



**Future  
Policy  
Award**

# **For a Toxic-Free World**



**World  
Future  
Council**



**unitar**  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research



**MINAMATA  
CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY**



*“The Future Policy Award 2023 is of great importance as it shines a spotlight on policies aimed at creating a pollution-free world by regulating the use of hazardous chemicals in products, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding children and their surroundings. Responsible use of chemicals remains paramount in mitigating potential hazards and averting severe repercussions for the health of people, especially children and their environment.”*

**Steffi Lemke**, Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)



*“Chemicals hold undeniable significance within our society. Their indispensability becomes evident when we acknowledge the myriad of vital advantages they offer across various domains, notably in the realms of medical advancements and consumer goods. However, it is imperative to recognize that the judicious and conscientious employment of these substances is of utmost importance. By doing so, we can effectively mitigate the potential hazards they pose to human well-being and the environment.”*

**Nikil Seth**, UN Assistant Secretary General,  
Executive Director, UNITAR

# Dear reader,

Championing and spreading effective, future-just policy solutions is the principal goal of the World Future Council. Our Future Policy Award is the first award that celebrates legislation and policies that will benefit current and future generations at an international level. The aim of the award is to raise global awareness about these exemplary laws and accelerate action towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies. Each year we select a priority topic in which policy action is a particular requirement, and which also includes children's rights, youth empowerment, food security or agroecology, among other things.

In 2023, we are awarding policy solutions that protect people, especially children, and the environment from hazardous chemicals in products.

Experts from around the world have nominated **40 POLICIES** from **27 COUNTRIES**. We received 7 nominations from Africa, 13 from Asia, 11 from Europe, 6 from Latin America and 3 from North America. Over **30 EXPERTS** have assisted us in the careful screening and evaluation of all our nominations.

In June 2023, the World Future Council's research team presented a total of **8 EFFECTIVE POLICY CANDIDATES** to the Future Policy Award 2023 jury. The policies selected for the competition fall into **4 DIFFERENT CATEGORIES**:



**TOYS**



**FOOD  
PACKAGING**



**COSMETICS**



**DENTAL  
AMALGAM  
FILLINGS**

# The Award Process

## step-by-step

The **8 RENOWNED MEMBERS OF THE JURY** recommended **4 POLICIES** for this year's Future Policy Award that best fulfil the future-just policy criteria and serve as inspiring examples for policymakers in other countries or regions.

We proudly present to you the winners of the Future Policy Award 2023 and we encourage policymakers globally to adopt and implement key elements of these inspiring, innovative and effective policies in their own countries, states and cities.

The Future Policy Award 2023 would not have been possible without our partners and donors. The World Future Council would like to sincerely thank them all for their generous support, as well as all the jury members, nominators, researchers and experts who provided their support in the evaluation process. We are immensely grateful for their valuable work and recommendations.

The fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) is the best context for celebrating the policies awarded, and we very much hope that the efforts of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) will live on until we reach the goal of a toxic-free world.

Enjoy reading and do visit our website to find out more about the 2023 awardees.

Sincerely,

*The Future Policy Award Team*



## **1 DEFINING A TOPIC**

The Council gives us the task, usually at the Annual General Meeting, to work on a specific topic for the next prize.

## **3 RESEARCH**

The team reviews nominations, consults experts, and evaluates those meeting Award criteria with use of the FPA scoring model, based on the seven principles for future-just law making.

## **5 SHORTLIST**

First, the shortlist with the top candidates is announced. We raise awareness about these policies on social media and in international media.

## **7 AWARD CEREMONY**

We celebrate the winning policies at a high-level awards ceremony.

## **2 NOMINATION**

We call on governments and professionals to nominate laws and policies on the chosen topic.

## **4 JURY**

After the evaluation process, we send a report to renowned experts. The jury then shortlists policies and selects the winners.

## **6 WINNERS**

We announce the official winners: the policies to receive the Future Policy Award.

## **8 DISSEMINATION**

After awarding the winners, we promote them through media articles, conferences, webinars, and events.

# Hazardous Chemicals in Products for Children

Children are more vulnerable than adults to the negative impacts of hazardous chemicals due to their lower weight, faster metabolism and developing bodies. Therefore, regulating these substances in products that children interact with or are exposed to is extremely important.

The health impacts of each individual substance are not fully known and new chemicals are continually being developed. In addition, numerous studies have shown the dangers of certain substances when they enter the human body. These harmful effects include endocrine disruptive diseases, neurological and reproductive disorders, learning disabilities, and various forms of cancer. Unfortunately, even products specifically designed for children, like **TOYS**, often contain these toxins.

Moreover, the use of many other products by children is often not accounted for – despite children being equally exposed to these products and their impact on children being more severe than for adults.

For this reason, the Future Policy Award 2023: For a Toxic-Free World includes products both **FOR CHILDREN** as well as other products that **SURROUND CHILDREN**.

Hazardous chemicals refer to numerous substances and include groups like **PFAS** (water and grease repellents), **PHthalATES** (plasticizers), **BISPHENOLS** (e.g., stabilizers, softeners, flame retardants) and **HEAVY METALS**.

Other worries that are particularly associated with synthetic substances include their **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT** when they accumulate in the food chain, water and soil. They add to pollution and biodiversity loss, two elements of the **TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS** described by the United Nations.

## phthalates

*harmful chemicals used to soften plastic*

**€100 billion**

economic burden on EU due to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in food and cosmetics

**30-80%**

children worldwide could be overexposed to phthalates



**!** Phthalates have been found to harm the endocrine and reproductive system

## mercury

*toxic element found in many skin-lightening products*

**4 out of 10**

women in Africa bleach their skin

**\$11.8 million**

USD is the projected demand for skin-lightening products by 2026



**!** Mercury in cosmetics can harm the skin, organs and the nervous system

## PFAS

*harmful non-biodegradable "forever chemicals"*

**10 000+**

artificial substances belong to this group, they are often found in outdoor wear, pans, food packaging or ski wax

**17 000+**

polluted sites have been detected in Europe with 21 000+ more suspected



**!** Health risks include cancer, infertility, adiposities, immune deficiency and others

## mercury

*toxic element released from amalgam dental fillings*

**45%**

of tooth fillings worldwide are made of amalgam

**50%**

These fillings consist of about 50% mercury which is constantly released into the body



**!** Mercury from fillings can harm nervous system, renal system, immunity and more

# And the winners are...



TOYS

## **Vietnam: Circular No. 09/2019/TT-BKHCN, also known as the National Technical Regulation on Safety of Toys, 2019**

This comprehensive regulation aims to address the circulation of non-compliant toys on the market. It includes both chemical and physical safety standards, test methods and enforcement mechanisms. Notable is the expansion of the list of chemical substances restricted in toys. It has placed restrictions on the use of six phthalates (DEHP, DBP, BBP, DINP, DIDP, DNOP) suspected of causing endocrine disruptive diseases and provides a foundation for raising public awareness and changing consumer behaviour.



FOOD  
PACKAGING

## **Denmark: Order on food contact materials and on provisions for penalties for breaches of related EU legislation, 2020**

The Danish policy banning PFAS (also called “forever chemicals”) in paper and board food contact materials is an excellent example of a precautionary approach. By targeting the entire group of PFAS without evaluating each individual substance, the order goes further than EU legislation and is a significant role model in the current EU-wide discussions around the ban of PFAS in all products. The ban means that most Danish food wrappings, which would typically have contained PFAS to make them grease and water repellent, are now free of these hazardous chemicals.



## COSMETICS

### **Rwanda: Ministerial Order N°20/38 determining the list of cosmetics whose use is prohibited, 2016**

Through its 2016 policy, Rwanda has been able to remove many cosmetics from the market – 13,596 units in 2020 alone – that contained hazardous chemicals threatening the health of people, especially women, fetuses and children. There is also a special campaign highlighting the dangers of creams intended for lightening the skin using substances like mercury and hydroquinone. Skin irritation, damage to the nervous system and cancer are just some of the risks associated with these chemicals. With the message “Black is beautiful”, the campaign also addresses the prevailing beauty standards that support internalized colourism among the Black population of Rwanda.



## DENTAL AMALGAM FILLINGS

### **Nepal: Decision “Regarding Mercury based Equipments and Dental Amalgam”, 2019**

This Nepali law is the first in Asia to ban the use of dental amalgam fillings for children under 15 years and pregnant and nursing women, while also aiming for a complete phase out as soon as possible. Dental amalgam contains mercury, a heavy metal toxic to the nervous, digestive and immune systems, especially for developing children. Thanks to the law, most Nepali dentists have now shifted to alternatives, significantly reducing the risk of mercury toxicity in both patients and dentistry staff. In addition, the campaign relating to the law has led to areas like Chitawan National Park being declared mercury-free, thus protecting human health and the environment.



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## *toys*

### **THE INVISIBLE TOXIC HAZARD IN TOYS**

Seeing babies and toddlers playing with colourful and soft toys, smiling contentedly, makes us happy. However, many of these toys may contain unsafe phthalates that can potentially impair fertility or have endocrine-disrupting effects.

**Phthalates** are not bound in plastic and are released from toys over time when children touch them or put them in their mouths. They can also pollute the air and dust in the indoor climate.

It is thus important to have strict regulations regarding their production, distribution, import and implementation. Awareness-raising and consumer protection are additional important tools for protecting the health of children.



# **Vietnam: Circular No. 09/2019/TT-BKHHCN, also known as the National Technical Regulation on Safety of Toys, 2019**

This Circular regulating toys reduces the exposure of children in particular to hazardous chemicals, thus ensuring their right to health. It updates the restrictions on chemicals already in place in the country and replaces them with more recent and protective standards by setting physical safety standards for toys and establishing maximum-value limits on the concentration of different hazardous chemicals, including six phthalates.

## **Hand-in-hand for children's health**

A working group of different relevant governmental agencies and ministries, including the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Education, together drafted the first version of the Circular. The draft was then sent to all ministries and relevant actors, e.g., NGOs, institutes and the private sector, for comment. It was also communicated to the general population via television and an official consultation with all the stakeholders took place to discuss the final version.

## **Implementation is key**

To address the circulation of non-compliant toys on the market, the policy has established procedures for implementing the standards. It contains several specifications establishing the responsibility of toy manufacturers, traders and importers, as well as distributors' compliance with legal standards and control procedures, and the enforcement of a monitoring process through a certification, marking, testing and labelling system.

## **A clear goal**

In addition to the goal of protecting children's health by ensuring their access to non-toxic toys, the circular also aims to encourage manufacturers to replace chemicals that are considered hazardous with non-toxic alternatives and to change consumer behaviour by clearly indicating the compliance of the toys they buy.



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## *food packaging*

### **EATING TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

**Food packaging** helps conserve food for longer, keeps our hands clean and ensures food is hygienic and safe to eat – or so we think.

Many packaging materials contain chemicals that pollute our environment and threaten our health. Thus, besides reducing unnecessary packaging, we need policies that protect both consumers and nature from toxic substances where packaging is unavoidable.



# Denmark: Order on food contact materials and on provisions for penalties for breaches of related EU legislation, 2020

Chapter 3: Special production, use and testing conditions, etc. for certain food contact materials, §8: Paper and Board

To protect consumers, especially infants and unborn children, from endocrine disruptions and other health effects, Denmark has passed an order banning all per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) substances in paper and board food contact materials.

## Forever chemicals

PFAS are often called forever chemicals because they persist and accumulate in the environment and living organisms. High levels of PFAS have been detected in the soil of countries in the Global North, but also in areas far removed from industrial hotspots. This group of chemicals contains thousands of substances, many of which have been inadequately researched regarding their toxicity. Those evaluated carefully, however, show signs of endocrine disruption, disturbance to the immune system and other health risks, especially for (unborn) children in their development.

## Paper and board food contact materials

Considering the global plastic pollution problem, paper and board are often seen as a more sustainable solution for single-use food packaging. However, these materials

are often treated with PFAS to make them water and grease repellent. Examples include fast food packaging, microwave popcorn bags and muffin baking forms. Children in particular enjoy these foods and are thus even more at risk if the materials are treated with substances that can potentially migrate into the food.

## A precautionary approach

By targeting all PFAS without evaluating the individual compounds, the Danish order follows the precautionary principle that seeks to avoid any risk in light of limited data. Other countries have followed this step to target PFAS as a group and the European Union is currently considering such a ban for all products. However, opposition from the chemical industry lobby is making this difficult.

## Involvement of the retail industry

The original impulse for the ban, surprisingly, came from the retail industry. As far back as 2015, a member-owned supermarket in Denmark decided to ban all PFAS in food packaging and handed a draft resolution to the Danish parliament for a legal ban.



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## *cosmetics*

### **DANGEROUS BEAUTY AIDS**

Many experts relate the culture of colourism in Africa to the colonial era. More recently, in African countries like Rwanda, movies, books, dolls and other contemporary symbolism tends to depict paler skin tones and associate these with power and beauty.

The highly unregulated global **skin-lightening** market is estimated to be worth billions of dollars, and skin-lightening creams typically contain toxic chemicals like **mercury** in quantities that significantly exceed health guidelines.

**Bleaches** weaken and penetrate the skin, increasing the risk of cancer and other diseases. Children can be exposed through breast milk, and food chains can become contaminated when cosmetics are washed off into water.



# Rwanda's Ministerial Order N°20/38, published in Gazette no. 09 of 29/02/2016, on harmful chemicals in cosmetics, 2016

The aim of Rwanda's Ministerial Order is to protect the people of Rwanda from the harmful effects of chemicals contained in cosmetics and support the skin health of the Rwandan population. In Rwanda, as in many other countries, skin bleaching in particular and the use of whitening products is popular among young people. This is associated with significant health risks, particularly for pregnant women and thus for children. This policy has outlawed products containing harmful chemicals and made them less accessible.

## Black is beautiful

The Ministerial Order N°20 /38 of 2016 regulates the use of specific harmful cosmetics in Rwanda. It lists about 1,343 cosmetics and regulates the manufacture, import, distribution and use of cosmetics that have been identified as containing substances that are hazardous for human consumption. In addition, a special "Black is beautiful" campaign highlights the dangers of creams aimed at lightening the skin using substances like mercury and hydroquinone and addresses prevailing beauty standards that support internalized colourism among the Black population of Rwanda.

## Successful enforcement

The regulation has established limits for the use of certain chemicals and heavy metals in cosmetic products and makes it mandatory to label cosmetics before they reach the local markets, as well as to control the manufacture, import, distribution and use of cosmetics with toxic chemicals and heavy metals. Market raids or inspections are conducted to maintain the standard of cosmetics according to the regulation. The inspections have been successful in stopping the import and sale of cosmetics containing harmful chemicals to a considerable degree, and these skin-lightening creams are now difficult to acquire and the associated fines are high. In 2021, the police confiscated around 39,200 units of skin-lightening products containing harmful chemicals. The Food and Drug Authority of Rwanda updates the list of products that are registered in Rwanda on a regular basis, including the names of all the ingredients and the levels of active chemical ingredients used in the cosmetic products.



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## *dental amalgam*

### **TOXIC “SILVER” FILLINGS**

**Mercury** is a highly toxic heavy metal that affects the human nervous, digestive and immune systems, especially in children. Amalgamated with other metals, it is used in dental fillings. Despite its longevity, growing scientific consensus points out the risks of mercury leaking from defective fillings.

Several countries have begun implementing measures to reduce the use of **dental amalgam**, but many still argue that alternative materials are not as robust and easy to apply.



# Nepal: Decision “Regarding Mercury based Equipments and Dental Amalgam”, 2019

Nepal's new regulation extends the 2013 ban of all healthcare equipment containing mercury to dental amalgam. It completely bans the use of these types of fillings for children under 15 and pregnant and breastfeeding women, and aims at a general ban within 5 years of alternatives becoming available. It includes an amendment to the dentistry education curricula and a ban on amalgam in practical exercises. In this way, both patients and medical staff handling the material are protected from harm.

## NGO involvement

The decision has been widely supported by non-governmental organisations, predominantly the Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), which helped conduct extensive research, draft the law and monitor its impact. They also organised a Mercury Free Dentistry and Mercury Free Health Care Week of Action to inform patients about the dangers of mercury and the benefits of alternatives.

## Shift to alternatives

The law has been successful in shifting the use from mercury amalgam to other materials for dental fillings. The most common materials are now glass ionomer cements, and only 6.38% of dentists in Nepal report the continued use of dental amalgam. In these few cases, the use of the material has been limited to a capsule form, reducing the health risks for medical staff.

## A mercury-free national park and river

Dental amalgam fillings were also identified as the main source of mercury release into water. After the implementation of the law and its associated campaign, areas including the Chitawan National Park and Narayani River, a UNESCO World heritage site, were declared mercury-free. This provides great relief to their ecosystems, and will also positively affect humans through drinking water and the food chain.

# Other nominated policies



TOYS



TOYS

## **The Philippines: Administrative Order banning phthalates in plastic toys, 2008**

This administrative order recognises the necessity of reducing children's exposure to hazardous chemicals by regulating six mostly-used phthalates in plastic toys. The order enforces a comprehensive monitoring and inspection procedure to ensure the toys comply with safety standards. It provides for action in relation to three aspects: market entry requirements (certification, licence to operate), labelling and packaging requirements, and judicial penalties. Additional features are public awareness-raising, the support of the consumer's right to information and the provision of a legal basis in cases of non-compliance.

## **Argentina: Resolution 583/2008 banning phthalates in toys, 2008**

Argentina's resolution establishes the essential safety requirements for protecting children from exposure to toxic chemicals, specifically targeting phthalates in toys and childcare articles. Considering the already available scientific evidence and toxicological risk assessments, and referring to the restrictions set by EU Directive 2005/84/EC, it prohibits the manufacture, import, commercialisation, or free distribution of childcare articles and toys containing the six main phthalates. The government of Argentina regularly issues a list of products, including toys, that are prohibited for export or import.



## COSMETICS

### **Bangladesh:** **Guideline for Cosmetic Products in Bangladesh, BDS 1382, 2019**

Bangladesh is one of the very few Asian countries that regulate heavy metals and other chemical compounds in cosmetic products. Because lighter skin is an important element in matchmaking culture, many young people, especially women, use skin-lightening creams containing mercury, and also apply them to children in the hope of raising their chances in their future careers and marriage. Since the implementation of the standard, an amount of around USD 10 million of these products has been seized from the Bangladeshi market, thus reducing their negative impact on human health and the environment.



## DENTAL AMALGAM FILLINGS

### **Tanzania:** **Regulations for the Control and Management of Mercury and Mercury Compounds, 2020**

Tanzania's law addresses the very present problem of mercury pollution in the country, which affects people and the environment alike. One of the biggest sources of mercury pollution is small-scale gold mining, which receives part of its supplies via the dentistry sector. Removing dental amalgam from the public procurement list and prohibiting the use of mercury for dentistry in bulk form means this supply route will be cut off. Thus, besides directly protecting children under 15 and pregnant and nursing women, the law also aims to reduce mercury contamination in the environment, in drinking water and in soils. Despite extremely limited resources, the law is a shining example for other African countries in similar situations.

# Key recommendations

While researching and evaluating the nominated laws and policies for this year's Future Policy Award with a special focus on countries in the Global South, several key elements emerged that often hinder effective protection from harmful chemicals in products:

## The need for accurate data and information

In most countries of the Global South, there is a distinct lack of high-quality, comparable data due to weak statistical systems and mechanisms. This is worrying because reliable statistics are essential for identifying challenges, measuring progress and providing important information on the effectiveness of policies. Reliable statistics are a key element for the better measurement, monitoring and management of policy results, helping ensure that they are transparent and accountable.

Regarding children's health and hazardous chemicals, the availability and reliability of child-specific data is crucial for implementing the necessary policy actions, as the risks of hazardous chemicals for unborn and young children are often not perceived. We call on the international community to support national governments in building appropriate national data systems to fill this gap. Furthermore, we see the need to intensify international exchange in the latest scientific findings and we recommend the establishment of a global alliance for chemicals in children's products to support policymakers. In addition, public education campaigns and information exchange between ministries, organisations, manufacturers and traders should be conducted on a regular basis.





## The need for market surveillance

In the absence of globally harmonized and legally binding chemical transparency information, new suppliers are allowed to enter the market with cheaper prices. Consumers, who lack technical knowledge on the content of products or are unable to afford expensive certified products, rely on what is available. This is especially problematic when it comes to children's products that might contain toxic chemicals affecting their health or safety.

In many countries there are inadequate consumer protection mechanisms, such as market surveillance systems, conformity assessment infrastructures, mechanisms for the registering of product-related complaints or product recalls. Therefore, governments need to introduce comprehensive regulatory interventions – suggestions relating to these can be found in this brochure. In addition, we recommend the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in every country. Moreover, there needs to be a special focus on online trade and imports, as these can often undermine good and effective legislation.

# The Future-Just Lawmaking Framework



The World Future Council's 'Best Policies' are those that meet the Future-Just Lawmaking Principles and significantly support fair conditions for future generations.

The International Law Association has adopted **Seven Principles for Sustainable Development Law**. These principles are the result of 10 years of academic work, and are regarded as the 'first blueprint for the emerging field of sustainable development law and policy' for professionals dealing with policymaking and evaluation. The Seven Principles methodology is applied as a framework for the evaluation of all policies that are competing for the Future Policy Award.

In 2022, the Future Policy Award's seven principles were adapted to this year's topic – a toxic-free world – with expert support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV).

**For further information, see:**

[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/seven-principlesfor-future-just-lawmaking](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/seven-principlesfor-future-just-lawmaking)

# Previous Future Policy Award Winners

Between 2009 and 2024 we have awarded **64 policies** from **41 countries**, plus **5 international** policies – covering the thematic areas of nature and environmental protection, human rights, and peace.



More about all winners on our website:

[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future-policy-award](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future-policy-award)

# The 2023 Jury

## Bea Albermann

Medical doctor, planetary health advocate, Youth:Present representative World Future Council, Switzerland

## Dr. Lilian Busse

Vice President, German Environment Agency (UBA)

## Prof. Dr. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger

Visiting Chair of Sustainable Development Law and Policy, University of Cambridge, Senior Director, Center for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL), Professor of Law at the University of Victoria, Canada, and Founding Councillor, World Future Council

## Dr. Andre Luiz Dutra Fenner

Public Health Researcher at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Brasília, Coordinator of the Health, Environment and Work Promotion Program at Fiocruz Brasília

## Neshan Gunasekera

Educationist, lawyer, Councillor, World Future Council, Sri Lanka

## Hanna-Andrea Rother, PhD

Professor, Head -Environmental Health Division, School of Public Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa

## Nikil Seth

UN Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, UNITAR

## Leonardo Trasande, MD, MPP

Professor in pediatrics and population health at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, and health policy at the NYU Wagner School of Public Service, US



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## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

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# Help us create a better world

As a charitable foundation, we depend on your support to build a future-just world! You can donate to a specific project or the overall work of the World Future Council to help us to continue our successful work.

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**The World Future Council** works to pass on a healthy and sustainable planet with just and peaceful societies to our children and grandchildren. To achieve this, we focus on identifying, developing, highlighting, and spreading effective, future-just solutions to the challenges humanity is currently facing, and promote their implementation worldwide.

The Council consists of 50 eminent global change-makers from governments, parliaments, civil society, academia, the arts, and the business world. Jakob von Uexküll, the Founder of the Alternative Nobel Prize, launched the World Future Council in 2007. We are an independent, non-profit foundation under German law and finance our activities through institutional partnerships and donations.

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*“As chemicals have seamlessly woven themselves into the fabric of our daily existence, it is crucial that we approach their usage with a heightened sense of responsibility. The pressing need to address this matter stems from the alarming realization that our planet is succumbing to an escalating wave of contamination. This pollution holds dire consequences, particularly for the vulnerable segment of our population - children.”*



**Prof. Dr. Michael Otto,**  
Honorary Councillor and Co-Founder, World Future Council,  
Chair, Supervisory Board, Otto Group

*“As a society, we are confronted with a multitude of crises, namely climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. To exacerbate the issue of pollution, harmful substances are incorporated into nearly all the products we rely on in our everyday lives, including toys designed for our youngest members. It is crucial that we approach this matter with great seriousness and, above all, prioritize the protection of children from these harmful substances.”*



**Alexandra Wandel,**  
Chair, Management Board, World Future Council