

## Working Group 6: Information Exchange and Dissemination to the Public

### Nomination of Chair (Mr. Stanley-Jones) and Rapporteur ( Ms. Ram)

Chair invited comments specific questions. Looking at questions

- Intervention in response to question 1: In response chair requested for solutions to be stated later into the discussion
- Intervention In response to question 3: Albania gave an account of information dissemination. A study has been taken for inventory of all hazardous waste in Albania. What they are, quantity, and how much are hazardous. Second proposal is to establish and organize an office to undertake an inventory to the chemicals imported. At the moment there is no coordinator for all chemicals produced. Third is to strengthen inspectors in the municipal councils. Inspectors have access to markets and commerce information. The information obtained from these inspectors can be disseminated to the ministry. Inspectors are incorporated into a regional agency.
- Clarification of question. Emphasis on coordination between national and regional groups.
- Noted that the questions are loaded.
- On international level various mechanisms are in existence. Recommendation to improve the coordination of these mechanisms.

### Main discussions: Questions on Benefits

1. Information centers may play a role of dissemination of information for different conventions and may provide information for different target groups
2. Legitimate (make policies legally binding) the policies and identify them in the national and chemical agreements
3. Encourage learning on and about chemical agreements, brings out real knowledge, and encourages strengthening of national information exchange
4. Emphasizing the national information exchange will would increase Political will; coordination and implementation of national policies.
5. Satisfying governments need for information thus the idea to get more scientific information and need for strong information base on which to build on and translating information to useful purposes
6. To attract potential stakeholders
7. Seen as an incentive for responsible action.

8. Strengthening relationship between government and community and local governments. Through the effective collection and collation of information to the public all chemicals in multilateral environment agreements can be covered, such as those with extra hazards and monitoring them quite well. Also allow increase in the efficient control of and implementation of policies.

### Main Discussion: Question on Elements and Mechanisms

#### Elements

1. Right to know
2. Decision making process
3. Environment justice

[Intervention: examples of lack of information bases. How they are getting into the environment, very piece mill basis. Need to state basic areas. Need to evaluate the risks. Establishing information basis for Import and exports data. The source of the controlled substances, population exposures, environmental exposures such as environmental monitoring info. Need for a baseline data]

#### Mechanism

1. Need to consolidate information on chemicals through mechanisms that state the basic areas that are common to chemicals in MEAs such as evaluating risks related to chemicals, consolidation of import and export data,
2. Need to establish baseline data that will act as a source of the information upon which risk assessments can be made
3. Should think of integrated information management system for data gathering.
4. Should link these chemicals covered in the MEAs and other chemicals.
5. To develop and encourage harmonization of database, using programs
6. To have access to the various databases, especially those that translate information into national languages.

Other Elements in these mechanisms to be noted such as

1. Developing a prime generator of information that works off the existence of corresponding base. Such as a server or network focal point.
2. The scarcity and difficulties of existing resources such as paper versus internet.
3. To ensure national level of information exchange at all levels

[SDC by Jordan. Various databases available, to translate information into national languages.]

#### Question on Modes of Dissemination

1. Using models of improving networking communications.
2. Need for a strong database and explore other avenues for getting information across through emails, kiosks, improving satellite communications.
3. Acknowledging the use of Popular culture such as drama and music.
4. Use of GIS technologies as source of immediate information

5. The need to identify priority areas of target areas such as primary education to encourage attitude change
6. Conducting training and awareness workshops for adults.
7. To utilize civil society for information dissemination.

Question on relationships

1. It is important to think of the conventions objectives and obligations. Public rights to meet these objectives and how public and communities can participate. However direction of information to come from the top i.e from government level
2. Need to look at reforming the infrastructure for telecommunications in the Private sectors. Examples of monopoly such as mobiles in preference over internet, and that the Private sector are delivering poor services