



Environment and Social Development Organization

ESDO Views on OEWG 2.0 Science Policy Panel

ESDO advocates for the reliance on robust, impartial scientific findings in shaping policies concerning chemicals and waste at national, regional, and international levels. These policies should be founded on principles such as the precautionary principle, the obligation of industries to provide information, and the entitlement of citizens to be informed. The right to access a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is considered a fundamental human right, along with the implementation of evidence-based policies aimed at safeguarding the human rights of individuals and communities facing exposure to harmful substances and wastes.

ESDO believes that the access to information is the right according to the UN convention, yet, still the developing countries are lagging behind. Particularly there is a huge barrier at national and global level, access to information and proper data; so that we need to focus more science-based solution and study practical issues which can generate more appropriate data and information. Science policy panel should ensure to take initiatives for authentic, transparent and independent data as well as data base.

Furthermore, science-based solution should be emphasized which will direct to the national and global policy. It should be focused in all UN Convention along with implementation mechanism and justifications. The execution will be able to achieve SDG goals by 2030. During last five decades, we have learnt and experience all the implementation processes; there is huge lack of implementation due to knowledge and information gap that was not focusing on science-based solution.

However, gender issue is not addressed in detail in terms of chemicals and other implementations. Nearly every chemical industry, including textile, home, laboratory, agricultural, waste management etc. employs both men and women. Due to the fact that women perform tasks directly involving chemicals in Bangladesh, women are more likely to be impacted by them than men, and part of the problem is the absence of regulated occupational health safety procedures and standard wages. Environmental education programs have the potential to improve performance, prevent hazardous situations, and provide equal access to jobs and other services by incorporating gender views. Some of the environmental plans and programs for women's rights and gender equality include; participation in decision-making processes, livelihoods and economic opportunities, occupational health safety measures, education and awareness, gender-responsive policies, capacity building programs and support for women's organizations.

It is known to all that gender equality is a fundamental human right that is well-established in international law. Women and girls should be free to realize their potential and rights in all aspects of their lives. To ensure the goal of gender equality (SDG #5), in 2017, we developed a Gender Initiative to empower women in our work to achieve a toxics-free future. It has focused on their ideas and achievements and reflects global trends and accumulation of evidence about what should be done to close the existing gaps in gender equality. Our Gender Initiative aims to enhance the role of women and women's leadership in local, regional, national, and global efforts to reduce exposures to harmful chemicals and wastes.

Member of

