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The global chemical industry is involved in a number of “capacity building” efforts. These are broad efforts beyond just chemicals management and include such things as support for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit for Sustainable Development Plan of Action. In the area of chemicals management, industry’s capacity building efforts are primarily focused on:

1. Promotion and implementation of *Responsible Care* program – the industry’s initiative to continuously improve environment, health, and safety performance of its processes and products. Responsible Care is now being implemented in 46 countries where over 85% of the world’s chemicals are being manufactured.
2. Research
3. Industry awareness raising and sharing of best practices.

You have in your meeting materials a submission from the Chemical and Allied Industries Association of South Africa that outlines some details regarding potential synergies for capacity building in the area of chemicals management. Furthermore, industry is generally supportive of a number of the issues that have been raised today. Therefore, I will focus my remarks on three general areas.

Potential Synergies – We believe there are significant synergies to be achieved. In approaching capacity building, industry does not focus on one particular convention but on the whole life-cycle of chemicals management. In this same way we encourage governments and intergovernmental organizations when implementing international agreements to take a more holistic approach and avoid duplication of efforts. Furthermore, we encourage governments to look for opportunities to remove disincentives and streamline laws that may even be in conflict with each other in this area. Industry resources are also limited and in this way we face some of the same challenges as governments. In many cases, we do not have the resources to participate in multiple meetings/fora. Streamlining and increased coordination can be good for all of us.

Stakeholder Involvement & Engaging Industry – As we have discussed today, stakeholder involvement and education is critical. This includes industry. In fact, I would submit to you that industry is perhaps one of the most important stakeholders for implementation. The global industry strongly supports many of the international agreements referenced today, but this does not always mean that local industry is informed or aware of specific agreements. Engaging industry is critical in for your implementation efforts. This is why some of our capacity building efforts are focused on awareness raising.

Industry Can Be A Resource – As countries seek to implement international agreements, we urge you to consider industry as a resource. We have technical expertise in many of the areas identified in the workshop materials. Furthermore, we can help open doors and put you in touch with the right people. Peer to peer communication can often be more effective, so support industry awareness raising efforts. Finally, involving industry early in the process can help. Early involvement can achieve broader support for implementation activities and avoid miscommunication.