Lessons learnt from 25 years of working with the Stockholm Convention and Plastics

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Plastics are transporting toxic chemicals into the food chain.
Plastic pellets from all sampled locations contained PCBs and UV-328
Plastics are transporting toxic chemicals globally – even before the plastics becomes plastic products.
78% of all samples contained Bisphenol A (BPA)

14/23 products labelled BPA-Free contained BPA
Bisphenol A leaching from polycarbonate baby bottles into baby food causes potential health issues

Ga Won Jeon, MD, PhD id

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Plastics are transporting toxic chemicals into our homes and our bodies with very limited controls and no transparency.
All analyzed toys contained Brominated flame retardants. 72/73 contained DecaBDE

Of 24 samples: 22 had Brominated flame retardants
22 had BPA, 24 had benzotriazole UV stabilizers (17 had UV-328)
When plastics that contain toxic chemicals are recycled they are transporting those chemicals into new products.
“found clear exposure-risk associations between heavy metals (lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic) and worker health. Particularly, we found workers exposed to As and Cr were more likely to incur cancer.”
Plastics are transporting toxic chemicals into the environment, into our food and into us.
### Chemicals currently under evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Used in plastics</th>
<th>Regrettable substitute for previous listings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methoxychlor</td>
<td></td>
<td>Replaced DDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UV-328</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dechlorane Plus</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Replaced DecaBDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium chained chlorinated paraffins</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Replaced short chained chlorinated paraffins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorpyrifos</td>
<td>(x)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-chained PFCAs</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1st May: Got listed with no exemptions!
Examples of chemical groups that could be prioritized

- Chlorinated paraffins
- PFAS
- Bisphenols
- Brominated flame retardants
- Dioxins
- Phtalates
- Benzotriazole UV-stabilizers
- And more...
Key Elements of the Stockholm Convention

• Global, legally binding mechanism to eliminate the world’s most dangerous chemicals
• Focus is on elimination rather than managing risk
• Provisions for addition of new chemicals beyond initial list of twelve
• Identification and inventory of contaminated sites for clean up
• Effectiveness evaluation
• Based on the precautionary principle
The Language of the Stockholm Convention

• “Aware of the health concerns...in particular impacts upon women and children and, through them, upon future generations.”
• “Conscious of the need for global action...”
• “Acknowledging that precaution underlies the concerns of all the Parties and is embedded within this Convention...” protect human health and the environment...”
• “Determined to
• “Acknowledging that the Arctic ecosystems and Indigenous communities are particularly at risk...”
The protection of human health and the environment should be reflected throughout the control measures of the Plastics Treaty.