



CHEM*Trust*

Protecting humans and wildlife
from harmful chemicals

 @CHEMTrust

<https://chemtrust.org>

Essential Use: proposal for a working group

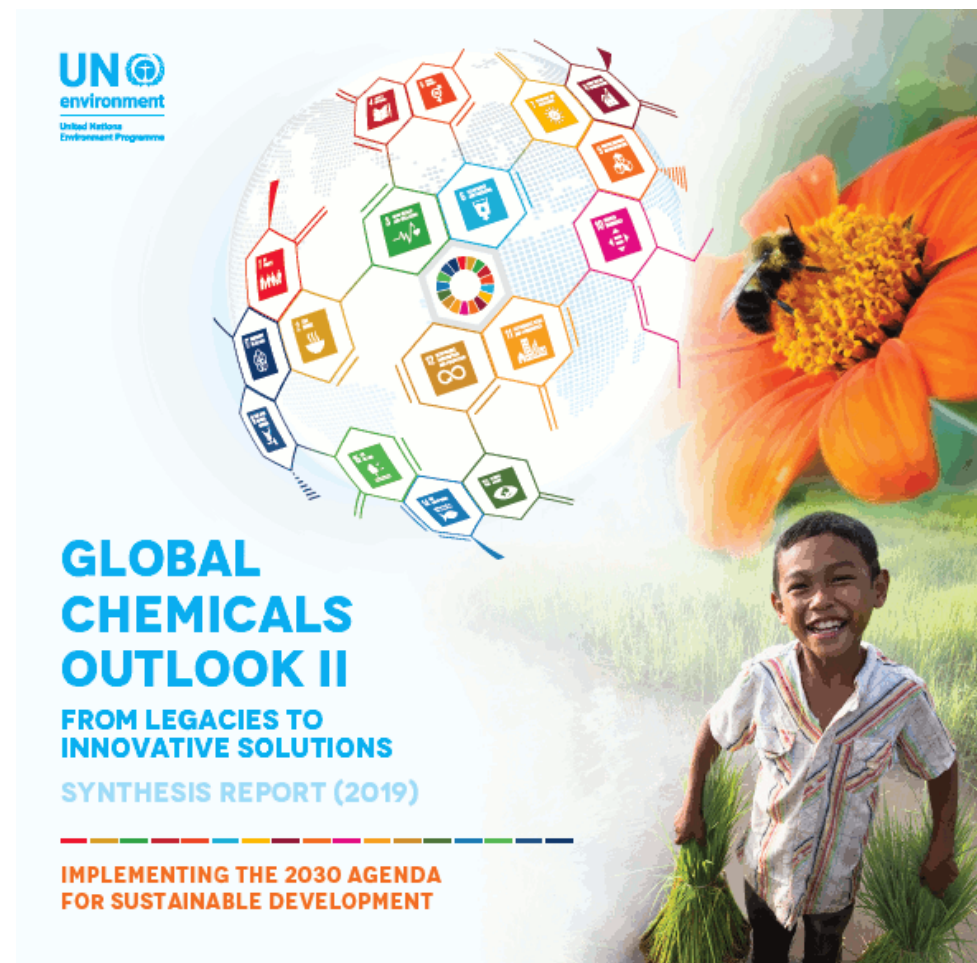
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What is the problem?

The history of chemical regulation is full of examples of 'too little, too late'.

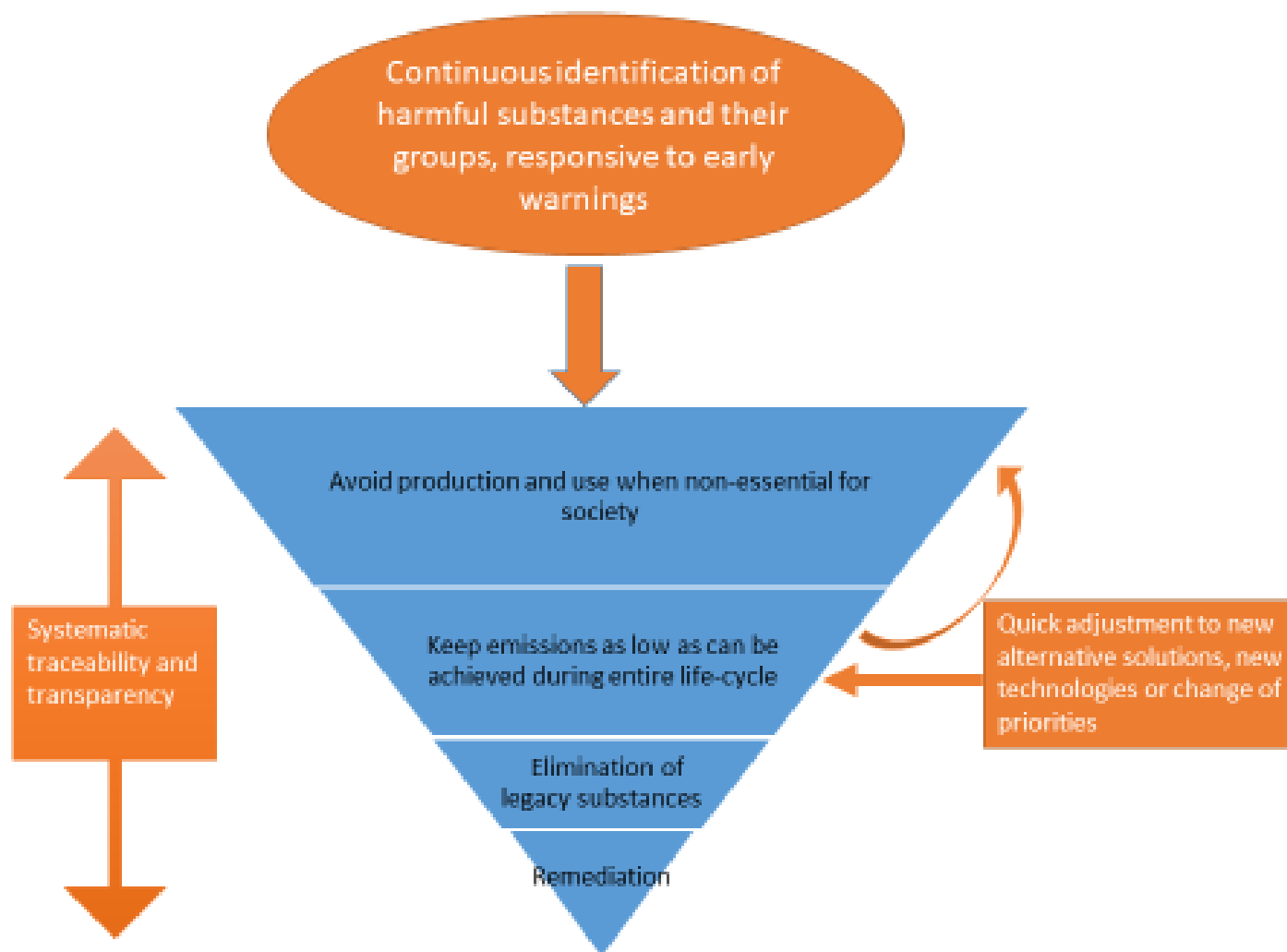
The UN's Global Chemical Outlook II report highlighted that the goal to minimise adverse impacts on human health and the environment from chemicals by 2020 will not be reached.

We need faster and more determined action and an acceleration of measures to control the impacts from harmful chemicals and reduce their flow into the environment.



Management of chemicals

Source: Client Earth



Not a new concept:

➤ Montreal Protocol

Used to phase out ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons except for certain 'essential' uses.

Identified two elements of essential use:

- **Necessary for health, safety and critical for the functioning of society.**
- **There are no available technically or economically feasible alternatives.**

➤ Restrictions on Persistent Organic Pollutants pre-REACH

e.g. PCBs could only be used in closed circuit system electrical equipment, large condensers and for certain other applications.

But a live concept...

- Proposal by 5 EU member states to restrict all non-essential uses of PFAS chemicals based on work by [Cousins et al, 2019](#).
- This proposal has three categories of uses:
 - Non-essential
 - Substitutable
 - Essential



What question are we asking when we talk about essential use of a chemical?

- Is the use of a chemical in a product essential eg. is the use of PFAS in cosmetics essential?

It's NOT:

- Is the chemical essential: eg. are PFAS essentials?

It's NOT:

- Is the product essential: eg. are cosmetics essentials?

Questions for the breakout sessions

- What interests you about this proposal?
- Do you have other examples of where essential use criteria have been applied in chemical management?
- If you were to join this group what would you like it to focus on?

If you are interested:

- Please email:

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