

Elements for a high-level declaration for the post-2020 framework on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

(Input from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)

All of the elements of the Dubai declaration of 2006 are still relevant and could be maintained or updated. There are two aspects which are insufficiently reflected in the Dubai declaration and which could more prominently be reflected in a "Bonn declaration":

1. Economic impact

It is important to affirm that the economic impact from the adverse effects of chemicals is significant. For example, the OECD has estimated that the welfare costs from the exposure of lead alone in 2017 was 1.7 trillion US dollars worldwide [see https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=EXP_MORSC]

This could be highlighted in the High Level Declaration as follows.

"The economic impact from the adverse effects of chemicals is significant and a reduction of these effects will lead to increased sustainable economic growth."

[a footnote could refer to the OECD estimate of the economic impact of lead]

2. "All" chemicals

It will be crucial that countries set up legislative frameworks that allows them to assess and manage the risks of any type of chemical, including industrial and consumer chemicals. Too many countries still have no such legislative frameworks and cannot implement risk reduction measures even for chemicals for which the risks are well established and which are not covered by the Stockholm Convention.

In the High Level Declaration, this could be reflected by

- Replacing, where relevant in the text, "chemicals" by "all chemicals";
- Introducing an item as follows: "We are committed to set up national or regional legislative frameworks to manage the risks of all chemicals on the market."