Question 1: a) International Agreements requiring capacity for RA and RM decision-making
   b) Specific skills required

- RA and Risk Communication (RC) are components of RM, which is the real critical tool.
- Conventions have specific obligations for RA
- There is a need to strengthen toxicological assessment, clarify the risk and supporting methodology.
- RM should be assumed at the national level.
- An integrated approach is needed to do so.
- The Conventions look at RA in various ways and we need to see how this fits into our own national RM.
  - There is a need to monitor import and use of chemicals and observe and communicate adverse effects. This is a feedback mechanism for RM.
  - There is a need to considered Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP).

Specific skills required include:

   a) Exposure data
   b) Involvement of all sectors from the inception of the plan so that at the point of communication all stakeholders are involved and the public owns the decision.
   c) Communication skills.
   d) Ecotoxicological training
   e) Ability to interpret the Global Harmonization System (GHS)

Question 2: a) Elements of an integrated approach to RA and RM
   b) Pros and cons of this approach

- There was consensus that the best was an Integrated Approach
- Guidelines and Guidance are needed from International Organizations for RM priority setting.
- Integration at a regional basis should be explored as a more fruitful approach to development of National Plans (Basel Regional Centers; UNEP's PTS studies)
- Decision-making is critical and must be based on risk-benefit analysis. Alternatives-substitutions should be considered.
• NGO's should be used to communicate elements of risk to the public in appropriate manner. (USEPA Handbook on Risk Communication is recommended as useful tool)

b) Pros

• Data are reliable which leads to good decision making
• It is a synergistic approach
• The protocols are similar facilitating easy comparisons of the results
• The process is solution orientated
• Sound decision-making is facilitated

c) Cons

• All exposure groups should be considered
• All Conventions have specific obligations so there is a possibility that some may be neglected using an Integrated Approach.