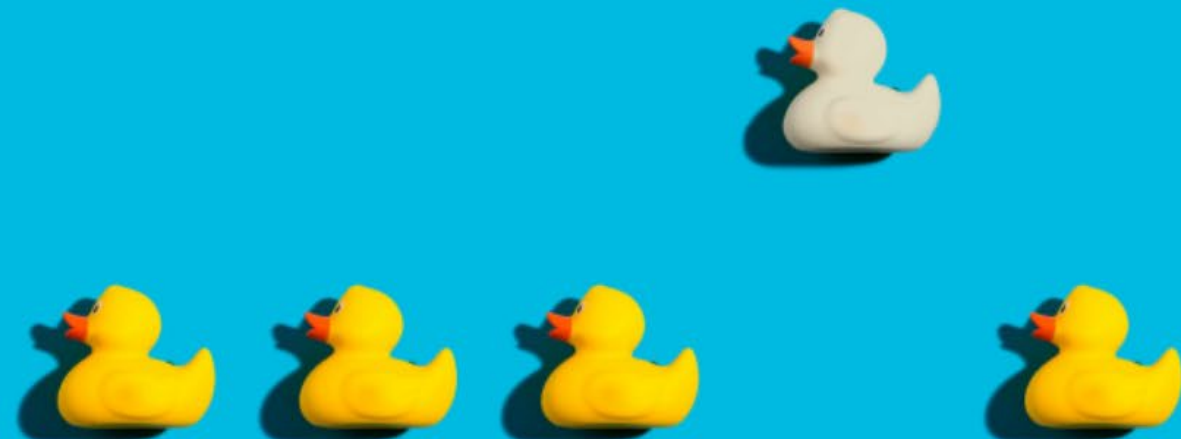


COMMUNICATING PRODUCT SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION RELATED TO CHEMICALS



One planet
inform with care



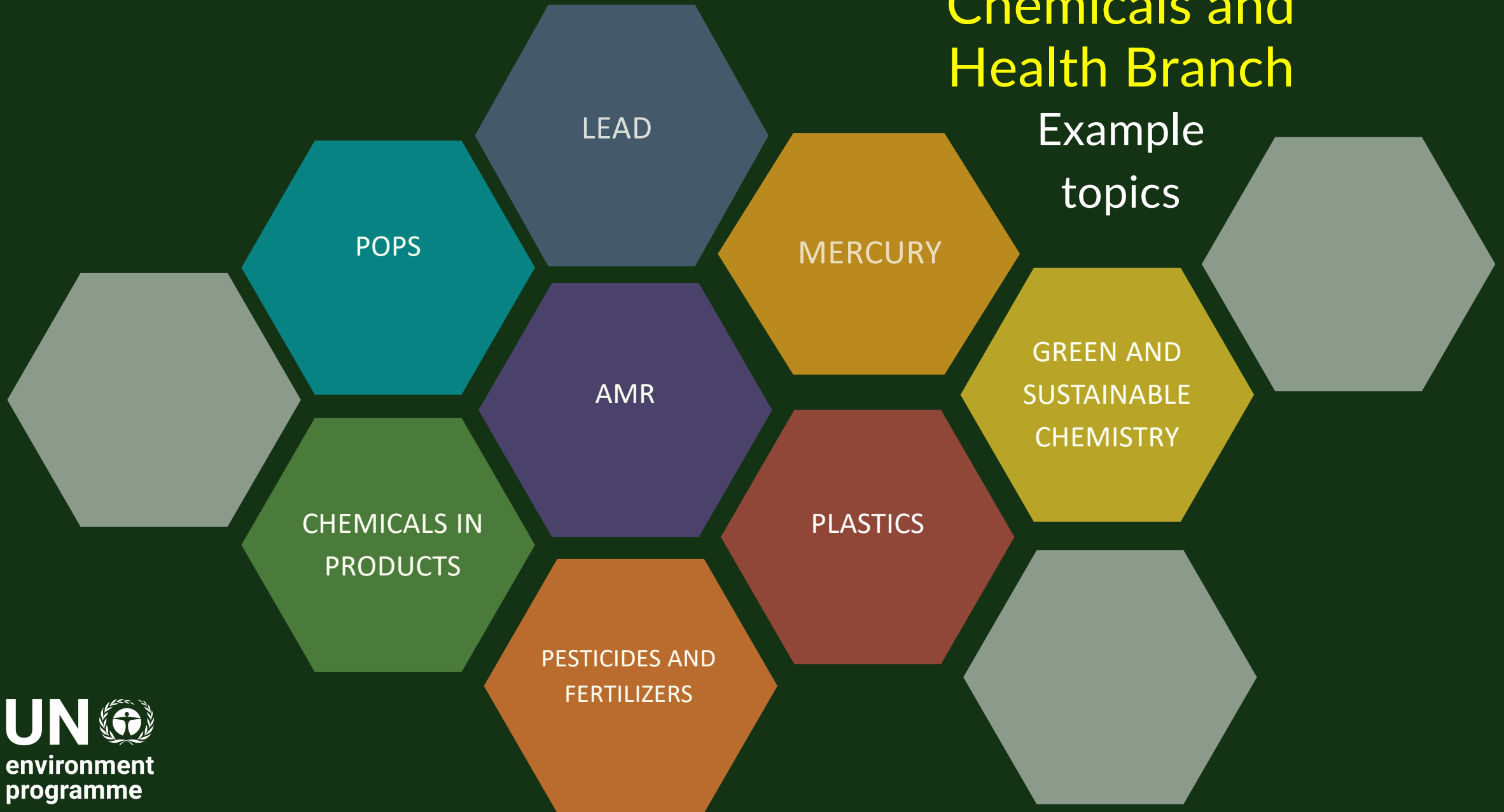
8th meeting of the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Information and International Workshop on Access to Product Information
Geneva, 9-10 November 2023

UN 
environment
programme

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Chemicals and Health Branch

Example topics



Key activities:

- Gathers and analyses state of the art information and data
- Translates the data for policy makers
- Provides in country technical support

Sectorial work:

- Extractive industry
- Agribusiness
- Chemicals industry
- Buildings
- Textile,
- Electronic, toys etc.



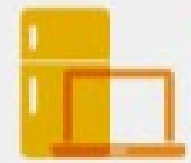
**TOYS AND
OTHER
CHILDREN'S
PRODUCTS**



FURNITURE



**PACKAGING,
INCLUDING
FOOD
CONTACT
MATERIALS**



**ELECTRICAL
AND
ELECTRONIC
EQUIPMENT**



TRANSPORT



**PERSONAL
CARE AND
HOUSEHOLD
PRODUCTS**



**MEDICAL
DEVICES**



**BUILDING
MATERIALS**



**SYNTHETIC
TEXTILES**



**AGRICULTURE
AQUACULTURE
AND FISHERIES**

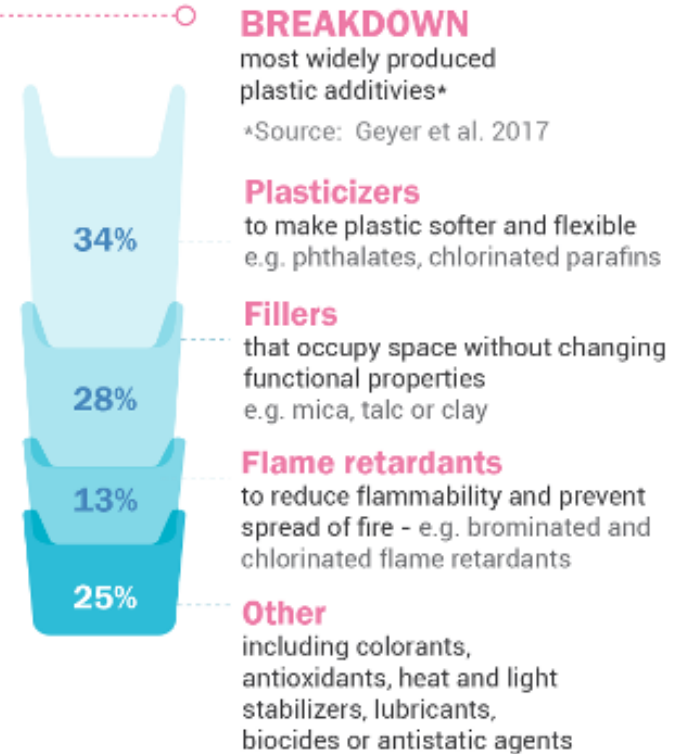
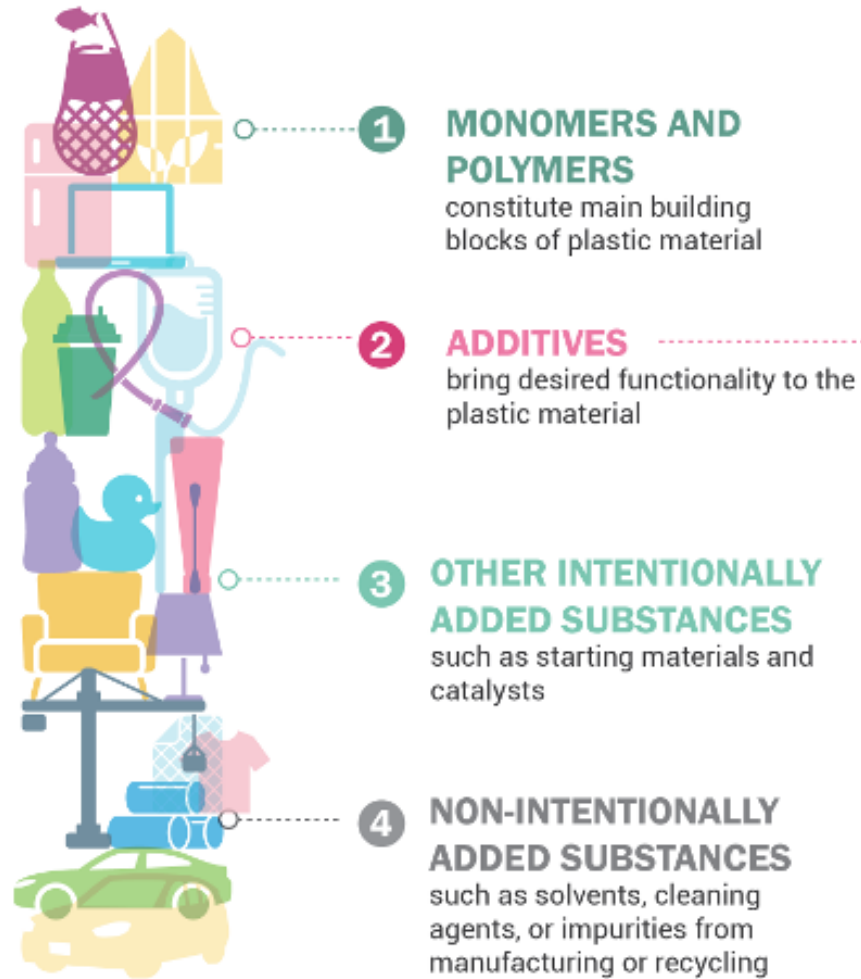
CHEMICALS IN PRIORITY SECTORS



EXAMPLE

ANATOMY OF PLASTICS WHAT'S IN MY PLASTICS?

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/chemicals-plastics-technical-report>



EXAMPLE



HUMAN EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS IN PLASTICS

SOURCES



EVERYDAY PLASTIC PRODUCTS, e.g. plastic-based food contact materials, building materials, electronics, textile, clothing and personal care and household products



CHILDREN'S products e.g. toys, clothing or furniture.



OCCUPATIONAL exposure at various stages of the plastic value chain

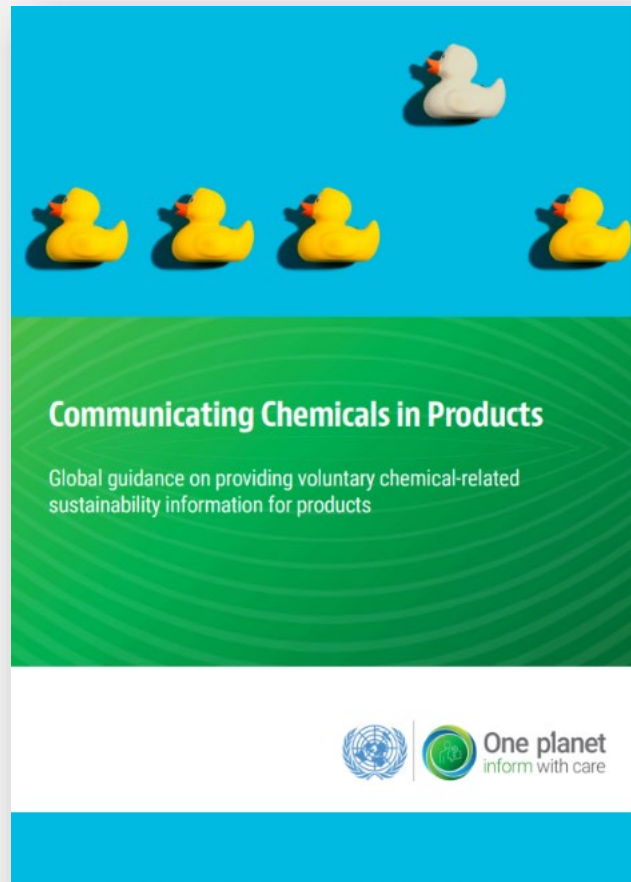
EXPOSURE PATHWAYS examples

- inhalation of contaminated air
- ingestion of contaminated food, water and dust
- dermal contact



ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS examples

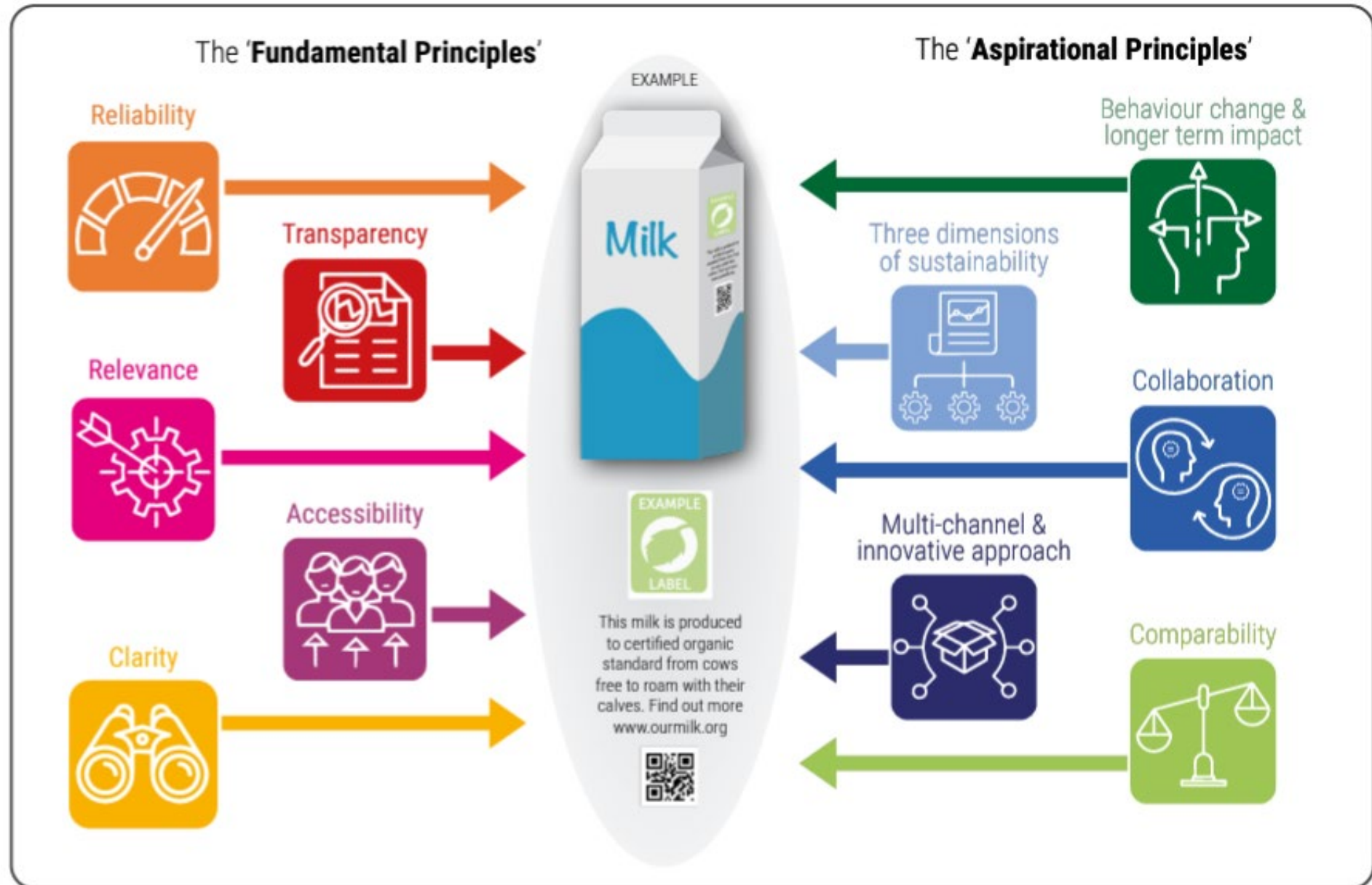
- abnormal hormone functions
- reduced fertility
- damaged nervous system
- hypertension/ cardiovascular disease
- lung and liver cancer



This document explores means and considerations for better providing information on chemicals and material ingredients as part of product sustainability information, by addressing key topics related to chemicals in products.

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/knowledge-centre/resources/communicating-product-sustainability-information-related-chemicals>

COMMUNICATING PRODUCT SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION RELATED TO CHEMICALS



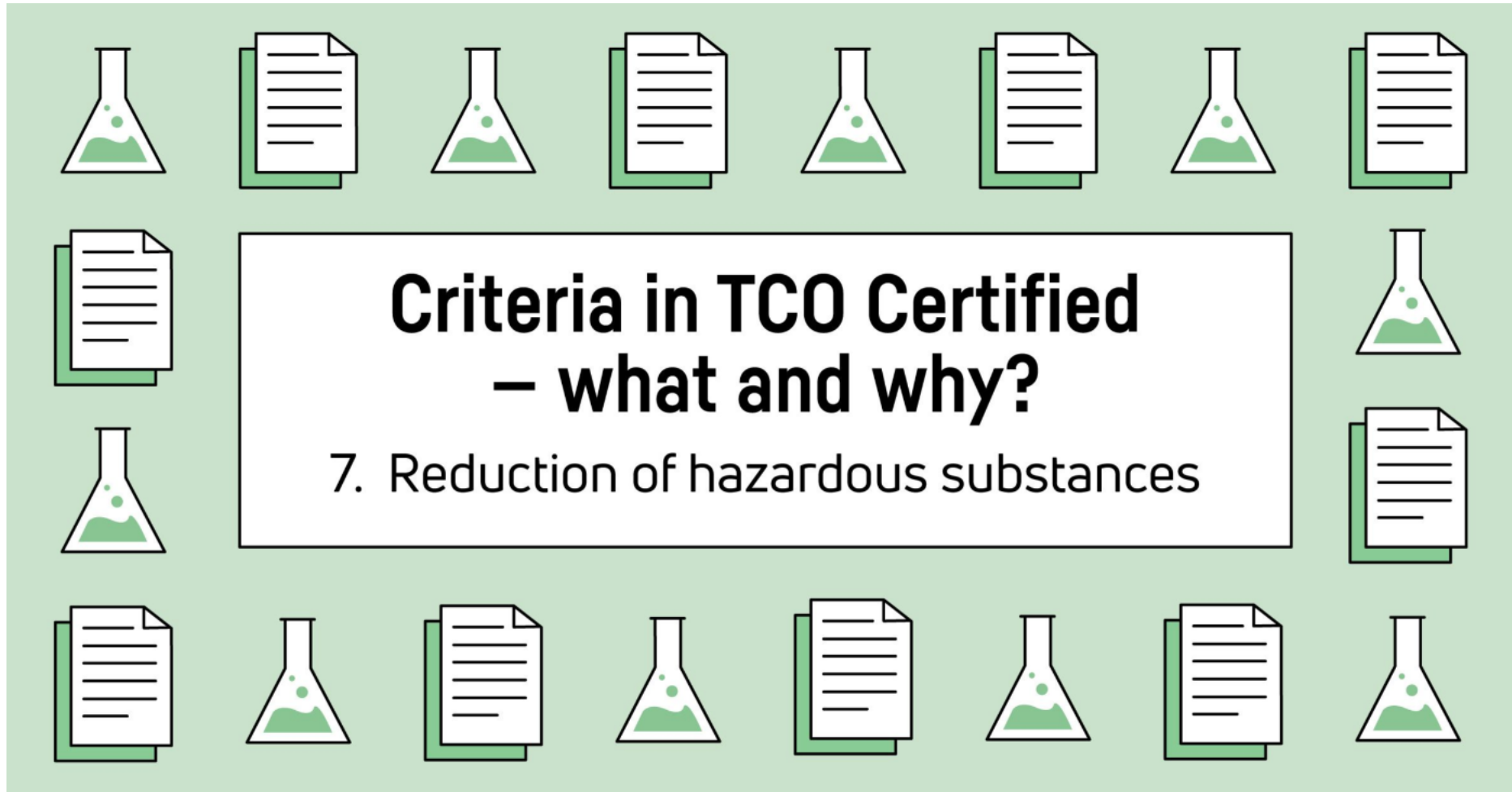
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

Ensuring that consumers are adequately informed about the chemicals contained in their products:

- Encourage the presence and enforcement of strong regulatory frameworks (compliance with MEAs and other global guidelines)
- Encourage manufacturers and suppliers to align their sustainability communications related to chemicals in products
- Promote the use of ecolabelling initiatives that provide independent and competent assurance to sustainability claims made in relation to chemicals in products
- Ensure that national, regional and local policy on information provision informs and empowers the consumer -including awareness raising campaigns
- Take measures to control online sales (require online sellers to comply with banned chemicals/ detention lists)

EXAMPLE

INTEGRATING A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO CHEMICAL SUBSTITUTION INTO PRODUCT SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATION



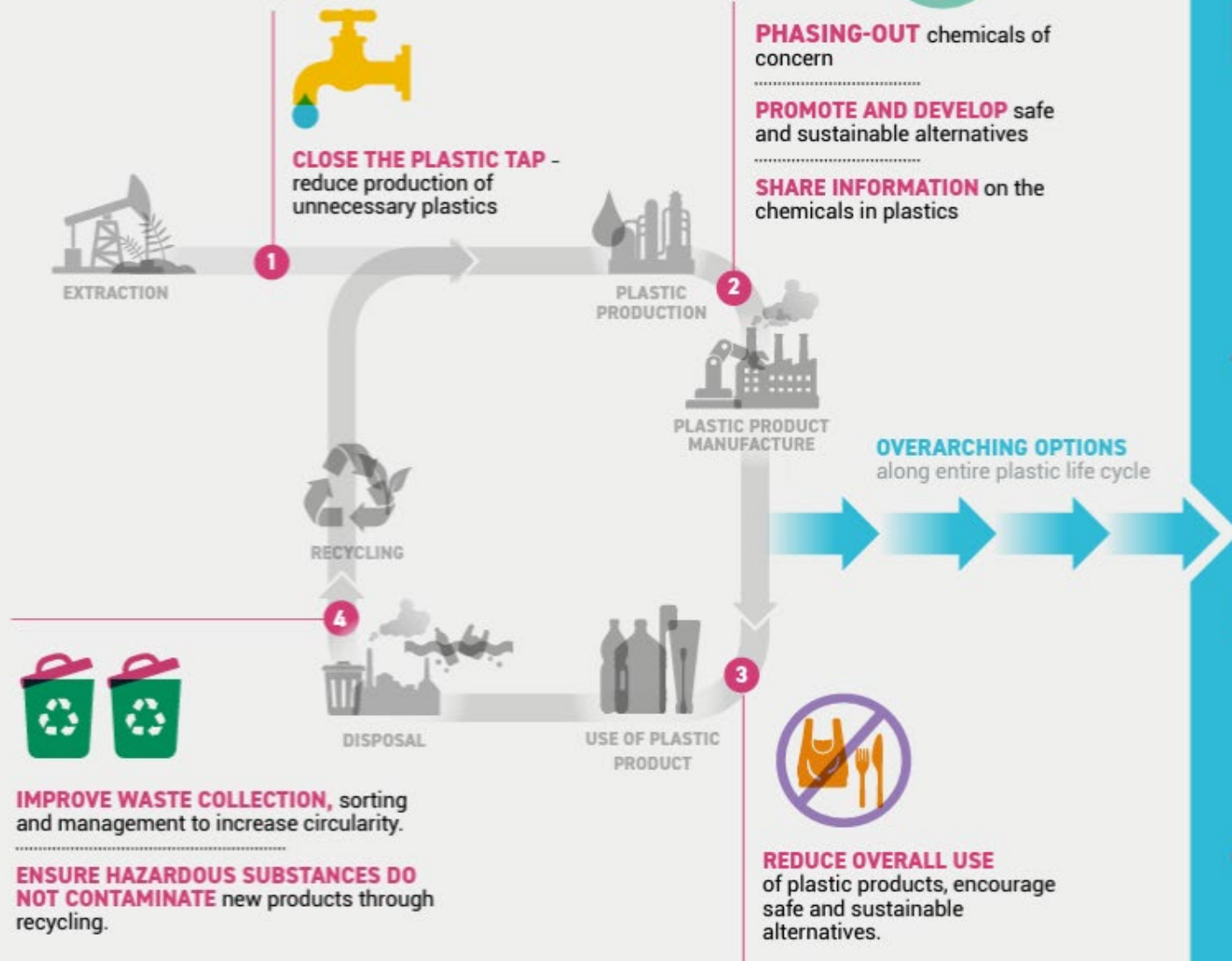
**Criteria in TCO Certified
– what and why?**

7. Reduction of hazardous substances

EXAMPLE

OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING CHEMICALS ALONG THE PLASTIC LIFE CYCLE

Source: United Nations Environment Programme and Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (2023). *Chemicals in plastics: a technical report*. Geneva.



REGULATIONS:
ADDRESS fragmentation and gaps in legal frameworks to cover chemicals along plastic life cycles
RESTRICT chemicals of concern in plastics globally



SCIENCE:
DEVELOP more robust methodologies to assess human and ecosystem exposure, and further research on impacts, in particular with respect to mixtures and multiple exposure pathways.



TRANSPARENCY:
IMPROVE transparency and information-sharing on chemicals along the plastic value chain



AWARENESS RAISING:
RAISE awareness on workplace safety and exposure reduction measures along the plastic value chain

EXAMPLE

ADDRESSING BANNED CHEMICALS IN PRODUCTS

SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS POTENTIALLY HARMFUL INGREDIENTS



Mercury

blocks the production of melanin, leading to a lighter skin tone



kidney and liver damage, neurological problems and childhood developmental issues

Hydroquinone

used to treat pigment disorders by reducing levels of melanin in skin



dermatitis, darkening of skin, neurological problems, growth retardation and possible cancerogenic

Steroids

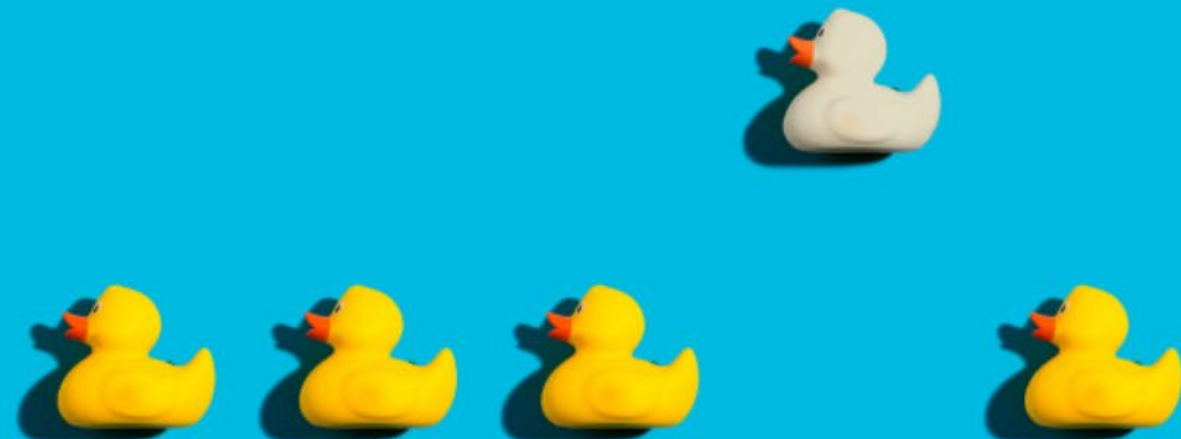
used to treat a range of skin conditions, including eczema, with skin whitening as a side effect



rashes, pustules, hair growth on the skin, and infections

1. Update national laws to be consistent with the Minamata Convention
2. Strengthen and ensure enforcement of the manufacturing and trade ban of mercury added cosmetics in the manufacturing countries
3. Control the production and trade of mercury-added compounds
4. Take measures to control online sales
5. **Raise awareness/educate consumers**

**COMMUNICATING
PRODUCT
SUSTAINABILITY
INFORMATION
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THANK YOU



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