**Women’s Leadership in SIDS Chemicals and Waste Management**

**ISLANDS Webinar**

ISLANDS—with its commitment to gender-responsive approaches and outcomes—is launching its Community of Practice on ISLANDS Gender Equality and kick-starting engagement with a learning opportunity to provide background knowledge from international to local level on policy, research, and action, showcasing women’s leadership in advancing progress toward gender equality in chemicals and waste management.

**Introduction**

Toxic chemicals, waste, and pollutants pose serious environmental and health consequences to all people. But due to lived experiences differentiating exposure routes, as well as biophysical characteristics, women and men, and children are impacted differently by chemicals and waste throughout value chains and life cycles. Often, however, women have fewer opportunities to engage and lead on relevant aspects of chemicals and waste, and gender issues are not considered or factored in during chemicals and waste planning, decision-making, research, policy, or initiatives, putting at risk effective implementation for sustainable and equitable outcomes.

Under the GEF-funded [Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States](https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/press-releases/island-nations-get-new-lifeline-beat-pollution) (ISLANDS) Programme, gender-mainstreaming is a pillar of execution. With ISLANDS, a pathway to sustainable chemical management is possible. But the needle will only shift with comprehensive gender mainstreaming in all policies, plans, processes, and measures as part and parcel to SIDS’ chemical and waste management.

Evidence, advocacy, and leadership are already shifting the narrative for more equitable policy and practice, including increasing women’s leadership in chemicals and waste management arenas, and ISLANDS is mobilizing to catalyze this action for transformative outcomes.

This webinar will be the first of many, inviting ISLANDS stakeholders and actors into ongoing engagement and collaboration via the [Green Forum](https://thegreenforum.org/) ISLANDS Community of Practice on ISLANDS Gender Equality where we will explore the evidence-base, advocacy, and mobilization, as well as initiatives and measures underway on mainstreaming gender-responsive action and solutions.

Join ISLANDS, and stakeholders across the globe, in learning more on the dynamics, drivers, and diversity of people that are impacted as the Community of Practice debuts for knowledge sharing, collaboration and partnership to turn the tide for environment and human health, and justice.

**Event overview**

**Objectives**

The objectives of this webinar are to:

1. showcase women-led and gender-just solutions in SIDS’ chemicals and waste management from grassroots to national and international levels in policy, practice and entrepreneurship.
2. Raise awareness and understanding on the existing knowledge and gaps in gender and chemicals and waste.
3. Facilitating SIDS-SIDS engagement with cross-country, -cultural, -sectoral learning for efficient, effective, and equitable outcomes.
4. Engage and initiate collaboration among relevant stakeholders in ISLANDS and beyond to participate in and strengthen ISLANDS Gender Equality Community of Practice.

**Date and time**

November 30th corresponding UTC (GMT) 21:00

In the regions:

November 30th 17:00-18:30 (Port of Spain, Trinidad) (AST) (GMT-4)

November 30th 22:00-23:30 (Geneva, Switzerland) (CET) (GMT+1)

December 1st 7:00–8:30 (Port Moresby, PNG) (GMT+10)

December 1st 9:00–10:30 (Suva, Fiji) (GMT+12)

**Target audiences**

This webinar will be open to the public and relevant to all stakeholders in the global effort to advance gender equality in line with the sustainable development Agenda 2030, and sustainable chemical and waste management. The event will target multiple stakeholders across sectors with foundational knowledge sharing, and establishing the Community of Practice. Key audience members include:

* Government representatives from ISLANDS countries focused on eliminating and reducing chemicals and waste.
* National gender machinery representatives from ISLANDS countries to raise awareness and build their engagement on the gender and chemicals linkages, and encourage participation in the Community of Practice.
* Researchers, civil society, NGOs, and youth, with a particular focus on women, women’s groups, and gender equality organizations/ networks/advocates will be encouraged to participate to expand learning, collaboration, and continue participation through the Community of Practice.

**Agenda** (AST) (GMT-4)

**17h00-17h05** Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Speaker:** Melanie Ashton, Project Coordinator and Private Sector Engagement Specialist, ISLANDS

**17h05-17h15** Government leadership and commitment from international policy to national implementation

**Speaker:** Keima Gardiner, Waste Management Specialist and President, Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Ministry of Planning and Development, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**17h15-17h30** Why Gender matters in chemicals and waste

**Speaker:** Anna Holthaus, Project Coordinator, Gender and Chemicals, MSP Institute

**17h30-17h40** **Q & A**

**17h40-18h20** Facilitated women and youth-leader discussion

**Panelists:**

Ruth Spencer, Deputy Chair of the Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust, Antigua and Barbuda

Marina Keil, Founder and Director, Samoa Recycling Waste Management Association (SRWMA)

Tanya Yanuyanurua, Pacific Recycling Foundation (PRF), Research Development & Projects Officer, and youth recycling activist

**18h20-18h30** Official Launch of the Green Forum ISLANDS Gender Equality Community of Practice

Closing reflections

**Speaker:** Margaux Granat, Gender Specialist, ISLANDS

**Contacts**

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**Partner Background**

**About ISLANDS**

The Global Environment Facility [Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States](https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/press-releases/island-nations-get-new-lifeline-beat-pollution) (ISLANDS) Programme supports 33 Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) across the Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans to safely and sustainably manage chemical and hazardous waste. A global project connects and facilitates SIDS-SIDS learning across and between project regions including through dedicated communities of practice on the Green Forum.

**About UN Environment Programme**  
UNEP is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.