Part II.2: Chemicals and polymers of concern

Malaysia supports the urgent need for us to have a strong control on the use of hazardous chemicals and groups of chemicals in plastics manufacturing. This should be backed by strong science with risk-based approach and leverage on established chemical management system or regulations such as the new Global Framework on Chemicals, which provides a roadmap for countries and stakeholders to collaboratively address the lifecycle of chemicals, including additives and polymers by developing a legally-binding chemical framework. This allows for a more comprehensive and holistic approach, in addition to providing opportunities for knowledge sharing, capacity building and best practices to close the gap between countries.

On risk-based approach, a risk assessment framework enables a decision maker to identify what hazards may be present, assess potential exposures to that hazard, and determine the extent of the risks to health or the environment, while taking existing precautions and regulatory structures into account.

For an example, pesticides are toxic and hazardous. If we are focused on hazards alone, usage of pesticides should not be allowed. However, pesticides are still in use as we manage the risks associated with the usage of pesticides. Eventhough pesticides are hazardous, we can still use them in relatively safe ways if there is limited/no exposure risks.

Malaysia advocates for any shortcomings and weaknesses in the existing chemical management system to be enhanced within the system itself to avoid encroachment and duplication of work, as well as not to duplicate and overlap with other existing Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA). Malaysia would like to promote improvement in transparency and declaration of product compliance to product safety regulations requirements by industry players.

Thank you.

25 April 2024