference comes at a time when we are world is headed to the TRIPLE COPS of the BRS (The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (BC COP-13), the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-8) and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the

Parties to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-8)) will be held from 24 April to 5 May 2017.

Thanks to the UN-Environment on selecting UNEA3 theme to be Pollution Free World where governments will commit to eliminate waste and other pollution substance over the coming years. We are delighted to note that Kenya has made strides toward reducing pollution by banning Plastic.

Let us step up our efforts to integrate sustainable development principles into our planning and governance processes where the 17 SDGs and the Paris Agreement are all characterized by Aspiration, Ambition and Action but also chart a new course for Global Development. As we strive towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the plan of action for People, Planet and Prosperity, African Governments will continue to work towards promoting equitable, inclusive, sustained and environmentally sound economic growth for the youth as a catalyst to empowerment.

Thanks to the partners and organizations that have supported this conference including; UN-Environment through IETC, NEMA, Safaricom, Fredrich Ebert Foundation and Green Economy Alliance. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources will be keen on the outcome of this conference and will work closely with the organizers, UN-Environment and other partners towards taking a step in implementing the recommendation.

Going forward, I do recommend that we consider having an annual or biannual conference of the same which will provide the African youth with: An avenue for discussion on the progress achieved so far; An acceleration framework, advocacy, stakeholders' interaction and celebration of African youth Initiatives; To showcase the progress Africa youth have made in the health and environment sector toward achieving the SDGs; A broad based and inclusive consultations that will set the baseline for assessing progress in the youth development targets of Africa's growth and development paradigm beyond 2030

In her closing remarks, she reiterated the Ministry's determination to: Provide an avenue of discussion; Fast tracking advocacy; Showcasing progress of African youth in health and environment and; Encourage consultations in youth development target beyond 2030.



Figure 5: Dr Ibrahim Thiaw making his remarks

In his presentation as the Deputy Executive Director, UN-Environment, Dr Ibrahim Thiaw mentioned that he is glad to have Kenya as the host to the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA). The theme is: towards a free polluted world.

He raised a concern with the number of people who die from pollution related complications. Africa too is not spared as over 20,000 people die in a day due to air pollution.

He stated that indoor pollution kills 600,000 Africans every year due to use of Biomass, which contributes to

air and water pollution. Of great importance to Africa is water quality. Water quality is an important issue in Africa which needs to be refocused on.

Managing plastic pollution should be a concern shared by every citizen. It is sad that by 2050, we may have more plastics in our oceans than fish. It takes 100 years for a plastic to be degraded yet over 500,000 tons of plastics are dumped in our oceans every year.

As much as ignored, land pollution sources need to be tackled through hard decisions. Making tough decisions may hurt someone for the meanwhile but benefit many in the long run. UN and all stakeholders are in support of Kenya for banning the sale and use of plastic bags.

As we focus on pollution and its impacts to our development in Africa, we must address these 6 major challenges in Africa: youth employment; Climate change challenge; food loss and waste challenge; Waste management challenge; illiteracy and inadequate access to energy. To tackle unemployment, we need: To adopt transformative financial technology; Youth needs to create own jobs. Build your own dreams; Increase number of green jobs- these will be more important in future than our traditional jobs (what are green jobs?). The developed world already has green jobs. Africa needs to follow the suite.

In addressing the energy challenge, it should be noted that more than 2/3 of Africa do not have access to energy. This is the case even as 200km<sup>2</sup> in Sahara can produce enough energy for the world. Africa needs to harness energy in different ways such as tariff system. The energy sector itself has enormous job opportunities for the youth.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Manu Chandaria stated that plastics do not just affect us at individual level; they affect us, our children and grandchildren. Something should be done about wastes, more so hazardous chemical wastes. He lamented the bad scenes in the slums like Kibera, Korogocho and dumping sites.

He urged young people to think before purchasing anything that might harm the environment. Let's have a heart for other people. Finally he lamented at the number of conferences young people attend but when they go home, less happens. Many are concerned and are inspired to do something yet few do what they intend to do. Its time we focus on not how our lives are going to be affected, but also of those of our children and grandchildren.



Figure 2: Dr. Manu Chandaria Making his Opening Remarks.

Oliver Johnson – Deputy Director - Stockholm Environmental Institute

In his presentation, Oliver mentioned that SEI does research on environment and sustainable development. The institute works to bridge science and policy interface by incorporating capacity development in all its stakeholders. He emphasized the role of youths in their work and a promising future leadership. On the role of the cities, Johnson cited that cities depend on natural environment for water, air, food, etc. increased pollution poses a great challenge to these provisions. Going forward, Johnson proposes: Partnerships with organizations such as Muungano wa Vijiji to study indoor and outdoor air pollution using mobile particle monitors on air pollution;



Figure 3: Participants following during the plenary

Increased awareness especially targeting the affected citizens; Identification of opportunities for change; Need for behavior change backed by policy instruments; Building of partnerships to enhance learning e.g Kenya air quality network to upscale other projects all over Kenya; and having young community champions in every project.

In his presentation on behalf of Dr. Heinz Bongartz, Robert Muthami emphasized the desire to have the conference discussions contribute towards Paris Agreement, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union on Structural Economic transformation.

Robert mentioned that youth should further engagement in policy by focusing on climate change. There is need to develop Africa, through unique and simple interventions with limited challenges. Interventions should be around curbing climate change in Africa e.g. enhancing sustainable cities in Africa (How?) adopting waste management approaches that provide jobs for the youths. With such focused interventions, Africa shall have addressed its big challenges such as Climate Change and unsustainable development.



Figure 4: Robert Muthami Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, seated in the middle, with Douglas Ragan and Lucy Mungai.

## POLICY PERSPECTIVES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND WASTE IN CITIES COUPLING THE 2030 AGENDA.

Prof. Abdouraman Barry in a presentation, titled 'Reviewing the domestication of the BRS conventions on management of Hazardous Chemicals and waste in Africa had the presentation delivered on his behalf. On implementation of International Environmental Instruments, Prof. Barry proposed that: International instruments need to be made applicable at the national level (domestication); Implementation at the national level is either by action taken by each party or collective action by parties; Application at the national level by domesticating MEAS may be by monist or a dualist approach. It is important to note however since some MEAs are not self executing, action may still be expected; A party implementing a As for taking administrative action, this may include action such as to prepare action plans, inventories, to designate sites, or appoint focal points; It is the prerogative of each party to decide how it incorporates an MEA's obligations into national legislation, taking into account its needs and legal practice; Parties have options of developing specific legislation on an MEA, amending existing legislation, or where applicable incorporating a Chapter into comprehensive legislation. Legislation should not be incompatible with the provisions of the Convention.

Effective and enforceable legislation is that which seeks to provide practical solutions to a problem which is being regulated in accordance with the guidance provided by the provisions of the MEA

taking into account a country's particular context and its human and other resources.

Going into the future, there is urgent need to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals by using the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. These MEAS to watch in this regard include: Basel Convention- Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Rotterdam - PIC (Prior Informed Consent) Procedure for hazardous chemicals & wastes in international trade.

Opportunities the effective national implementation of the Chemicals and waste conventions through domestication could offer to the Youth: Pollution free environment; Health; and Job creation.



Figure 6: Haron Oichoe, Coordinator National Youth and Green growth Secretariat and Prof. Abdourahman Bary, Regional Coordinator Chemicals and waste UN Environment consulting on the sidelines of the Conference.



# THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN URBANIZATION AND HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT



Figure 7: Panelists during one of the plenums

This session assessed and compared the ways in which various players are engaging with each other. For purposes of the conference, engagement was defined, as deliberate, systematic collaboration, according to national priorities, beyond individual mandates, interventions and programs.

In his presentation, Emmanuel mentioned the role of UN-Environment Chemicals and Waste Branch to be dealing with Institutional Capacity and Policy Instruments; Scientific and Technical Knowledge and Tools for Sound Chemicals Management; Scientific and Technical Knowledge and Tools for Sound Waste Management.

Among the international agreements and frameworks for waste management that should be points of reference include UNEA resolutions; IETC ; Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM) ; Basel Convention; Basel COP/OEWG; Minamata Convention; Minamata INC ; Global Partnership on Mercury; and Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM)

To address global waste menace states should: Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable solid waste collection services; Eliminate uncontrolled dumping and open burning; Ensure the sustainable and environmentally sound; management of all wastes, particularly hazardous wastes; Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention and the 3Rs and thereby create green jobs; Halve global per capita food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses in the supply chain; Create green jobs through the circular economy; and Reduce industrial waste generation at source through waste prevention, resource efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes.

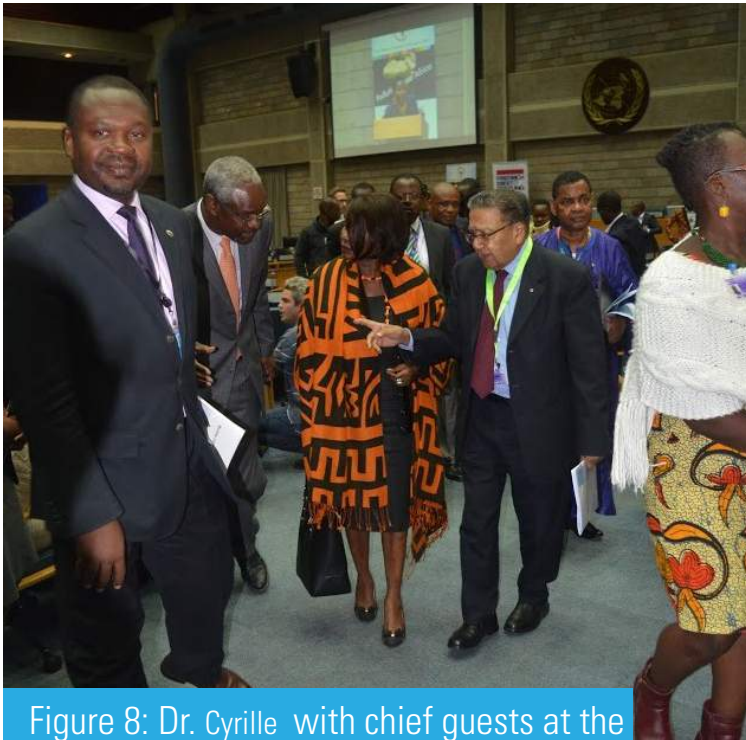


Figure 8: Dr. Cyrille with chief guests at the end of the opening session.

Dr. Cyrille Siewe, UN-Environment, Office for Africa

How can we live in the city ensuring that our waste is well handled? How can Youth ensure that they have contributed towards change? What role do I have in green economy? We need a political change to manage growth.

We should learn to live in an environment controlled and enacted by the government. The more water is polluted, the more money needed to purify it. UN assembly has an agenda on sustainable production and consumption.

Kenya free plastics initiative is being launched.

Kenya is the third major sisal producer in Africa.

Why not use sisal to make bags rather than manufacture plastic bags? We need to Think and ACT. The future generation should not pay for what we have done today.

“If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem”

Mr. Michael Koech stated that manufacturers are the biggest users of chemicals and thus, generate a lot of hazardous chemicals. It is obvious that if one is not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem- Mahata Gandhi.

He mentioned that Safaricom’s focus in this regard revolves around: Encouraging green procurement- before you buy, think of how to dispose once you do not need it anymore; Efficiency- ensures less output; investing in recycling different materials. E.g electronic based material and; Changing way of doing things e.g. plastics- Safaricom is phasing out plastics in its shops. This commences in May. Safaricom has embraced SDGs in all their operations such initiatives such as Sustainable Development Goal12. It has also incorporated all the 17 SDGs in its management such as recycling parts of mobile shops. In 2015, the company sold 1.2 million phones which translated into many tonnes. This figure was actualized as 35 million people are using

electronics now.

Safaricom works in partnership with National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and county governments in managing the Collection centres. So far, they have collected 500 tonnes since they started. There is need for increased research into different technologies to see what works better for young people and improve their lives.



Figure 9: Participants listen to panelists

Douglas Ragan- Chief of the youth and Livelihoods Unit, UN Habitat

The office works by giving a voice to young people e.g. works with Mathare environmental conservation group on: - Waste management through garbage collection business; Collecting garbage to create spaces to be used for business and meetings; Open spaces are social spaces for events. They work to bring young people together to help generate development ideas so as not to be involved in negatives.



Figure 10: Douglas (middle, seated) with other panelists

## CASE STUDIES- GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT.

This session sought to perform a comparative analysis of compliance mechanisms in hazardous chemicals and waste management under different jurisdictions. It looked into response measures, challenges, opportunities and interlinkages.

Moderated by: James Turing

While making her presentation, Nao, waste management expert at UN habitat, mentioned that the main challenge facing Africa and that hinders its growth and development include waste generation, collection, treatment, and disposal has enormous challenges. The waste menace is exacerbated by lack of disposal rules.

In African cities, only 10% of waste is collected. Illiteracy of garbage collectors- they are vulnerable to diseases. Lack of strong political will and strategic approach – this is urgently needed. Worse still, many local authorities do not have technical and financial capacity.

The second challenge is limited job opportunities for the youth. However, there are emerging jobs in the waste sector such as: Street sweeping; Market cleaning; Raising awareness for separation at source; collection and recycling; Formalizing the informal recycling sector and; Land fill operation and maintenance.



Figure 11: NaoTakeuchi making her presentation



Figure 12: Chaste making his presentation

Waste management is one of the greatest environmental challenges faced by developing countries. In a recent online survey by the Sahara Reporters, Ibadan and Lagos were described as the filth centers of the world. Common wastes in Nigeria include: Industrial waste; construction and demolition waste; Household waste; Solid waste; Waste cars; Bulky waste; Residual Waste; Electronic waste; Clinical waste; and Organic waste.

Lagos population is projected to reach 30,200,000 and generate waste of 21,140ton/day by 2020 (2006 Census Projection). The

local government has developed 15 transfer stations in the last 6 years. This is to address the Nigerian problem with imports of about 500,000 used computers annually through the Lagos port alone (Basel Action Network, 2005). About 25% of the imports are functional used computers while the remaining 75% is junk or unserviceable. Lagos harbors about 592,000 Industries and Business at an expected growth rate of 5% per Annum using the 2008 figure (330,000). Because of lack of functional sewage system raw, untreated and highly toxic industrial effluents are mostly discharged freely into open gutters, drains, streams, lakes and lagoons. Study shows that Lagos lagoon alone absorbs 10,000m<sup>3</sup> of industrial effluents daily.

Some of the best practices in waste management in Lagos include the RecyclePoints and the Giving Garage's Pad Man Africa initiative aims to keep girls in school to be able to complete their education.

FINALLY, African governments should enforce environmental laws, encourage people to reduce, reuse, recycle and properly dispose of their wastes by charging fees for their waste disposal services.

In his presentation, Mr Ongori mentioned that Kisii County is engaging with UN HABITAT to come up with a solid waste and sustainable management program. There is extreme waste generation that could create income for youth through collection and separation.

On E-waste management, the county is partnering with Portugal government. They have also partnered with Kisii University to come up with a curriculum of dealing with industrial and e-waste to deal with problems such as: electronic gadgets dumped in Africa. Regionally, the County is also partnering with Nyamira, Homabay and Migori to come with one duping site. Kisii has a Land challenge.



Figure 13: Mr. Zablon Ongori making his presentation



Figure 14: Participants listening to a virtual presentation by Choudhury

In his submission, Mr Choudhury defined zero waste as “a goal that is both pragmatic and visionary, to guide people to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are resources for others to use. Zero waste means designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. He further stated that implementing zero waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water and air that may be a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health”. The 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) offer an environmentally

friendly alternative to moving towards a zero waste society and to deal with impact of growing wastes on human health, economy and natural ecosystem. Both resource consumption and waste generation & diversification would be driven by rapid urbanization

On major 3R Policy and Institutional Gaps in Developing Countries, Mr Choudhury stated that:

- Prevailing economic system does not provide adequate incentives for resource conservation and efficient resource allocation. 3Rs & resource efficiency are not part of macro-economic policies as waste is conventionally thought of having no “economic” value.
- Prevailing production and consumption patterns do not effectively integrate resource efficiency, contributing to growing quantities of wastes that must be managed for final disposal.
- Current waste management policies are not strong and not linked with bio-diversity conservation, protection of ecological assets— fresh water, coastal & marine ecosystem, etc.
- Weak national and local level cooperation and partnerships (e.g., national urban development policy on resource efficient and zero waste cities)

Unfortunately, waste disposal is expensive – financially and in lost resources. To address the above gaps, we need: substantial inputs of labour (for collection/processing); Substantial materials input (construction of facilities for wastewater treatment, land filling, and incineration); Energy input (collection, treatment, incineration) and; Land resources (land-filling, incineration, treatment facilities). Going forward, countries need to adopt the Adelaide 3R Declaration: Towards the Promotion of Circular Economy in Achieving Resource Efficient Societies in Asia and the Pacific under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Lucy Mungai, Civil Society Unit, UN Environment: Opportunities for engaging in UN-Environment as the youth.



Figure 15: Lucy mungai making her presentation

In her presentation, Lucy gave a summary of the Second Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-2 May 2016). She mentioned that: Over 2000 participants (approximately 300 representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders); 25 Resolutions, including on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda were made. In addition, Science Policy Forum, Sustainable Innovations Expo, Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and a Symposium were successfully held. She informed the participants of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly themed “Towards a Pollution Free Planet”. Main

areas to be addressed: Air pollution; Marine pollution; Land/soil pollution; Fresh water pollution; and Pollution from Chemicals & Waste.

Campaigns to support the theme of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly are on and can be accessed at: <http://web.unep.org/unea>; Breathe life campaign- free for participation by all; Cleanseas campaign; Global pledge for a pollution free planet- <http://drustage.unep.org/unea2/global-citizen-pledge>; UN Website for the questionnaires. She encouraged participants to register for 2017 UNEA which is slated for December 2017.

The 2017 UN Environment Assembly offers youths with opportunities to engage at by: Taking individual responsibility for a pollution free planet; Supporting Government Initiatives for a pollution free planet; Lobbying relevant authorities for a pollution free planet; Supporting campaigns by UN Environment and others; Pledging and commit to achieve a pollution free planet; Participating at the UN Environment Assembly and at the Global Major groups and Stakeholders Forum 2-3 December 2017.

Finally, she urged accredited organizations to submit written inputs and participate in preparatory meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and briefings.



Figure 16: A participant making a contribution during the plenum

It is a fact that environmental pollution and other aspects of poor environmental quality have well-established effects on human health and quality of life. Air pollution, inadequate management of hazardous chemicals and waste, poor water quality & climate change, among others, pose significant threats to human health. Cancer, respiratory diseases, allergies and asthma, diarrhea, and malaria are examples of health effects associated with environmental factors.

Africa carries a hugely disproportionate disease burden compared to the rest of the world. According to AEO-3 report, environmental factors contribute about 28% of Africa's disease burden. This disease burden is dominated by diarrhoea, respiratory infections and malaria, which collectively account for 60% of known environmental health impacts in Africa. Extreme weather events and disasters, as well as emergence and re-emergence of certain diseases recently have been a harsh reminder of critical linkages between human health and environmental conditions

Environmental determinants of health are likely to increase disease burden as we lose health-promoting ecosystem services and have more contact with sources of disease. Deforestation leads to more exposure between people and wildlife, and more opportunity for contact. Ebola outbreak may be starkest warning yet that as we tear down forests, we open ourselves to new strains of diseases.

On environment, health and gender nexus, Mr. Ombisi mentioned that women are on the frontline of environmental degradation in their homes and work areas. Environmental conditions such as indoor air pollution from use of biomass in stoves, exposure to pesticides and industrial pollution and polluted water significantly increase exposure of women and

## ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND GENDER NEXUS

**Presenter:** David Ombisi- Programme Officer,  
Regional Office for Africa, UN-Environment

The outcome document of UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) - The future we want - indicated that "health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development" - social, environmental and economic. Being able to efficiently mitigate adverse health impacts from the environment is a key issue in sustainable development – health stands out across the SDGs.

Natural environment contributes significantly to people's health through quality of air, food and water. Ecosystems are planet's life-support system but they are being degraded by climate change, pollution, agricultural practices and urban development

---

children to chronic and acute health conditions. Burning of biomass in unventilated homes releases high levels of black carbon, causing approx. 2 million deaths a year, mainly of women and children. This is mainly through use of firewood and charcoal for cooking where women are involved, mostly in company of their young children

To address these challenges, UN Environment, WHO and other partners support region to address challenges in environment, health and gender. African Ministers of Environment and health through Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment and Luanda Commitment continue to explore avenues for a multi-sectoral approach to address health and environment issues.

World Bank in its report "Investing in Health," says better management of home environment could reduce morbidity from diarrhea related diseases by 40%, through interventions such as supplying safe drinking water and environmental hygiene. However, there is still urgent need for political commitment, concerted action and shared responsibility between health and environment sectors

In finding solutions to the above mentioned issues, governments should integrate health and environmental impact considerations into economic development processes; support integrated policy assessment of the environment, health and gender linkages. Gender-sensitive assessments and gender-responsive interventions have the potential to enhance health and health equity

In conclusion, it is worth mentioning that measures to improve quality of the environment can prove to be very worthwhile investments. Benefits of many environmental policies in terms of reduced health care costs and increased productivity significantly exceed costs of implementing these policies. Lastly, providing a clean and healthy environment - now and for future generations – will reduce mortality, improve human health and well-being and lead to substantial savings in associated healthcare costs

---

“Governments should integrate health and environmental Impact considerations into economic Development processes” .



## PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACTION ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT TO SPUR GREEN GROWTH IN AFRICA TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Moderated by Ester Muiruri, Kenya Red-Cross

Dr Kipkorir Chumo, Chair, County Executives caucus on Environment in Kenya

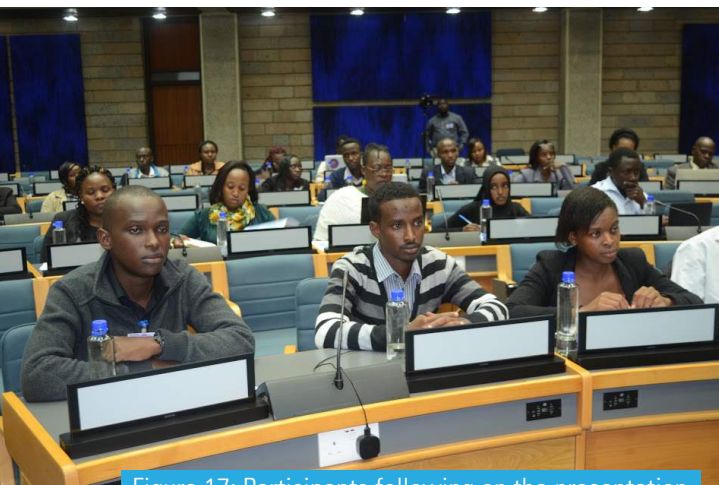


Figure 17: Participants following on the presentation

Dr. Chumo mentioned that Kenya has 47 counties, Kenya has a devolved system. Functions on county and national governments are different. Counties in Kenya are working towards proper planning. County development plans show what is expected in each county towards achieving the SDGs. Counties' development is guided by budgeted and integrated the development plans. According to the plans, by 2030, counties should have gone miles in reducing the gap of waste management, access to clean energy. Other relevant legal frameworks in this regard include the Constitution of Kenya,

2010, the Vision 2030 and Environmental management and Coordination Act of 1999.

The plans have got strong provisions on solid waste management. The provisions touch on: Control of generation, storage, collection, transportation or transfer, processing and disposal of solid waste material. Successful implementation of the plans involves planning, administrative, financial, engineering and legal functions to solve problems arising from waste material. Further, there is need for complex interdisciplinary relations among various fields such as public health, city and regional planning, economics, communication, conservation, demography, engineering, political science etc.

Current statistics on plastics at county level indicate that: 24 million plastic bags used monthly in Kenya; 2400 tons of waste generated per day in Nairobi, out of which 20% is plastic waste.

Of the 110 million tons of plastic used globally, it is estimated that 8% of global oil production (both as a raw material and energy in



manufacturing) is used. This is 4% of the world's annual petroleum produced. Yet about 80% of waste paper bags end up in dumpsites and landfills. 8 tons of plastic waste flows into our oceans each year. Approximately 100,000 marine animals die annually of suffocation from or ingesting plastic bags. Sadly, a plastic soda bottle in the ocean may retain its shape for 400 years. Kenya has done well in banning plastic bags. This is a follow up step to other countries that have banned plastics such as Somaliland, Bangladesh, Botswana, Israel, France and Rwanda.

Moving forward, Dr. Chumo had the following recommendations: Policy dialogue and analysis-laws, regulations, rules and procedures (develop a policy on plastics); adoption of Rapid Results Initiative; Increasing financial allocations-fundraising strategies, plastic recycling green fund, multi-stakeholder resource mobilization; increased stakeholder participation- lead agencies, private sector, CSOs, NGOs, Youth and Women groups; enhanced public education and awareness-formal and non-formal, through mainstream and social media. Creates responsibility and environmental accountability; Capacity building-building human resource, trainings, infrastructural capacity; Technology transfer-technology needs assessment, develop data banks for plastic waste, develop appropriate technologies for collection, sorting, transportation, recycling and selling of plastic wastes; Plastic waste recycling-expanding and strengthening current community based plastic waste recycling centres; Provision of alternatives-sisal, reeds, water hyacinth, cotton; Research and development-alternative packaging material, waste minimization, cleaner production; Revision of school curricula to incorporate formal environmental education

#### Jaime Webbe, Chief, Environment Education and Training Unit: Youth Engagement in Urban Sustainability.

Jaime Webbe, in her remarks on the means of engagement with Environment Education and Training Unit listed a number of opportunities that young people could benefit from. Established in 2012 to escalate UN-Environment's engagement with universities, the section offers: University partnerships- Global and national networks; Curriculum Development- Eba, GEF and Green Climate Fund portfolios; Online learning- REDD+ Academy and SDG Campus; Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability.

She informed participants of the mandate of his office to be promotion of integration of environment and sustainability concerns and offering support to the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and UNEA2/3 Resolution among others. Current membership – 822 Universities globally (March 2017).

The University Partnership Pillars is characterized by: Green Campuses - Develop and implement transformative strategies for establishing green, resource-efficient and low carbon campuses; Education- Enhancing knowledge and awareness- equip target audience with relevant skills, values and attitudes; Networking- Encourage and strengthen regional and sub-regional networks and; Green Campuses that is focused on Food systems - food waste, environmental impacts of production and processing and Mobility - greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution.



Figure 18: Jaime, in red dress, with one of the participants



Figure 19: Participants in one of the breakaway sessions

In making a presentation on 'Paris agreement and Implementation of NDCs in Africa (How Climate Change Underpin Capacity development on Hazardous Chemical does and Waste management stream)', Mr. Kimori mentioned that Paris agreement was initiated to combat climate change. The agreement is aimed at avoiding over 12.6 people die per day as a result of climate change related issues.

Hazardous waste management is an issue at the county level where it disposed through non-conventional methods. There is need for: Awareness creation; Capacity development; Sustainable consumption and management; policies related to chemical and

waste management and; Address chronic diseases and carcinogenic cases as a result of improper waste disposal.



## SOCIAL INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FOR JOB CREATION

Moderated by Benard Opaai

Dr. George Kasimboi, Director, Kenyatta University's Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre: Social Innovations and Enterprise Development for Job Creation

Dr. George Kasimboi defined Social Innovation and Enterprise Development for Job Creation as the application of new solutions that meet new requirements, inarticulate needs, or existing market/ societal needs. In this regard, the value created accrues to individual/ company but primarily to society. He made emphasis on the role of Social Innovation as: the driver of economic growth and structural change; Identification of entrepreneurial opportunities; Problem solving e.g. mitigation and adaptation to climate change; Leveraging on talents, interests, hobbies; Creativity; Brain-writing-outrageous ideas; Helps in thinking Outside- the- box and; addressing societal needs

On Social Innovations, Dr. Chandaria had the following to say: Just because someone feeds you, it does not mean that the job is over; You do nothing for 5 years and become nothing; Having innovation centers in the universities helps young people to implement their business ideas; if you want to become somebody, it starts with you; We need to be responsible for ourselves, our environment and our country; Falling is an experience of going up; Each person has a responsibility of being innovative; Establishment of green colleges is one great way of achieving urban sustainability.

Dr. Manu Chandria – Conversation on Social Innovations and Enterprise Development for Job Creation.

He further mentioned that: Chandaria promotes innovations. People that think outside the box; Polytechnics - In Kenya are very active and have regional exhibitions. Our Youths are thinking and working on solution; Chandaria is open to outsiders not only Kenya University students; Innovations should be cost effective to take care of quality, profits and sustainability. Grants is a good way of getting started with an innovation.

Going forward, he recommended that: National university networks can share ideas e.g. in waste management. This is one big way of defeating the cartels. You also see other opportunities; Innovations with environmental and social sustainability, and scalable are more likely to be funded; It is important to inculcate social innovations among our youths.



Figure 21: A participant reacts to a presentation during a plenum

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES FOR SUSTAINABILITY AT SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS.



Figure 22: One of the participants leading a group deliberation during a break away session

*Jane Wanjiru Macharia , Environment Officer Kiambu County*

While making her presentation on 'Waste Management in Kiambu County' madam Jane gave a brief background of Kiambu County. She mentioned that Kiambu County is one of the 47 Counties in Kenya. It is located in the central region of Kenya and covers a total area of 2,543.5 Km<sup>2</sup>. It has 476.3 Km<sup>2</sup> under forest cover according to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census. The County has a population of 1.8 Million during the day but double the number at night because of people who work in Nairobi but live in Kiambu.

Kiambu has 12 administrative Sub- Counties that are also referred as constituencies. It has 60 Wards- which elect Members of the County Assembly. The county is one of the rapidly urbanising counties after Nairobi and Mombasa ,60 per cent of the county is urbanised. Agriculture is the main economic activity and this include but not limited to; diary farming, tea, coffee, floriculture, poultry, horticulture etc.

On waste management, Kiambu is at about 75% collection success. This is due to successful stakeholder engagement involved in collection such as:- County government; -youth groups; private collectors; local and international investors; waste recycling entities.

However, the county is faced with such challenges as: Community attitude towards waste management; Perception that it is responsibility of Government; Low funding of the sector; Low capacity of Support staff and waste pickers; Huge volumes of unsorted waste; Low enforcement levels; E- waste and hazardous waste at disposal; Encroachment on Existing disposal sites; 'Not in my backyard' attitude (NIMBY); and Transportation of garbage over long distances.

On Partnerships, the County Government of Kiambu started formal engagement with the UN Habitat African Region which

---

culminated to a Partnership in 2014. The Partnership launched an innovative approach to waste solid management, 'the Fukuoka method of semi-aerobic landfill'. Swedish Embassy in Kenya- provided financial support for the initiative. UN Habitat invited Fukuoka University through the UN Habitat Asia Pacific for technology transfer. The main output of this engagement was the construction of the Kang'oki Semi-aerobic land fill. Other synergies emerged too such as: Liquid Waste Consultancy; Revenue Enhancement Component; Youth Component; and; Community waste pickers programme.

Kiambu County has three main solid waste dumpsites at Thika- Kang'oki, Kiambu- Gioto and Limuru- Bibiloni dumpsite. In all the sites there are waste pickers/ scavengers. Waste picking ranks lowest in the hierarchy of urban informal occupations and a large number of those employed in this occupation are young men and children. They are normally illiterate and unskilled persons who comprise the poorest of the poor, who are unable to find any other kind of employment. However in the recent past, an investor ( Alternative Energy Systems) has been stockpiling all forms of plastics for use in the pyrolysis plant to convert all forms of plastics to industrial fuel. The County's future plans on sustainability include: Introduction of integrated waste management for sustainability(3Rs, intensive resource recovery, PPPs in waste management, expansion of Kang'oki land fill); Procurement of 50ton/day waste segregation unit in place and operations to commence November 2016; Formation of a waste management authority ; Implementation of the Waste strategic plan; Enhanced community and stakeholders participation on environmental conservation; County policy and Legislation; Promotion of renewable energy; Continued embracement of international partners e.g. JICA, UN HABITAT, SDI- Kenya, Sweden Embassy.

---

## CONCLUSION

---

The first-ever Pan-African Youth Conference on 'Partnership for Capacity Development on Sustainable Urbanization, Protection Against Hazardous Chemicals and Waste towards Achieving 2030 agenda for sustainability' in Kenya focusing on the African continent and was a massive success. It attracted a wide array of young Africans and organizations, including from governments, the private sector, civil society and the academia. It also generated a wide range of expectations, including by fully complementing the past, current Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAS).

As a lead host, strategic partner and co-organizer, National Youth Green Growth Secretariat, remains proud to continue to play an increasing role in the sharing information, building capacities and creating partnerships towards enhancing sustainable development. The Secretariat, with support from leading partners such as Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, UN-Environment and UN-Habitat and many private sector players, will continue to do so in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, as well as within the twin principles of African ownership and multilateral partnership.

Drafter/Moderator: Jacob Olonde, Environment and Climate Change Expert

1. We, the Pan African Youths, delegates from African countries, together with the government representatives, partner organizations, representatives of the private sector and civil society organizations met in Nairobi Kenya, 19th-20 April 2017, for the Pan-African Youth Conference Themed: Partnerships for Capacity Development on Sustainable Urbanization, Protection Against Hazardous Chemicals and Waste towards Achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainability,
2. Recognizing that Pan African Youth conference on Hazardous Chemicals and waste as the first of its kind to be held in Africa, organized by the National Youth Green Growth Secretariat. The Secretariat has been serving as pioneering multi-stakeholder forum for cooperation on Green Economy and Sustainable development,
3. Acknowledging the achievements made to date, we affirm that this conference, which derives from a proposal from African youths themselves, is a manifestation of youth interest in and ownership of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainability. We affirm that this occasion opens up a new chapter for African youth partnership in the Sustainability process.
4. Recalling that Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes are some of the greatest challenges of our time, which under-mines the ability of African nations to achieve sustainable development and youth prosperity,
5. Aware that air pollution contributes to more than 7 million premature deaths worldwide annually, with an estimated 776,000 deaths occurring in Africa from both indoor and outdoor air pollution, and that poor air quality is a cross-cutting issue and negatively impedes sustainable development in all economic sectors, people's productivity and health, provide the footnote.
6. Noting that prevention and minimization of hazardous waste and other wastes at source are a critical stage of the waste management hierarchy:
7. Noting further that the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes has the potential to internalize costs, conserve valuable re-sources and reduce pollution;
8. Reaffirming the importance of national, sub-national governments, private sector and Civil society organizations in mainstreaming waste prevention, minimization and environmentally sound recovery principles into their development strategies
9. Appreciating the magnitude of the global mobilization of young people to provide input in addressing sustainable development challenges, we propose the Pan-African Youth Conference to be annual event,
10. Underlining the importance of youth participation in advancing social innovation that reduces vulnerability of youths and the environment, supports integrated approach in the implementation of policies and guidelines in relevant sectors with focus on Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions among others

11. Deciding that; the third meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 3) presents an opportunity to align, youth-focused plans, programmes and commitments with the principles and approaches set out in the 2030/2063 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement with the aim of revitalizing the political support for the youth-led efforts to achieve the sustainable management;
12. Welcomes Resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste, of the United Nations Environment Assembly , (Citation)
13. Stressing that; the integration of policies set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement is an adequate avenue for promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships for action on capacity development to support green cities in Africa,
14. Acknowledging that; green economy can be a vehicle to achieve all 17 sustainable development goals and that increasing investments will help in achieving the economic, social and environmental goals outlined by the global community
15. Directing the National Youth Green Growth Secretariat, under the guidance of the United Nations Environmental and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation efforts to address the challenge of hazardous Chemicals and Wastes by:
  - i. Joining efforts in the areas of education, training, awareness, meaningful and inclusive participation, access to accurate and timely information and collaboration;
  - ii. Reinforcing and stepping up the African youth involvement in partner-ship programmes and initiatives;
  - iii. Strengthening collaboration between Youth led organizations, United Nations bodies and other stakeholders working in related to adaptation, mitigation and the transition to a Pollution Free World in a manner that reinforces synergies, avoids duplication and maximizes efficiency and effectiveness; (citation)
  - iv. Reinforcing Pan-African youth support for and participation in air pollution monitoring and assessments;
16. Further Requests the Secretariat to collaborate with other interested partners and relevant organizations to further elaborate the plan of action from this conference, taking into account the special nature of hazardous chemicals and wastes, its distinctive features, and problems needing distinctive solutions,
17. mandates the Secretariat to report on and share these resolutions in relevant fora including the 3rd Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly,
18. Expresses our gratitude to the Minis-try of Environment and Natural Re-sources, UN Environment-International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), Safaricom, National Environment Management Authority, County Government of Nairobi as host of the Pan-African Youth Conference among other partners
19. We call upon all convening parties to enhance collaboration between actors at all levels and appropriately involving young people;

Dated: 20/04/2017

Pan African Youth Conference 2017



**nema**  
mazingira yetu | uhai wetu | wajibu wetu



# PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE REPORT 2017

19th -20th April 2017  
United Nations Complex, Nairobi, Kenya,

*“Partnership for capacity development on sustainable urbanization, protection against hazardous chemicals and waste towards achieving 2030 agenda for sustainability in Africa”*

Supported By:



Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources of Kenya

