

# Outline of International Agreements: Chemicals and Waste Management

Peter J. Peterson  
Senior Special Fellow

Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements



UNITAR

# International Agreements Outlined

- Århus Convention
- Basel Convention +++
- Chemical Weapons C.
- FAO Code (revised)
- GHS
- ILO Convention 170++  
*(Regional Sea Convention)*
- ILO Convention 174+
- Rotterdam Convention
- Stockholm Convention
- Vienna Convention ++
- UN Convention Against  
Illicit Traffic in Narcotics  
*(LRTAP-POPs Protocol)*



# Århus Convention

- Right to live in an environment adequate for health
- Information access, participation in decision-making
- Access to plans, policies; e.g. PRTR, EIA, etc.
- Justice in environmental matters, legislation required
- Promotion of environmental education & awareness
- Monitoring/evaluation of information access
- Regional UNECE + EU; National funding



# Basel Convention + Protocol + Declaration + Regional Agreements

- Health & environ.; transboundary movement control
- Minimization of waste generation; Declaration ESM
- List/schedule wastes, hazardous properties defined
- Protocol on Liability & Compensation for Damage
- Import/export restrictions (PIC) applies
- Ban Amendment: Annex VII to non-Annex countries
- Self-reporting of implementation to Secretariat
- Co-op.Trust Funds, Regional Centers, SBC



# Chemical Weapons Convention

- Health & environment; elimination of chemical weapons and facilities
- Schedule chemicals; no Category 1, but 2, 3 OK
- Strict international verification regime
- Dual purpose chemicals & precursors exempt
- Peaceful uses of chemicals actively promoted
- Information exchange; scientific/technical help
- External funding available, OPCW



# International Code of Conduct on the Distribution & Use of Pesticides (revised)

- Health & environ.; management of pesticide risks
- Responsibilities of govt. industry, users, addressed
- Worker protection; safe-use of, & safer, pesticides
- Voluntary management practices promoted
- Pesticide registration, alternatives, IPM promoted
- Data collection/exchange throughout life-cycle
- National finances, FAO



# UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification & Labeling of Chemicals

- Health & environment, chemical safety strategy
- Public/worker protection *via* hazard communication
- Chemicals except consumer chemicals/wastes
- Strengthening classification/labeling, SDS
- Promotion of awareness & evaluation of actions
- GHS is voluntary; multi-stakeholder strategy plans
- National funding, UN, (WSSD)



# Convention Concerning Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work; ILO-170 ++

- Protection of workers in workplace; all chemicals
- Reduction of chemical exposure, risk & injuries
- Responsibilities of suppliers, employers, workers
- Adoption of hazard/safety classification, labeling
- Established principles; national policy on safety
- Export notification required, country prohibitions
- Information/data exchange, SDS
- National funding, ILO





# Convention Concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents ILO-174+

- Protection of workers, public & environment
- Responsibilities of authorities, employers, workers
- Policies on preventive actions; safety technologies
- Hazard control at installations, education/training
- Safety information from exporting country, SDS
- Evaluation *via* safety reports & internat. exchange
- National funding, ILO



# Rotterdam Convention

- Health & environment; currently 31 chemicals
- Shared decision-making; establishing PIC process
- 21 pesticides 5 industrial chemicals 5 formulations
- Export/import notification; packaging & labeling
- Hazard & risk information exchange plus DGD
- Implementation measures; technical assistance
- National finances, FAO/UNEP



# Stockholm Convention

- Health & environment; 12 POPs chemicals
- 9 pesticides, 2 industrial chemicals, 4 by-products
- POPs criteria: toxic, mobile, persistent, bioaccum.
- Eliminate production; minimize by-products
- Prevention of new chemicals with POPs criteria
- Trade restrictions; for disposal only; DDT register
- Verification throughout life-cycle; replacements
- Awareness-raising, GEF-funded NIPs, UNEP



# Vienna Convention; Montreal Protocol (& five Amendments)

- Health & environment; 96 ODS; indirect effects
- Human activities that modify the ozone layer
- Phase-out of ODS emissions; targets/timetables
- Import/export bans; addresses illegal trade
- Information exchange scientific/technical fields
- Monitoring; effectiveness measured *via* Panels
- Multilateral Fund; Agencies, Secretariat



# UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances

- Safeguard health from psychotropics/narcotic drugs
- Suppression/elimination of illicit traffic & production
- Scheduled chemicals/precursors listed
- Import/export restrictions; packaging & labeling
- Legislated penal provisions; medical uses permitted
- International/regional co-operation essential
- National funding, UN Commission on Narcotic drugs



# Conclusions

- Many International Agreements chemicals & waste
- Mandates for protection of health and environment
- Atmosphere, land, seas, & multimedia concerns
- Common concepts and implementation measures

Jonathan Krueger will introduce the Horizontal Criteria for each International Agreement including some synergies, inter-linkages and co-ordination issues

