

- Preparation of a situation analysis, which identifies the agreements relevant to the country, summarizes implementing measures already in place, and identifies potential areas for synergy development.
- Organization of a national workshop on the integrated implementation of international agreements, bringing together national focal point agencies and other ministries and stakeholders.
- Development of an integrated national programme, including a coherent legal and institutional infrastructure, for the sound management of chemicals and wastes that addresses integrated implementation of international agreements.
- Close collaboration among focal points of international agreements to place chemicals management on the national sustainable development agenda (e.g. via ministries of finance, planning, parliamentarians, etc.).
- Ensuring the involvement of ministries and institutions that are not primarily concerned with chemicals and waste management, such as ministries of finance/customs.
- Creating linkages with institutions that have specific jurisdictional responsibilities, such as state/local authorities.

Through working groups, in-depth discussions took place regarding a number of specific areas contained in international agreements which can benefit from a coherent or integrated approach at the national level. They included: development of coherent policy, legislation and institutional frameworks; the role of provinces/local authorities; awareness raising, education and training; information exchange and public participation; capacity for risk assessment; and capacity for analysis, monitoring and enforcement. Other areas highlighted included the development of integrated strategies for import/export control, inspection systems, and integrated disposal of chemical wastes, outdated drugs and obsolete pesticides. All in all, these collaborative efforts can help ensure that chemicals and waste management can become an integral part of national sustainable development agendas.

The Importance of Synergy Development at the International Level

While synergy development at the national level received significant attention, workshop participants also emphasized the need for ensuring synergies at the international level among international organisations and convention secretariats. Specific suggestions include:

- regular meetings among secretariats of international agreements on capacity building issues;
- involvement of convention secretariats as members of the IOMC;
- systematic inclusion of synergy development in the design of capacity building projects; and
- development of integrated training programmes for national focal points.

Concerning international guidance and training material on synergy development, a range of guidance documents and training materials are already available for a number of Conventions and on a number of topics. However, they often do not facilitate integrated capacity building approaches. Materials should therefore be developed in the form of "integrated" toolkits, which could be either used during training programs or for self-training. Existing training material on import/export control (such as that available through UNEP DTIE) or on illegal traffic (such as that available from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention) could, for example, be further developed to facilitate a more integrated approach to capacity development at the national level. Several international organizations present at the meeting expressed their interest to collaborate towards further developing such guidance and training packages.

The workshop highlighted that internationally available tools such as the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) promote synergy development at the national level. The GHS ensures coherence of classification and labelling through the chemical life-cycle and for all chemicals, and PRTR's allow tracking of emissions of chemicals/wastes addressed under international agreements in an integrated way through a multi-media approach.

Issues Relevant to the SAICM Process

The workshop identified a number of issues and recommendations that should be channelled into and considered by SAICM. They include the following:

- SAICM should encourage countries to develop an integrated national programme for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including a coherent legal and institutional infrastructure as well as measures to facilitate the integrated implementation of relevant international agreements.
- SAICM should further define, or initiate a process to further define, the goals, objectives, indicators and mechanisms towards achieving integrated chemicals management by the year 2020 from a national capacity development perspective. This would allow countries to link their activities and progress to an internationally agreed road-map, which will facilitate step-by-step improvements to address the existing gaps.
- SAICM may want to consider and encourage the exchange of lessons learned from country projects on integrated chemicals and waste management (e.g. those identified in the context of UNITAR/IOMC supported pilot projects).
- SAICM should initiate/strengthen fora (e.g. the IOMC) to ensure that secretariats of international agreements and UN agencies can explore more systematically opportunities to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and cooperation is maximised.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Franz Perrez of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) pointed out that the workshop has resulted in practical discussions and outcomes: "The workshop has identified clear benefits of synergies: an increase of effectiveness, cost-efficiency, coherence, comprehensiveness, a reduction of overlap, duplication and contradiction and missed opportunities, and a safe and healthier environment for all of us". Dr. Perrez also pointed out that the workshop recommendations and results will hopefully motivate participants to catalyse concrete action with concrete impacts when they return home and also provide a rich and stimulating input to the SAICM process.

In preparation for the workshop, UNITAR prepared a number of documents, including an analysis of international agreements from a perspective of synergy development for capacity building. The full report of the workshop will be available by mid-June. All related documentation is available on the official website for the workshop at <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/c/tw/ws8/index.htm>.

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