

**THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON SYNERGIES FOR CAPACITY BUILDING UNDER
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ADDRESSING CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

30 March – 2 April 2004

Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations

(revised draft of 16.04.04)

1. Background and Introduction

The Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management took place from 30 March – 2 April 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland. It was organized by UNITAR in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Basel Convention and OPCW, the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) and UNECE, and took place within the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). Funding was kindly provided by the Swiss Agency for Development Co-operation and the OPCW.

The workshop brought together 81 representatives from developing countries, countries with economies in transition, industrialized countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations including industry, public interest groups, and labour unions. Secretariats representatives from the following international agreements were present: Basel Convention, Chemical Weapons Convention, Aarhus Convention, ILO Convention 170, Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention and Montreal Protocol. Through a series of working groups and plenary discussions, participants came up with the following observations and recommendations which are grouped under several major themes that emerged during the workshop.

1.1. Scope of Agreements Covered at the National Level

The international agreements discussed were:

- UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention). The Aarhus Convention establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement and active participation of all stakeholders, and links government accountability to environmental protection.
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal. The overall goal of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment from the generation and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons

Convention, CWC). The CWC is aimed at eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under strict and effective control and also covers sound management of dual purpose chemicals for peaceful purposes.

- FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (Revised version). The objectives of the Code are to establish voluntary standards of conduct for all public and private entities engaged in, or associated with the trade, distribution and use of pesticides, particularly where there is inadequate or no national legislation to regulate pesticides.
- UN Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The GHS is a consistent and coherent approach to identifying the hazards of chemicals, and providing information on these hazards (e.g. through labels and safety data sheets) and associated protective measures to users or those who may be exposed
- ILO Chemicals Convention 1990, No. 170. The Convention specifically addresses the protection of workers from harmful effects of chemicals at the workplace.
- ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention 1993, No. 174. The purpose of this Convention is the prevention of major accidents involving hazardous substances and the limitation of the consequences of such accidents.
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. The Rotterdam Convention is an important instrument for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing countries as to whether they wish to receive future shipments of certain hazardous chemicals, and for ensuring compliance to these decisions by exporting countries.
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Vienna Convention encourages intergovernmental cooperation on research, systematic observations of the ozone layer, monitoring CFC production and the exchange of relevant information on human activities. The Montreal Protocol was designed to reduce the production and consumption of a number of ODS following agreed phase-out schedules that are based on scientific and technical assessments.
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The Convention was adopted in response to the growing trend in the illicit production of, demand for, and traffic in, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

1.2. *Defining the Concept of Synergy and Integration*

- Integration may be considered in varying degrees ranging from improving information flow and exchange, to increasing coordination, or even developing a single, integrative approach.
- Synergies may be possible and are needed at different levels: the international level (e.g. Secretariats and COPs), the national level (e.g. coordination between focal points), and the state/local level (e.g. dealing with the problems addressed by conventions). The regional level should also be included (i.e. national level synergies and integrated activities could be applied at the regional level whenever possible).
- Integrative vs. sectoral approaches: integration should be systematically examined. However, sectoral approaches may still remain appropriate for a number of issues. In many cases a combination of both (to be taken on an issue-by-issue basis) are also suitable.
- Countries should be encouraged to ratify relevant Conventions as a way forward for promoting and realizing synergies.

1.3. *Analysis of International Agreements from a “Horizontal” and “Capacity Development” Perspective*

An analysis of the agreements prepared by the Secretariat and the discussions held during the workshop revealed a wide number of “horizontal” or cross cutting national capacity requirements. These included:

- Generic Legislation
- Import/Export Control Legislation
- Enabling Legislation for Chemical Use Restrictions/Bans
- Development of Chemical Lists and/or Inventory
- Emissions Reporting
- National Information Systems/Exchange
- International Information Exchange
- Hazard Data Generation
- Data Confidentiality
- Access to Information
- Hazard Assessment/Classification
- Hazard/Risk Communication (e.g. labelling)
- Risk Assessment
- Packaging Requirements
- Capacity for Risk Management Decision Making
- Chemical Specific Use Restrictions/Bans
- Life-cycle Management
- Precautionary Principle/Approach
- Focal Points
- Interministerial Coordination
- Stakeholder Involvement

- Resource Mobilisation
- Technical Assistance
- Training/Skills Building
- Technology Transfer
- Development of Alternatives
- Evaluation of Implementation
- Capacity for Chemical Analysis/Monitoring
- Enforcement of Regulations/Decisions
- Access to Justice
- Capacity for Rehabilitation of Contaminated Sites and Poisoned Persons
- Effective Education programmes
- Capacity to Respond to Emergencies

2. Potential Benefits of Synergy Development

Participants identified a number of potential benefits of synergy development:

2.1 *Potential Benefits*

- Encouragement of the “Five Cs”: Coherency, Co-ordination, Consistency, Continuity, and Cost efficiency;
- administrative benefits such as minimising overlaps and inconsistencies in policies and programmes and increased transparency;
- communications-related benefits, including improved information exchange within and among relevant parties, and raised awareness for the general public;
- cost-related benefits: minimizing needlessly duplicative efforts can result in cost savings for governments and for trade and industry (which can also encourage private sector involvement);
- legitimacy related benefits, including increased public support for allocation of resources to implement chemical policies and programmes;
- increased capacity for enforcement at all levels of government;
- broader benefits for chemicals management beyond specific obligations outlined in international agreements, such as reducing risk more efficiently through cooperation and reducing impacts “on the ground” for the environment and human health;
- ensuring that chemicals management occurs at all stages of the life cycle - so that chemicals-related problems are not merely shifted from one medium to another, thereby increasing protection of human health and the environment;
- optimization of available technical expertise and analytical capacity at national and regional levels;

- joint national programming is likely to get more attention from international and bi-lateral donors.

2.2 *The Importance of Synergies from an NGO Perspective*

- NGOs have limited resources, and so synergies are a way of maximizing those resources and minimizing duplication.
- Both industry and public interest NGOs agreed that synergies and integrated approaches were highly desirable from their perspectives and should be pursued throughout the chemical life cycle.

2.3 *Using chemicals agreements as a driving force for mobilizing commitment*

- Encourage Secretariats to increase cooperation at the international level to mobilize international commitment for synergy development.
- The momentum gained by the recent rise in the number of international agreements in force should be maintained through implementation at the national level.
- Opportunities to take advantage of this international momentum should be exploited to explore synergies and take an integrated approach at the national level.

3. *Developing an Integrated National Framework for Implementing International Agreements*

Participants stressed the importance of developing, and discussed elements of, an integrated national framework for implementing international agreements.

3.1 *Developing linkages with national development priorities and mobilizing financial resources*

Drawing strategic linkages to the implementation of international agreements and its benefits for mainstream sustainable development issues (such as health, economic and social development) is key to mobilizing both national and external financial resources.

- Examples of such linkages include the effect of chemical pollution on clean drinking water, the protection of vulnerable groups (such as women, children or the poor) and poverty reduction.
- This approach will raise political attention and ensure that chemicals are part of an integrated policy dialogue and strategy (which may lead to the strengthening of focal points, of institutions dealing with chemicals or increasing available funds for chemicals management).

- Development of synergies is thus not only needed across chemical and waste conventions but also between the chemicals/waste agenda and other areas of development (horizontal vs. vertical synergies).

3.2 The importance of a coherent legislative and policy framework

- A coherent legislative and policy framework is a necessary condition for facilitating synergies and can entail a number of concrete “downstream” benefits.
- Problems faced by countries to establish such a framework include: constraints related to resources and institutional capabilities, competition between ministries, coordination difficulties between focal points, fragmented legislation and institutional framework, lack of continuity in government departments (e.g. changes in personnel and institutional mandates), weak participation by civil society, and weak enforcement mechanisms.
- Core elements needed to develop such a framework include, for example: a regularly updated National Profile through a multi-stakeholder coordinating committee, possible development of framework chemicals legislation, establishment/re-enforcement of a National Chemicals Coordinating Committee (see also section 3.3), establishment of an inventory or checklist of legislative elements and framework based on the life cycle management approach, identification of a host/home for legal instruments to show best practices at the regional level (“clearing house”), and the need for political will driven by cost-efficiency. It was also suggested that a “toolbox” to exchange information, share experiences among countries and provide examples of national legislation (possibly at the regional level) would be useful.
- Effective and coherent integration of federal and state/local legislation would enhance access to justice and public participation for better enforcement.
- Building upon existing documents, model integrated legislation should be developed at the international level (e.g. an omnibus legislation template) that encompasses obligations under Conventions. COPs could then endorse such model legislation across different agreements.

3.3 Developing a framework for inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation

- Establishment of an overarching and permanent National Chemicals Coordinating Committee for chemicals management, including issues concerning international agreements is an important tool for facilitating synergy development. The Committee should have regular meetings and should have representatives from ministries/governmental institutions in charge of chemicals and waste management in general, including focal points for conventions as well as from other ministries of importance. Other stakeholders should be consulted and the roles and responsibilities of all actors should be clearly defined.
- Fragmentation at the national level leads to fragmentation (uncoordinated approaches) at the regional and international levels (e.g. lack of participation of

economic or finance ministries in negotiations that will have trade or financial impact).

- A permanent National Chemicals Coordinating Committee might, depending on national conditions and if found appropriate, develop substructures such as committees/steering groups for individual conventions, groups of conventions or crosscutting issues.
- Before participating in international meetings (e.g. COPs, SAICM, INCs) focal points/ministries should consult the Standing Committee and other stakeholders on taking national viewpoints on issues discussed at the meetings.
- After international meetings, focal points should report to the Standing Committee meetings for discussion and evaluation and prepare reports for distribution (via mail, e-mail, websites, meetings, workshops, etc.) to stakeholders. The general public should be informed via media and by other appropriate means.
- In order to ensure continuity and an appropriate level of decision-making, focal points should be institutions, not persons.
- While a comprehensive framework to ensure inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation should be a long-term goal, a lot can be done at the practical level more quickly if no committee is currently functional.¹ For example, a first step might be to establish a working group coordinating national implementation of international conventions and agreements. The occasion of specific international meetings (e.g. SAICM, ASP) can also be used as a vehicle to discuss national co-ordination issues.
- In some cases, re-organizing or changing institutional arrangements should be considered.
- Priority setting should take place in an integrated way (e.g. by setting national chemicals management priorities based on Chapters 19 and 20 of Agenda 21) rather than a sectoral way. In a number of cases, both approaches can be appropriate.

3.4 The role of states/provinces and local authorities in the development and implementation of international agreements

- Various layers of government have different responsibilities for the implementation of international agreements relevant to chemicals and waste management, including both legislation and enforcement. These responsibilities are not always well coordinated.
- A number of challenges exist with regards to effective participation of states/local authorities: some legal systems have two, three or even four levels of

¹ Interested parties may also refer to the report and more detailed recommendations of the August 2002 thematic workshop on “Strengthening Interministerial Coordination for the Sound Management of Chemicals”, which is available from UNITAR.

government; regulations for national implementation are usually approved only by the national/federal level; there may be political unwillingness to share information; there may be conflicts of interest between levels that prefer stronger and weaker enforcement; and while both local and federal authorities can have enforcement mandates, federal governments generally have more human and financial resources (there is a lack of capacity at state/local levels).

- There is an important role for state/local authorities in the implementation of international agreements. It is desirable to: involve local authorities in negotiations or participation at COPs; improve human resources/capacity building/training at all levels of government; disseminate specific and adequate information to all levels of governments, in different languages (if required); develop more flexible systems for transmission of information to different levels of governments and strengthen the role of all stakeholders in the process; develop economic initiatives for local authorities to facilitate the implementation of the international agreements on the national level; foster local governments partnership; and promote good governance, transparency and accountability. It was suggested to develop case studies demonstrating how to integrate states/local authorities into national implementation strategies for international agreements.

3.5 *Ensuring effective public participation and stakeholder involvement*

- Public participation in national implementation of international agreements makes these issues accessible to the general public, provides opportunities to identify synergies, allows for diversity of ideas, promotes public ownership which ensures sustainability, increases accountability and promotes transparency.
- Challenges to effective participation include: resource restraints; time constraints (time is required for different stakeholders to get to know and trust one another); difficulties in identifying appropriate stakeholders; and overcoming attitudes that are against public involvement.
- To better ensure effective participation, it was recommended that: legislation may be necessary, especially to regulate the implementation of the “right to know”; countries and stakeholders work towards a common set of principles and specific implementation guidance that outline what governments commit to do (such as a “Public Participation Protocol”) so that confidence in the process is fostered and new principles do not need to be elaborated for the national implementation of each agreement; local and municipal levels receive timely and appropriate information and are involved; and networks of civil society groups interested in chemical safety issues are encouraged to be involved or “civil society desks” or ombudspersons in government be elaborated.²

² The UNECE has developed an “Implementation Guide” to the Aarhus Convention which provides suggestions for ensuring public participation in the context of the Convention.

3.6 *Integrated awareness raising concerning international agreements*

- Integrated awareness raising including:
 - a coordinated or even consolidated approach of national focal points vis-à-vis other agencies such as Ministries of Planning and Finance, or to political bodies (such as Parliament);
 - joint press conferences, rather than separate ones
- Awareness raising should take place at multiple levels including high level decision makers and communities and schools.
- It should be clear who has the mandate to conduct such activities (e.g. the national committees) and to engage high level decision makers from the outset (rather than conducting awareness raising “after the fact”).
- National Profiles are a good example of a “synergistic” document and could serve important awareness raising functions by facilitating the exchange of information and dialogue between government and parties outside of government such as industry, labour and grass-roots organizations; providing information to the public concerning the risks to the environment, health and safety from chemicals, and actions which should be taken in order to protect themselves; and raise awareness and educate the public for effective participation in national environmental management initiatives.

3.7 *Other practical measures to facilitate an integrated national approach*

Throughout the workshop a number of practical suggestions were raised that countries may want to consider in developing synergies under international agreements: Those included, *inter alia*:

- A situation analysis (based on a National Profile) which international agreements are relevant to the country, both at present and in the future, including major implications for capacity development.
- Regular round tables among focal points concerned with the national implementation of international agreements
- Organization of a national workshop, through collaboration of relevant focal points, to raise awareness of and facilitate discussions about synergies across various international agreements.
- Development of a national strategy highlighting opportunities for integrated national capacity development under international agreements, including opportunities for collaboration at the regional level.
- Regular briefing sessions among focal points and other interested parties in preparation of and as a follow-up to international meetings in which the country is represented.

- For specifically important meetings, e.g. SAICM or COPs, more inclusive preparatory processes and debriefing processes should take place, including representation of states/provinces and civil society.

4. Specific areas for developing synergies at the national level

Participants identified/confirmed a number of specific areas where there is potential for identifying synergies at the national level. These include: information exchange and dissemination; risk assessment; risk management decision-making; education and training programmes; chemicals analysis and monitoring; and import and export control.

4.1 Information Exchange and Dissemination

Activities to exchange and disseminate information are crucial for developing synergies among those who are involved with international agreements at the national level, in part to strengthen their participation, and also to engage those whose activities and interests involve chemicals and waste management. Strengthening information exchange related to international chemicals and wastes agreements has tangible benefits, including, *inter alia*:

- Ensuring that possible synergies are more effectively identified, when those engaged in such activities are aware of other initiatives/activities/commitments that are of relevance to their own field of work;
- Fostering cooperation that can lead to common areas of work, including awareness raising and possibly support of decision-makers and the public about the importance/relevance of international agreements or related issues;
- Reducing duplication of efforts;
- Enhancing implementation of commitments made under the agreements;
- Acting as an entry point for other chemicals issues.

A wide range of possible activities were identified and discussed, ranging from simple, cost-effective practices to more complex mechanisms requiring greater resources and commitment. These include, *inter alia*:

- Email list-serves or groups, where a list of persons can receive information in electronic form;
- Information kiosks – where information is stored for electronic retrieval;
- Phone trees, where focal points and others engaged in international agreements can commit to exchanging information by telephone on a regular basis;
- Face-to-face meetings among focal points;

- Electronic databases where basic (e.g. CAS number) and or more complex (e.g. import data) information on chemicals covered by international agreements and other chemicals can be stored for retrieval/dissemination. Use of other integrated information management systems such as GIS could also be considered.
- Common websites for focal points, where information can be posted and disseminated, and other internet links related to each agreement can be provided;
- Newsletters/circulars;
- Consider the need to reform the telecommunications infrastructure and engage the private sector and civil society.

In addition, ways to enhance commitment to information exchange include, *inter alia*:

- Formalising information exchange through a charter or other instrument committing interested and affected parties;
- Ensuring that focal points meet on a regular basis to exchange information;
- Development of joint projects/partnerships with objectives that are mutually beneficial to the interests of all involved.

Enhancing the relationship between information exchange on agreements and information exchange on general issues related to chemical and waste management can be mutually supportive to the aims and objectives of both.

In terms of the public, it was recognised by participants that elements of information related to chemicals and waste management agreements – that do not necessarily involve any technical details, or even agreement names – are important for the public to be aware of. Examples of such types of information include, *inter alia*:

- Risk communication-related information, such as basic information on exposures and possible effects;
- Information suitable for inclusion in educational curricula and using “popular culture” (such as community theatre, radio plays, etc.) as a creative vehicle for information provision;
- Labelling/hazard communication-related information;
- Information on household chemicals covered under the agreements, that may be obsolete/forgotten;
- Information on banned chemicals.

4.2 Risk Assessment

Participants identified a variety of international agreements that require or would benefit from having risk assessment capacity at the national level. A number of suggestions were made regarding how strengthening capacities for risk assessment that could be applied to different international agreements would be beneficial for countries. Such suggestions included strengthening skills related to:

- Exposure data generation and interpretation;
- Stakeholder involvement and communication from the beginning;
- Risk assessment training, including toxicology and ecotoxicology training;
- GHS interpretation;
- Understanding the role of countries in using/developing risk assessments to engage in international agreements and that different agreements require different types of assessments. A guidance document should be developed to facilitate a better understanding of relevant approaches needed.

Overall, strengthening capacities for risk assessment at the national level was seen to be less critical than developing an integrated approach to risk management decision-making (see below).

4.3 Risk Management Decision-making

- Risk management at the national level is a critical tool for the effective implementation of a variety of international agreements relating to chemicals and wastes.
- An integrated approach, involving all those involved in chemicals and wastes agreements, which outlines a systematic process for risk management is important.
- Guidance and guidelines are needed from international organisations to assist with the development of such capacities and capabilities.
- NGOs can be an effective instrument for delivering risk management-related information.
- A “core group” of risk managers based at key institutions can be trained to apply the integrated approach.

4.4 Education and Training Programmes

- Curricula development incorporating key issues related to international chemicals and waste management agreements was considered by participants to be a key activity for all educational levels (assuming different approaches for different educational levels). In particular, universities should offer programs

that integrate chemical and waste management disciplines, and undertake research on integrated implementation

- At the level of primary and secondary education, the agreements themselves should not be at the center but rather the issues they address (e.g. skin cancer linked to issues addressed by the Montreal Protocol)
- Capacity development initiatives could bring together interdisciplinary experts from the region.
- The depth and content of the training's subjects must be adapted to the target groups, which may include focal points, government sectors (including legal, environmental, inspectorates, customs, police and health), NGOs, industry, legal fraternities and academia.
- The National Committee and its members (i.e. the focal points) should be responsible for implementation of training, as appropriate.
- A body of guidance and training materials should be developed by competent authorities to assist with skill-building/training efforts.
- Cooperation among authorities delivering training, and a regional approach, should be encouraged.

4.5 *Chemicals Analysis and Monitoring and Enforcement*

International agreements have a wide variety of requirements for chemicals analysis and monitoring, including different specifications.³

- Assessing existing capacities (through, for example, developing or updating a National Profile) is an important first step;
- Development of national programmes/strategies for chemicals analysis and monitoring, taking into account the requirements of international agreements.
- International financial and technical support, including provision of appropriate equipment, to strengthen capacities and capabilities is crucial, especially with regard to countries that do not have full capacities to undertake analysis of a broad spectrum of chemicals;
- Capacity development should take place at three levels: local, national and regional;
- An international database of chemical labels could be considered;

³ Interested parties may also refer to the report and more detailed recommendations of the November 2001 thematic workshop on “Strengthening National Capacities for Chemical Analysis and Monitoring for the Sound Management of Chemicals”, which is available from UNITAR.

- Taking advantage of existing programmes providing training/capacity building support, even if integrated approaches are not their focus, was seen as important by participants.
- Regarding enforcement, it was suggested that voluntary compliance be promoted at the federal and state levels and that economic incentives for enforcement should be considered.

4.6 *Import and Export Control*

- A number of conventions contain provisions on import/export control, most notably, Rotterdam, Basel, CWC, UN Narcotics, Montreal and Stockholm. But there is wide variation in how import/export controls are referenced in the array of international agreements.
- Key features of an integrated approach to import/export control across agreements and identified by participants included, *inter alia*, legislation and enforcement; training/capacity building; communications between DNAs (among countries) and between DNAs / focal points / customs officers; development/strengthening of licensing regimes, including simplified and harmonized chemicals movement document(s) to be presented to customs officials; strengthening of infrastructure; development of individual codes for specific agreement chemicals to be included in the harmonized customs codes system, and ensuring packaging and labelling regimes match international standards (such as the GHS).
- Participants suggested that integration can take place at different levels including: donors, conventions secretariats (e.g. for training of customs officials) and the local/sub-national level (e.g. local enforcement officers).
- Participants suggested that a helpful tool would be a database containing product names (commercial names) and that import/export issues were not only relevant at borders (e.g. for customs) but on-site (e.g. for inspectors).
- Existing training material on import/export control (such as the one available through UNEP DTIE) or on illegal traffic (such as available from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention) should be further developed to facilitate a more integrated approach to capacity development. Participants welcomed the offer made by international organizations present at the workshop to work together in further implementing this idea.

5. Chemical management tools facilitating integrated implementation of international agreements

Workshop participants suggested that certain existing approaches/components of sound chemicals and waste management could be effective tools to assist with the implementation of international agreements. The GHS and PRTRs were cited in particular as possible tools.

5.1 The GHS as a Building Block to Support Integrated Implementation

- Participants recognised that implementation at the national level of the Globally Harmonised System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) could support integrated implementation of agreements by acting as a broad-based “building block” for strengthening chemicals management.
- Classification, labeling and development of safety data sheets requires a broad spectrum of expertise and skills and implementation of the GHS in countries and enterprises would considerably enhance the overall capacity of government institutions and the private sector to perform hazard assessment as well as manage chemical risks
- Related to this, training and capacity building related to the GHS at the national level can also take the needs of other international agreements into account. Such training, and implementation of the GHS, would facilitate the implementation of other agreements as well.
- Chemicals addressed under other international agreements should be classified and labelled using the GHS to provide a harmonised approach at the international level.

5.2 Using PRTRs as a tool for tracking progress in emission reduction

- Pollutant release and transfer registers allow tracking levels of emissions of chemicals/wastes addressed under international agreements in an intergrated way.
- Countries could consider, in a manner similar to that suggested for the GHS, that chemicals included under international agreements be included as a priority in PRTR lists.
- Where public access to PRTR data such as through internet websites, etc. is available, that information on international agreements could also be provided in order to raise public awareness, and links between national PRTRs and information systems on other releases and transfers covered by international agreements (as appropriate).

6. Challenges, obstacles and incentives of implementing synergies at the national levels

A variety of possible challenges and obstacles to implementing synergies at the national level were raised by participants. These included, *inter alia*:

- inadequate information/awareness
- Inter-ministerial competition
- Lack of skills among key personnel and lack of qualified personnel

- financial impediments
- multiple authorities for certain chemicals/wastes-related issues
- lack of coherence among policies/laws/regulations
- “individual” nature of some focal points
- inadequate or lack of framework policies on chemicals/wastes that can help to provide coherence
- lack of political will and public pressure in some countries
- failure to link sound chemicals management to economic development/poverty reduction and other key, “broader” issues.

A number of incentives to overcome such challenges and obstacles were made by participants. These included, *inter alia*:

- linking environmental management with broader objectives of sustainable development
- sharing success stories and case studies, including via national and regional workshops
- broadening stakeholder involvement as much as possible, including other levels of government
- ensuring continuity of national chemicals coordinating committee and institutionalising focal points
- using the 2020 WSSD goal on chemicals management as a benchmark, and design a process to achieve the goal
- provision of funding in a stepwise manner to reach 2020 goal, including through the use of voluntary initiatives, economic incentives, market-based mechanisms.

7. International aspects of synergy development

A number of complimentary activities and approaches at the international level were proposed in order to further stimulate the development of synergies.

7.1 *Designing international capacity building projects to facilitate synergy development*

- In designing international capacity building projects, it is important that they address a number of levels, from political decision-makers to the customs

officials and environmental inspectors. Projects should also be kept updated with the changes to agreements.

- An important means of delivery for any such project can be train-the-trainer approaches. This may help to reduce the problem of staff turnover and ensure on going awareness of agreements; however, suitable financial mechanisms would be required.
- International project design should include provision for use of regional centres or “centres of excellence”, where appropriate, and use of economic instruments at the national level to facilitate integration and synergy development.
- Specific projects should always attempt to make linkages to and strengthening the overall chemicals management framework. Individual, convention specific support activities are likely to have only a limited impact.
- Experience gained should be systematically shared, e.g. through INFOCAP
- Capacity development project should ensure the involvement of all affected sectors.
- In designing and implementing project linkages between environmental and development/economic ministries should be explored and strengthened.
- Capacity development activities should emphasize a building block approach (e.g. implementation of the GHS at the workplace is difficult without existence of a national policy on occupation health and safety).
- The experience of front runner experiences (e.g. capacity development under the Montreal Protocol should be taken into consideration).

7.2 *Opportunities for development of international guidance and training material*

- While a range of specific guidance document and training materials are available from a number of Conventions, most of it does not facilitate integrated capacity building and is not in a form which is easy to use for training purposes. Many Conventions rely only on training of government officers working in the area.
- Materials could be developed into the form of toolkits, which could be either training programs which could be given by an expert in training or self-training manuals.
- Training materials targeting Focal Points was considered to be a priority area.
- Universities were specifically mentioned as a means of promoting integration of the requirements of international agreements by including chemicals and waste management issues associated with various agreements directly into the curriculum where chemistry and waste management topics are being taught.

- More specific guidance documents on synergies for specific issues could be prepared (e.g. risk assessment across agreements).
- The UNITAR guidance material prepared for the workshop should be expanded to include decisions of COP and other relevant conventions.
- Participants suggested that INFOCAP could be a very useful tool to facilitate capacity building related information and materials related to international agreements.
- Specific efforts should be undertaken to facilitate information exchange by sharing lessons learned from specific case studies that addressed synergetic capacity building.
- Guidance and training material development should be developed to address the needs of decentralized bodies, such as states/provinces and local authorities.
- Guidance and training material development should be developed to address the needs of civil society organizations related to the integrated implementation of agreements.

7.3 *Strengthening regional mechanisms and delivery*

- It was suggested that much greater use of regional mechanisms (such as Basel Convention Regional Centres, regional economic integration organizations, regional offices of international organizations, etc.) be made to advance integration issues among countries in a given region. Such regional bodies could:
 - Adapt or develop international guidance material for regional and national needs
 - Organize regional training events regarding the various international agreements for focal points and other relevant ministries
 - Serve as a depository and exchange information on lessons learned by countries in a region

7.4 *Strengthen Collaboration at the Global Level*

Participants reinforced the idea that synergies would be enhanced by greater collaboration and a facilitation of a dialogue on capacity building between international partners involved in convention related capacity building. Specific ideas suggested included, for example

- Preparation of common information packages through collaboration of convention secretariats and concerned international organizations (e.g. UNITAR).
- Ensuring an institutional framework that enables close cooperation between the relevant institutions and processes.

- Expanding the IOMC or establishing a co-ordinating groups to include convention secretariats and other bodies involved in Convention related training (e.g. GTZ, Ozone Action Programme)
- Joint working programmes among COPs, e.g following the CBD, CCD, Climate Change and joint programmes on forests
- A unified approach for chemicals and waste agreements to work with the WCO toward the achievement of better import/export control.
- Development of more integrated reporting procedures and guidelines at the international level. This would also facilitate a closer dialogue among reporting sectors at the national level.
- Stronger co-ordination requirements within Conventions and through COP decisions
- Decisions in one COP related to capacity development should systematically cross link with decisions of other COPS
- Development of framework/model legislation covering various international agreements (see section 3.2).

8. Identification of key issues relevant to the SAICM process

Participants expressed their support for the SAICM process and for an integrated synergistic approach to the implementation of conventions and agreements. The level of integration will necessarily vary by country and region. Specific issues and areas that SAICM may want to consider and encourage:

- addressing health and environmental issues and industrial processes related to pesticides, industrial chemicals and chemical wastes, thereby giving high priority to enabling synergies for the sound management chemicals and wastes
- lessons learned from pilot projects on integrated capacity development (e.g. those identified in the context of the UNITAR/IOMC Programme) should be shared with and considered by SAICM.
- SAICM should encourage development of “models” at the national, regional and international levels, to demonstrate open and proactive cooperation between focal points, regional groups and convention secretariats. Regional cooperation (such as exchange programmes) and case studies can be particularly appropriate as countries may share trade, language and policy frameworks.
- SAICM should organize/strengthen fora (e.g. the IOMC) where secretariats and UN agencies can ensure that efforts are not duplicated and cooperation is maximised.

- SAICM should encourage countries to develop a national strategy emphasizing an integrated approach to national chemicals management, including integrated implementation of international agreements and involvement of state/local authorities.

- SAICM should further define, or initiate a process to further define the goals, objectives and mechanisms of sound chemicals management by the year 2020 from a capacity development perspective so that countries can link their capacity development activities to an internationally agreed road-map, which facilitates step by step improvements to address the existing gaps among countries.

The conclusions from the Thematic Workshop should be made available and communicated to the SAICM process. All materials developed by the workshop in plenary and working groups should be made publicly available. Workshop participants who will participate in the SAICM process should raise the issues discussed and conclusion reached in the thematic workshop either directly in the discussions and via information papers.