

## **Working Group 8: Capacity for Risk Assessment (RA) and Risk Management (RM)**

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Reference document: Summary table of National Capacity Requirements under International Agreements (TWS 8-3, Sections C and D)

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 consider 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.