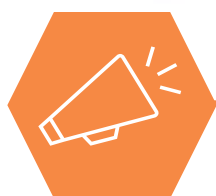




Global Chemicals and Health Network Newsletter



News

World Health Assembly Update

During the 74th meeting of the World Health Assembly, held from 24 to 31 May 2021, among others, the following documents were discussed:

- Health, environment and climate change - WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through healthy environments – A74/41, and
- The role of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond – A74/42.

The Member States, in their interventions, underlined the importance of actions taken by WHO and reported in the documents. They supported the continuity of that work. Some also recognized the importance of the GCHN. The decisions requesting Director-General to report to the next WHA on progress made in the implementation of: (1) the WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change, and (2) the chemicals road map, as well as on actions undertaken by the Secretariat to update the road map in the light of the outcome of the intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 were adopted. For more information, please click [here](#).

Online self-training course on the WHO Chemicals Road Map – available SOON

WHO is going to launch the English and French versions of the self-training course on the chemicals road map in July. The Spanish version was launched by Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in 2020. The course is designed for public health professionals from government, academic institutions and the private sector who focus on environmental health.

All language versions will be available on the [Virtual Campus for Public Health of PAHO/WHO website](#). The direct link to the course will be published on the WHO website and disseminated via emails soon.



Events: Upcoming Webinars

On 16 July 2021, an online event dedicated to human biomonitoring (HBM) will take place. It will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss the role of HBM in informed health decision-making and cooperation for its effective use. To register to the event, please click [here](#). Presentations and recording will be available on the GCHN SharePoint site in the section for Network Documents and Meeting Reports. This event is the sixth of a series of virtual events for GCHN. The materials from previous events are also available on the SharePoint site.

Other events:

- **6 July 2021** – Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe event to enhance the health sector engagement in the process defining the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) beyond 2020 organized by. To register please click [here](#).
- **22 July 2021** - regional webinar on the WHO Chemicals Road Map and national experience on the road map implementation and sound management of chemicals will be presented.



Publications: What's New

National Case Studies

WHO has published a series of national case studies on the implementation of the chemicals road map. They are available [on the GCHN website](#). They are also published on the SAICM Knowledge Platform as examples of engagement of the health sector in implementation of the Strategic Approach. All Network members are invited to share the experiences they had preparing their case study.

WHO Guidance

Since January 2021, WHO has launched:

- Updated WHO [guidelines](#) for establishing a poison centre;
- Five new guidance documents related to mercury and health: (1) Minamata Convention on Mercury: an annotated bibliography of WHO information; (2) Exposure to mercury: a major public health concern, second edition; (3) Step-by-step guide for developing a public health strategy for artisanal and small-scale gold mining in the context of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; (4) Developing public health strategies for artisanal and small-scale mining within the Minamata Convention on Mercury: findings and lessons learned from country workshops; and (5) Human biomonitoring in artisanal and small-scale gold mining: ethical and scientific principles. These are available in the six official languages and Portuguese on the [WHO publications website](#).

Report on children's health and e-waste

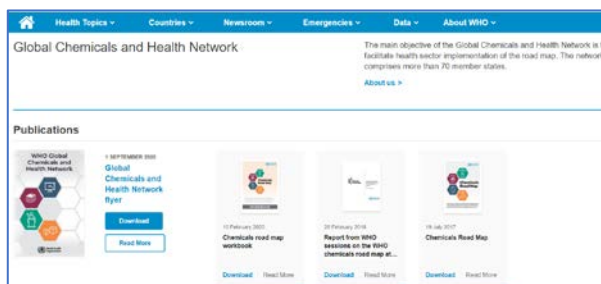
In June, WHO launched its first comprehensive publication on electronic waste, entitled Children and digital dumpsites, e-waste exposure and child health. It is available along with a series of complementary documents on e-waste and child health in all United Nations official languages and on the [WHO children's environmental health website](#) and dedicated e-waste page.



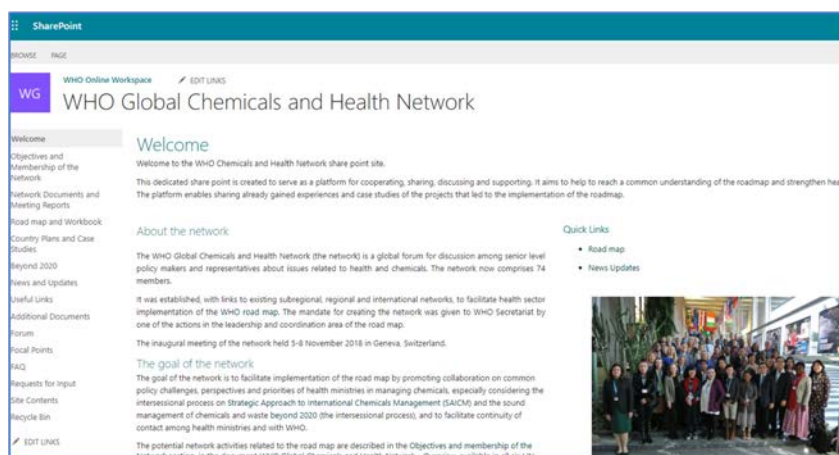
GCHN – Network updates

As of 1 June 2021, GCHN comprised 75 members representing Member States from all over the world.

More information about the Network is available on the [WHO dedicated website](#).



The Network's SharePoint site has been available since December 2019, and is where documents and reports related to the Network and road map implementation can be accessed. Members who still do not have access to the SharePoint site are invited to join it.



Spotlight

- The 5th round of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Special Programme has been launched. GCHN members are encouraged to apply for funding through the UNEP Special Programme. More details can be found [here](#).
- Beyond 2020 survey
Online survey on stakeholders' experience of the virtual working group process conducted from October 2020 to February 2021. To participate in the survey click [here](#). Deadline: 16 July 2021.

