March 21, 2024

Re: **Input on Pollution Information Portals**

Dear Special Rapporteur,

Information access has gained acceptance as a key element on the growing importance of environmental and health risks connected with hazardous chemicals. In this respect, pollution information portals have become essential in making these transparent and empowering communities towards environmental stewardship. This report aims to explore the meaning, challenges and possible improvements of pollution information portals with a focus on improving accessibility to essential data.

1. Improving Access to Details about Dangerous Chemicals

Further access into details about dangerous substance releases can be advanced using specific examples. An example is when real-time monitoring systems, community engagement initiatives, and simplified data visualization techniques can enhance accessibility and comprehension of pollution data.

2. Existing Pollution Information Portals: Importance And Challenges

This part will give an overview about some of the existing Pollution Information Portals like those required by international agreements such as Aarhus Convention or national regulations. It will also highlight their significance in promoting transparency, public participation among others. Additionally, it will address several challenges including restricted pollutant coverage which makes reporting non-mandatory hence hard to get adequate or any reporting particularly for producers that use complex amalgams etc.

3. Boosting Existing Pollution Information Portals

Expanding pollutant coverage; enhancing data accessibility and usability; increasing public awareness and participation; integrating with other environmental information platforms are some of the strategies that should be considered in strengthening existing Pollution Information Portals.

4. Problems associated with implementing OECD Guidelines and Kyiv Protocol

Harmonization, standardization and coordination among different national &international frameworks pose challenges in implementation of OECD guidelines as well as Kyiv Protocol. Addressing these problems would entail concerted efforts towards interoperability while aligning objectives.

5. Integrating Pollution Information Portals with Other Environmental Platforms

The integration problems between pollution information portals (PIP) and other environmental platforms arise from differences in mandates, format used for data and requirements of reporting. Solving these problems require fostering collaboration, harmonizing reporting standards as well as streamlining data exchange mechanisms.

6. Best Practices And Lessons Learnt

This section will look at the best practices and lessons learnt globally on how to prevent toxic pollution through establishment, enhancement or integration of Pollution Information Portals (PIPs). Further, case studies demonstrating successful approaches to pollution prevention and management will be evaluated.

In conclusion this report highlights the significance of Pollution Information Portals in promoting transparency, public participation, informed decision-making regarding hazardous substances. It also emphasizes that concerted efforts are required to address current challenges while maximizing prospects of better access to vital environmental and health information.

The report will present recommendations for policy makers, stakeholders as well as international bodies aimed at facilitating the establishment, enhancement and integration of Pollution Information Portals (PIPs). These recommendations will seek to overcome challenges by encouraging collaboration providing platforms for innovation besides ensuring effectiveness of PIPs in safeguarding human health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Daniel Thomas

Daniel Thomas
LitterScout Youth Network