

INTERACTIVE PANEL DIALOGUE ON TOXIC WASTE
Tuesday 8 June 2010, 15:00 to 18:00; Geneva, Palais des Nations

Topic

The adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights.

Date

Tuesday 8 June 2010, from 15:00 to 18:00 during the 14th session of the Human Rights Council

Aims and Objectives

- To undertake comprehensive discussion on existing problems, new trends and solutions to the national and transboundary movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, which have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular in developing countries;
- To examine the impact of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes in all countries, in particular developing countries, on the enjoyment of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development;
- To discuss the current trends, good practices, challenges and possible solutions in this area with regard to human rights, and to consider possible measures to reduce and eradicate the negative impact of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights.
- To strengthen the collaboration between the international human rights mechanisms and procedures, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations agencies and bodies, including the secretariats of relevant international environmental conventions, in relation to the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes and their adverse effects on the enjoyment of human rights, with a view to mainstreaming a human rights-based approach in their work.

Speakers and panelists

- Mr. Okechukwu Obinna Ibeanu, Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights
- Ms. Katharina Kummer Peiry, the Executive Secretary of the The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Ms. Fe Sanchis-Moreno, Environmental Affairs Officer with the secretariat of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)
- Dr André Banhouman Kamate, Président de la Ligue Ivoirienne de Droits de l'Homme (LIDHO)

Format

The presentations of the panelists will be followed by an interactive discussion. This discussion will be divided in two slots of 60 minutes each (45 minutes for comments and questions from

the floor, followed by 15 minutes for comments and replies by panelists). The interactive debate will be followed by concluding remarks from the moderator.

The modalities of the panel are: 7 minutes from panelists, 3 minutes for Member States and 2 minutes for Observer States, national human rights institutions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. It is foreseen that a video/movie will be shown during the panel in the duration of approximately 10 minutes.

Member States, national human rights institutions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to participate and make their contributions to the debate, subject to the modalities and the practice of the Council. In particular, NGO coordination is strongly encouraged to maximize the use of time.

Outcome

The debate will increase awareness and understanding of the existing and current trends of the issue of adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights. Through the examination of the human rights impact of the issue, possible solutions will be identified and discussed, including good practices and possible measures to eliminate, or reduce to a minimum, the negative impact. An informal summary of the debate will be posted on the OHCHR website.

Background

OP6 of A/HRC/RES/12/18 invites the Office of the High Commissioner on Human rights to organize the panel on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, with a view to informing the future work of the Special Rapporteur.

In 1995, the Commission on Human Rights noted that the illicit dumping of toxic and dangerous wastes and products has an adverse effect on the enjoyment of several human rights, and decided to appoint, for a period of three years, a Special Rapporteur with a mandate to examine the human rights aspects of this issue.

The mandate was reviewed during the 9th session of the Human Rights Council. Resolution 9/1 extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period of three years, and strengthened it so as to cover all kinds of movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes. On the basis of resolution 9/1, the Special Rapporteur has now the task to investigate the adverse effects that both transboundary and national movements and the dumping of hazardous products and wastes have on the enjoyment of human rights. Furthermore, the resolution requests the Rapporteur to study the potential adverse effects of all hazardous products and wastes, whether illicit or not.