

Dear colleagues,

Thank you very much for this advance version of the Background Report of the Executive Director on the theme of the third session of the Assembly, Towards a Pollution-Free Planet and the opportunity to provide our comments. It is a very interesting report which has various linkages to the issues addressed by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

We have two sets of comments. The first set of comments is specifically included in the report with some textual suggestions, primarily in the executive summary and section 2.1.

The second set of comments is presented below.

- There is a general mention of the existence and of work of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and chemicals & wastes (now Mr. Baskut Tuncak) (page 21), with a link to the mandate general webpage (in footnote No. 83), however the last paragraph seems incomplete. Also, there are no references on the specific issue under his mandate i.e. children and hazardous substances & wastes, which would fit well in the report, as the particular case of children and pollution are covered by the report. More information about the Rights of the Child and Hazardous Substances and Wastes and the Special Rapporteur can be found here: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/ToxicWastes/Pages/RightsOfTheChildHazardousSubstancesWastes.aspx>. In this regard, the report could mention this issue, and also refer to the Special Rapporteur's latest report to the Human Rights Council in September 2016 which examines the impacts of toxics and pollution on children's rights, and the obligations of States and responsibilities of businesses in preventing exposure by children to such substances. The report is available here: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/169/26/PDF/G1616926.pdf?OpenElement>
- There is another UN Special Rapporteur, whose mandate is of a much broader scope and has important relevance for UN Environment as a whole, i.e. on Human Rights & the Environment (now Prof. John Knox). His next report to the Human Rights Council's March session in 2018, will also focus on environment and children. More information is found here: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/Pages/SREnvironmentIndex.aspx>
- Finally, we wish to bring to your attention another recent 2017 WHO report which is of direct relevance to the present report: "Don't pollute my future! The impact of the environment on children's health" at: <http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/don-t-pollute-my-future/en/>.

We are at your disposal should you have any questions with regard to our comments.