

Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management

Observations and Conclusions of an International
Expert Meeting

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Final Report

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IOMC

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS
A cooperative agreement among UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR, and OECD



Geneva Environment Network



Secretariat of the Basel Convention
United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP

About the Series of Thematic Workshops on Priority Topics of National Chemicals Management Capacity Building ...

The Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management is the eighth in a series of workshops addressing priority issues of national chemicals management as identified by countries in the context of National Profile preparation and priority-setting. All topics addressed through the workshop series call for, and may benefit from, coordinated and integrated approaches at the national level involving a range of ministries and other concerned parties. The approach of the workshops is consistent with the recommendations contained in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Plan of Implementation, which calls for the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste and their improved coordination.

The workshops are organised through the collaboration of interested countries, international organisations, and non-governmental organisations and are meant to generate practical suggestions to assist countries in developing their national strategy for the respective topic. Past workshops dealt with chemical information systems and information exchange (September 1998), education and awareness raising (October 1998), chemical legislation and policies (June 1999), risk management decision-making for priority chemicals (October 1999), strengthening national capacities for chemical analysis and monitoring (November 2001), strengthening inter-ministerial coordination (August 2002) and strengthening financial resource mobilisation (November 2002). The reports of the workshops are meant to serve as practical inputs to country-based initiatives in the respective areas and may also highlight certain issues which may require further attention at the international level. All workshop reports are available at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm>.

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Executive Summary

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. The workshop brought together 81 representatives from developing countries, countries with economies in transition, industrialized countries, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations including industry, public interest groups and labour unions. Representatives of the following secretariats or other bodies directly involved in the implementation of international agreements were present: Aarhus Convention, Basel Convention, Chemical Weapons Convention, Global Environment Facility, ILO Convention 170, Montreal Protocol, Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention. The event was organized by UNITAR in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Basel Convention and OPCW, the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) and UNECE, within the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). Marcel Boisard, Executive Director of UNITAR and Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, opened the workshop. Funding was kindly provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the OPCW.

Following a request made by several governments at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) held in Bangkok in November 2003, the outcomes of the workshop will contribute to an information paper on “Opportunities for Integrated Chemicals Management Capacity Building”, which UNITAR will submit to PrepCom 2 for SAICM scheduled for October 2004.

Measures to Facilitate Integrated Capacity and Synergy Development at the National Level

The workshop concluded that approaches to the implementation of individual conventions at the national level often are disconnected and incoherent. This fragmentation can prevent identifying opportunities for co-operation and realizing mutual benefits. The workshop therefore recommended that countries should develop an integrated national framework for the implementation of international agreements. Developing synergies in capacity development does not, however, always mean full integration. In many cases, improving information flow and exchange, or systematic coordination, may also produce the “5 Cs” of synergy development: coherency, co-ordination, consistency, continuity, and cost efficiency.

Workshop participants suggested that national focal points of international conventions agreements may want to consider and undertake a number of practical activities and measures towards identifying and realising synergies at the national level. These include, for example:

- Regular co-ordination meetings in preparation for and as a follow-up to international meetings and negotiations, such as SAICM PrepComs.

- 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 including 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 and state/local authorities.
- 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 the basis for 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 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 expressed the hope that the workshop recommendations and results will 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. UNITAR will widely distribute this report of the workshop, both electronically and on paper, to all interested parties. All documentation is available on the official website for the workshop at:

<<http://www.unitar.org/cwm/c/tw/ws8/index.htm>>.

1. Introduction

Workshop conclusions will be made available to PrepCom 2 for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

The thematic workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management, held in Geneva on 30 March - 2 April 2004, was the eighth in the Series of Thematic Workshops on Priority Topics of National Chemicals Management Capacity Building. The workshop brought together 81 participants representing 60 different developing countries, countries with economies in transition, industrialized countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations including industry, public interest groups, and labour unions. The workshop was organized by UNITAR in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Geneva Environment Network (GEN), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and was held within the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). Funding was provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation and the OPCW.

The conclusions contained in this report aim to provide practical ideas for countries interested in reaping benefits from synergies when implementing international agreements concerned with chemicals and waste management. The workshop conclusions will be made available to PrepCom 2 for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

1.1 Background

The WSSD called for efforts to encourage and improve coordination in the implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste.

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED or "Rio Conference") adopted Chapters 19 and 20 of Agenda 21 outlining efforts to protect human health and the environment from dangerous chemicals and wastes. The number of chemicals and wastes-related international agreements has also increased significantly since that time. Each of these international agreements has precise purposes, objectives, and consequent obligations which countries commit to carry out. This growing number of obligations, whether binding or voluntary, poses a challenge to the capacities and capabilities of many developing countries and countries in economic transition. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) called for efforts to encourage and improve coordination – as well as support developing countries – in the implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste management.

Key agreements concerned with chemicals and waste management

The international community's concern for the effective management of chemicals and wastes has led to the development of numerous

agreements in these areas, eleven of which were addressed during workshop discussions:

Each agreement has its own substantive and procedural requirements.

- UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention);
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal;
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention, CWC);
- FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (Revised version);
- UN Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS);
- ILO Chemicals Convention 1990, No. 170;
- ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention 1993, No. 174;
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The increasing number of agreements poses a challenge for all countries and particularly for those already facing budgetary and capacity constraints.

The ever increasing number of agreements poses a significant challenge for all countries and particularly for those already facing budgetary and capacity constraints. Each of the eleven agreements has its own substantive and procedural requirements, such as the enactment of legislation and development of policies, implementation of administrative action for specific substances, and participation in various meetings at the national and international level, among many others.

The growing international policy momentum to explore synergies

The need for integration of the many chemicals agreements was acknowledged at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for SAICM.

The call for integrated activities under these agreements has recently intensified as countries struggle to meet requirements with limited resources. Implementation requires significant resources and capacity. To facilitate integrated implementation, many of these agreements, or decisions taken by their governing bodies, emphasize the need for improved coordination among the activities of the various existing initiatives. For example, Decision 6/5 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Stockholm Convention encouraged countries to “ensure close coordination at the national level between authorities responsible for the Stockholm Convention and those responsible for the Basel Convention”. Decision VI/29 of the sixth COP of the Basel Convention (2002) promotes cooperation in “undertaking joint activities to improve coordination and coherence between chemical and waste programme activities”.

The need for integration of the many chemicals agreements was also specifically acknowledged at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for SAICM, which took place 9-13 November 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting’s President suggested that future discussions on the direction of SAICM could be organized around cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies at the national, regional and international levels.

Capacity building activities to promote synergies

Several activities have been initiated at the global, regional and national levels to identify synergies for capacity building. For example, the Geneva Environment Network and its partners have held four workshops in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe during 2002-2004 to promote the coordinated implementation of three chemicals and wastes agreements (the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions). Similarly, the “inter-linkages” initiative of the United Nations University seeks to promote enhanced coordination among multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to support a more integrated approach to environmental management.¹

Regarding national level projects on synergies, Armenia, Jamaica, Jordan and Tchad began pilot projects in March 2004 to develop and sustain Integrated National Programmes for Sound Chemicals and Waste Management in. The projects are supported financially by the Government of Switzerland and executed through UNITAR and its international partners, who have made pilot guidance materials available. One of the key aspects of the projects will be to identify and implement synergies for capacity building under international

¹ For more information, see <www.unu.edu/inter-linkages>.

agreements concerned with chemicals and waste management.²

1.2 Workshop Objectives

The thematic workshop aimed to take stock and analyze existing international and regional experience in identifying and implementing synergies for capacity building under relevant international agreements at the country level. This exchange of experience served also as an important preparatory activity for country-based pilot projects on integrated chemicals and waste management, which commenced in March 2004.

Participants discussed, *inter alia*, the following questions:

The workshop aimed to take stock and analyze existing experience in identifying and implementing synergies.

- Which international agreements and initiatives should be included in national attempts to identify and implement synergies for capacity building?
- Which important “horizontal” themes or obligations that cut across international agreements on chemicals and waste management are relevant for national capacity building?
- Which of these relevant cross-cutting themes would benefit from a co-ordinated or integrated approach at the national, as well as regional and international levels, and what specific action should be taken?
- What are some obstacles in practice to implement co-ordinated or integrated approaches for capacity building under relevant international agreements?

Taking the above issues into consideration, the workshop also aimed at developing recommendations addressed to countries, intergovernmental organisations, non-government organisations, and other key actors.

1.3 Opening Statements

UNITAR’s Executive Director expressed appreciation for the international partnership that evolved in organising the workshop.

Marcel Boisard, UNITAR Executive Director and UN Assistant Secretary General, welcomed participants on behalf of UNITAR and remarked the high level of interest the workshop had generated. Although the workshop was originally planned as a small event to assist projects on integrated chemicals and waste management in four pilot countries (Armenia, Jamaica, Jordan and Chad), more than 180 applications were received. With the generous support of OPWC and SDC, a number of these requests were accommodated. He expressed his appreciation for the international partnership that evolved in organising the workshop with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention,

² To learn more about the project “Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals and Waste Management”, please visit <www.unitar.org/cwm/a/inp/index.htm>.

the Participating Organizations of the IOMC, the UNECE and the Geneva Environment Network. Mr. Boisard acknowledged that it was a challenging task to find synergies for capacity building under international chemicals and waste agreements but encouraged participants to explore these challenges, identify opportunities and discuss practical issues of implementation at the national level.

The CWC's core capacity building objectives are for the peaceful application of chemistry and the effective implementation of the Convention.

Bijoy Chatterjee, Head of the International Cooperation Branch of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, explained that the Chemical Weapons Convention's (CWC) core capacity building objectives are for the peaceful application of chemistry and the effective implementation of the Convention by its Member States. Mr. Chatterjee then outlined the Convention's capacity building and support activities and emphasized that the Technical Secretariat endeavors to cooperate with the Member States and other international organizations, including the UN. The need to develop an integrated approach to national capacity building in the area of sound management of chemicals underlies these efforts. He highlighted the Secretariat's close cooperation with UNITAR on the presentation of previous thematic workshops and concluded by highlighting the OPCW's sponsorship of 27 workshop participants.

The Basel Convention has established 13 Regional Centres for Capacity Building and Training.

Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer, Capacity Building and Training, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, explained that the Convention's main objectives are to treat and dispose of hazardous wastes as close as possible to their source of generation, to reduce transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes, and to minimize their generation and their hazardousness. As one of the main pillars in the implementation of the Basel Convention is capacity building, the Convention established 13 Regional Centres for Capacity Building and Training. The Secretariat has collaborated with UNEP and the Interim Secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in the presentation of seven workshops and continues to coordinate with the Stockholm Convention on the preparation of national inventories, national plans for the environmentally sound management of PCBs, and a regional approach for the sound management of POPs as wastes. Mr. Sabogal identified several areas of linkage between the Stockholm and Basel Conventions and the Montreal Protocol. He concluded by outlining the similarities in obligations under the Rotterdam Convention in relation to imports and exports of chemicals.

The Aarhus Convention is a procedural, cross-cutting MEA and in this way covers chemicals and waste management.

Jeremy Wates, Executive Secretary, Aarhus Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, explained that the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters is a procedural, cross-cutting MEA and in this way covers the chemicals and waste management. It is based on three pillars: access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice. Access to

information means the public authority is required to respond to information requests, which involves collecting, managing and disseminating information on chemicals. Public participation is mandated at the project level and to a lesser level in policy and plans. Access to justice means the public has recourse, for example if information is refused or procedure for participation is not provided. Mr. Wates added that a PRTR protocol was adopted in May 2003 in Kiev and is open to accession, including by non-Parties to the Convention. The Protocol requires each Party to introduce and maintain a system of mandatory reporting by certain facilities on 86 pollutants being released or transferred. He concluded by wishing participants successful deliberations.

Chemicals and waste management is a priority in Switzerland, whose chemicals industry is significant and leads research in the field.

Franz Perrez, Head of Section Global Affairs, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape, welcomed participants to Geneva on behalf of the Swiss Government. Dr. Perrez explained that chemicals and waste management is a priority to his country as Switzerland's chemicals industry is significant and leads research in the field. He expressed the Swiss Governments' pride in hosting in Geneva many relevant international organizations: UNEP Chemicals, the Interim Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, the Basel Convention, the World Health Organization, the ILO, the IFCS, WTO and UNITAR. He characterized Switzerland as a small country with a large interest in internationally cooperative approaches to address the challenges posed by chemicals and waste. These challenges can often be addressed effectively only at the international level as activities in one country affect others. The workshop, in his view, would be a constructive element of such cooperation.

1.4 Introductory Presentations

1.4.1 Context, Objectives and Methodology

Synergy development does not always require full integration.

Achim Halpaap, UNITAR, provided an introduction to the workshop context, objectives and methodology. He noted that the growing number of international chemicals and waste management agreements and their similar provisions for national capacity building create significant opportunities for synergy development at the national level. He pointed out that synergy development does not always mean full integration. It can also be achieved by ensuring systematic information exchange and co-ordination. Implementing potential synergy opportunities in practice, however, creates challenges. One objective of the workshop would therefore be to identify practical steps countries may want to consider towards identifying and implementing synergies in areas such as legislation development, information exchange, etc. He concluded by pointing out that the results of the workshop will inform country pilot projects on integrated chemicals and waste management in Armenia, Jamaica, Jordan and Tchad, and be channelled into the

The results of the workshop will inform pilot projects on integrated chemicals and waste management and be channelled into SAICM.

international process to develop a SAICM.

1.4.2 Overview of International Agreements

Peter J. Peterson, UNITAR, introduced 11 agreements (see section 1.1) concerned with the management of chemicals and waste at the international level and summarized their most salient substantive and procedural features. Mr. Peterson highlighted that these international agreements share common concepts and implementation measures. One-page summaries of each of these agreements can be accessed from workshop document TWS 8-5 at the workshop's website.

1.4.3 Areas within International Agreements Amenable to Synergy Development

Jonathan Krueger, UNITAR, presented an analysis of the national capacity requirements of international chemicals and waste agreements. These requirements provide potential opportunities to develop synergies through, for example, integrated policy development, joint training, and coordinated implementation. The criteria used for the analysis were the elements for sound management of chemicals as described in Chapter 19's Programme Area E, paragraph 19.56³ and additional criteria were developed by identifying capacity requirements common to the various agreements.⁴ The criteria were:

Similar national capacity requirements provide potential opportunities to develop synergies through, for example, coordinated implementation, joint training and integrated policy development.

- 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;
- risk assessment;
- packaging requirements;
- capacity for risk management decision making;
- chemical-specific use restrictions/bans;
- life-cycle management;
- precautionary principle/approach;

³ Programme Area E elements are: adequate legislation; information gathering and dissemination; capacity for risk assessment and interpretation; establishment of risk management policy; capacity for implementation and enforcement; capacity for rehabilitation of contaminated sites and poisoned persons; effective education programmes; and capacity to respond to emergencies.

⁴ Workshop document TWS 8-3 compares these requirements across agreements (see also Annex D of this report) and document TWS 8-4 summarizes the requirements of each agreement. Both documents can be accessed on the workshop website: <www.unitar.org/cwm/c/tw/ws8/index.htm>.

- 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; and
- access to justice.

2. Panel Presentations and Participant Statements

2.1 Panel Presentations

Franz Perrez, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape, chaired a panel which had the objective to obtain thought-stimulating interventions from different government and stakeholder representatives, as well as donors from the international community. Panelists identified the key issues, benefits and challenges of developing synergies at the national level.

The Perspective of Senegal

Strong coordination and collaboration are essential to the success of an integrated chemicals management programme.

Ibrahima Sow, Direction Environnement, Senegal, outlined his country's participation in the UNITAR/IOMC project "Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals." He explained that the project was coordinated in Senegal under the Department of Environment and Classified Enterprises, which developed two action plans through multi-stakeholder involvement. Working groups were established to realize the plans, along with others to manage interministerial coordination, information exchange, financial resource mobilization, and for the development of an "information charter". The results include the identification of main and secondary centers for poison control and the identification of specific needs for GHS implementation, such as legislation and an awareness campaign. Other important results were the development of regional coordination, as well as the establishment of a national committee for chemicals management and information exchange, the creation of a charter for information exchange, and the updating of the National Chemicals Management Profile. Lessons learned include that strong coordination and collaboration are essential to the success of an integrated chemicals management programme.

The Perspective of Brazil

Cross-cutting themes include development of coherent national policies through a multistakeholder process, effective education and training programmes, and establishment of information exchange mechanisms.

Gilson Spanemberg, Brazilian Ministry of Health, identified some cross-cutting themes or obligations amongst agreements: development of coherent national policies through a multistakeholder process, effective education and training programmes, establishment of information exchange and dissemination mechanisms, and development of synergistic activities and communication between agreement secretariats. He stated that some specific actions to coordinate or integrate include the development of action plans for chemicals policies and strategies, strengthening the capacity of states and municipalities, incorporation of training into agreements, development of a national information system, promotion of financial instruments to provide access to safety technologies, the establishment of appropriate public and occupational health surveillance programs and chemical emergency response system, and adoption of international principles of corporate

responsibility. He also described the Brazilian chemicals management framework, which is led by a national commission, includes non-governmental organizations and follows the guidelines adopted by IFCS for a large number of activities.

The Perspective of Sweden

Possible solutions include coherent legislation, streamlined institutional frameworks and integration of international agreements into national chemicals management activities.

Bengt Bucht, Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate (KEMI), summarised lessons learned by Sweden through cooperation with developing and transitioning countries. He explained that in a number of countries there was fragmented legislation, ministries splitting responsibility, unclear roles, inadequate coordination and cooperation, overlapping of tasks, conflicts and inefficient use of resources. He called for coherent legislation, a streamlined institutional framework and the integration of international agreements into other chemicals management activities as the solutions. This approach would provide Coherency, Coordination, Consistency, Continuity and Cost efficiency to chemicals management. He outlined the steps toward integrating legislation: as a first step, countries should develop basic chemicals legislation that integrates the international agreements requirements and regulates the placing of chemical products on the market (and includes the responsibilities of suppliers). A second step for countries is to develop basic environment and workplace legislation to regulate the use of chemicals and the responsibilities of users. A third step is to ensure that the institutions managing the first two steps have clear and separate responsibilities and that they cooperate. He emphasized that government's responsibility lies in steering and supervising, while industry and consumers are responsible for safe marketing and use of chemicals.

The Perspective of the GEF

Synergies should be pursued to avoid fragmentation and ineffectiveness.

Laurent Granier, Global Environment Facility (GEF), provided background information on the GEF's funding policies and partner agencies and then highlighted the GEF's programme in support of the preparation of national implementation plans (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention. He stated that synergies should be pursued to avoid fragmentation and ineffectiveness, taking partially informed or wrong decisions and missing opportunities. He noted that the GEF is accountable to the conference of the parties to the conventions to which it serves as a financial mechanism, which restricts its ability to pursue synergies more fully. He added that both the GEF NIP guidelines and draft operational programme explicitly refer to the need to seek synergies and coordinate among related chemicals agreements. As an example, he cited persistent organic pollutants and ozone-depleting substances when being handled for disposal. He concluded by encouraging participants to contact their national focal points.

The Perspective of the European Commission

To ensure that chemical management receives appropriate attention at the national level, it must be perceived as a single issue rather than associated with disparate agreements.

Marc Debois, European Commission, provided a development perspective to the discussion. He stated that in order to ensure that chemical management receives appropriate attention at the national level, where it competes with many development issues, it must be perceived as a single issue, rather than associated with disparate agreements. Hence searching for synergies between the agreements is necessary and should be addressed at all levels. At the international level, secretariats should strengthen coordination (perhaps the IOMC should include secretariats) and identify a common source of information among the agreements. At the country level, Mr. Debois recommended coordination of focal points to ensuring that responsibilities are not dispersed sectorally. This would ensure policy coherence and dialogue to better implement joint programmes, take a participatory approach, ensure political attention for capacity building, link chemicals and waste to the development agenda, and institute mechanisms for coordination and mainstreaming. These solutions should also be applied at the regional level as appropriate. At the local level, integration naturally takes place. He also underscored the role of donors, who should improve their own coordination within and with other organizations, implement activities and programmes that build capacity for various agreements, raise awareness and provide training, and share their expertise. Mr. Debois made some specific recommendations to promote synergies: further development of UNITAR's workshop documents so as to include all relevant COP decisions and other relevant agreements; development of a guidance document on synergies for specific issues; enhancing information exchange on best practices through case studies; offering joint programmes at the COP and secretariat levels; integrating planning at the national level through National Profiles; and strengthening institutions (particularly customs).

The Perspective of an NGO

Common themes under which synergies could be built include information exchange, participation of civil society, industry obligations, legislative requirements, monitoring and enforcement.

Mariann Lloyd-Smith, IPEN, expressed support for the "Five C's of Synergy" outlined by Bengt Bucht, thus coining the term. She outlined common themes among the agreements under which synergies could be built. These include information exchange, participation of civil society, industry obligations, legislative requirements, monitoring and enforcement. Among the benefits of coordinating activities, she stressed that the synergy gained underpinned life-cycle management of chemicals at the national, regional and global levels. She mentioned avoiding duplications, as well as saving resources, time and staff and decreasing the burdens of implementing agencies. Cooperation should take place between government departments, secretariats, industry and non-governmental organizations. Priority areas for building synergies in capacity building include: information management and delivery, training kits and workshops, risk assessment tools, and template model

legislation. She emphasized that capacity building must reflect the needs of participants and concluded by describing the South Pacific Case Study in Legislative Synergies, under which model “omnibus” legislation can be expanded to include regulations for specific conventions.

The Perspective of GEN

Participants at four regional seminars concerning the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions agreed that significant benefits could be derived from developing synergies.

Sophie Flensburg, Geneva Environment Network, described the results of four regional and subregional seminars organized by GEN and partners in Benin, South Africa, Uruguay and Estonia concerning the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. At the workshops, participants agreed that significant benefits could be derived from developing synergies among implemented agreements. At the national level synergies could be identified among focal points and designated authorities, in awareness raising and sensitization, stakeholder involvement, capacity building, national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention, national priority setting, and integrated/harmonized national legislation. At the regional and subregional levels, synergies could be developed for three conventions through the Basel Convention Regional Centers, holding joint programmes and projects, exchanging information, creating networks, bilateral and regional cooperation, and harmonizing legislation. Possible solutions at the international level include coordination of activities and promotion of synergies among the secretariats, and donor support for capacity building, infrastructure, cleaner production and technology transfer. Ms. Flensburg concluded by remarking that nearly 90 countries had participated in the GEN workshops and had provided the opportunity for focal points to meet and exchange information.⁵

⁵ Reports of the workshops are available at the GEN website: <www.environmenthouse.ch>.

2.2 Participant Statements⁶

Participants highlighted successful approaches for synergy development linked to international agreements, identified practical problems faced and suggested key topics that should be further developed.

Basheer Al-Qaseer, Ministry of Health, Jordan, reiterated that a relevant area for integration is the training of customs officers. Michael Musenga, Livingstone City Council, Zambia, highlighted the need for integrated capacity building for enforcement of agreements. Claudio Torres Nachón, State Council of Environmental Protection, Veracruz, Mexico, pointed out that synergistic implementation of international agreements can be achieved through the stronger participation of provinces/states in international forums and in national implementation.

Oludayo Dada, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria, identified the strengthening of regional centers to develop synergy. Narupa Ram, Department of Environment, Fiji, expressed the need to set standards for industry and recommended partnering for training. Premachandra Hakmanage Sirimewan, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka, described his country's efforts toward the integration of chemical and waste management through the development of an action plan and task forces. Teresita Pamela Liao, Environmental Management Bureau, Philippines, identified the need to provide integrated capacity building on export/import management for the prevention of terrorist activities.

Valentina Radjenovic, Ministry for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment, Serbia and Montenegro, supported regional collaboration for the integration of chemicals and waste management and suggested that a guidance document for customs officers integrating the agreements' requirements be developed. Enid Chaverri-Tapia, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica, highlighted the importance of intra-governmental cooperation in the implementation of agreements, noting that such cooperation is attractive to funders, and outlined her region's efforts toward synergy development. Gillian Guthrie, Ministry of Land and Environment, Jamaica, called for integrated regional collaboration in developing databases and establishing networks to share experiences, best practices and expertise.

Mohammed Khashashneh, Ministry of Environment, Jordan, recommended the development of model legislation as an area of synergy. Pashko Gega, Institute of Environment, Albania, identified integrated capacity building as a priority area. Supranee Jongdeepaisarl, Thailand Research Fund, advocated harmonization of chemicals classification and labelling. Pornpit Silkavute, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, highlighted the need for integrated capacity building.

Robert Simon, ICCA, emphasized the need to remove disincentives and streamline laws for an integrated approach to chemical management and urged countries to consider industry as a resource in the

⁶ The full text of these statements is available at the workshop website www.unitar.org/cwm/c/tw/ws8/index.htm.

implementation of agreements. Yahya Msangi, Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers' Union, pointed out that to build synergies, focal points must ensure communication and continuity. Mattias Kern, GTZ Convention Project Chemical Safety, Germany, offered his perspective as a donor. He emphasised that chemical–management issues must be integrated into national development priorities and that crucial areas of synergy include customs training and focal-point collaboration. Joanna Tempowski, WHO/IPCS, explained that poison centres can be synergistic bodies as they meet many agreements' requirements. She described other synergistic activities undertaken by her organization, including the medical and first-aid instructions being developed for the GHS.

Suresh Raj, UNEP DTIE, suggested that his organization's approach to capacity building, which includes regional delivery, a focus on institutional strengthening and networking, a bottom-up approach and some innovative mechanisms, could yield some lessons for synergy development among other agreements. Michael Stanley-Jones, Aarhus Convention Secretariat, UNECE, described the Convention's protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs), which is a synergistic instrument as it can serve the requirements of multiple agreements. Keith G. Kennedy, University of Dundee, emphasized the importance of local and regional level training for waste management.

2.3 Selection of Working Group Topics

Based upon the presentations, panel discussions and participant statements, thirteen working groups were formed to discuss in depth the main areas of identified synergies. From a long list of issues raised during the first day, participants selected topics and ranked them according to interest for further elaboration in working groups. The working groups allowed participants to share their views on the current challenges faced in implementing agreements at the national level and on the concrete opportunities to build synergies at various levels, as well as develop practical recommendations toward realizing synergies at the national level.

Working groups allowed participants to share their views on the concrete opportunities to build synergies at various levels, as well as develop practical recommendations.

The working group topics included:

- developing a coherent policy, legislative and institutional framework;
- linking chemical safety to general development policies and ensuring sustainable financial resource mobilization;
- the role of states/provinces and local authorities in implementation of international agreements;
- awareness raising, education and training;
- public participation in national implementation of international agreements;
- information exchange and dissemination to the public;

- communication and information exchange among agreement focal points;
- capacity for risk assessment and risk management;
- capacity for analysis, monitoring and general enforcement;
- import and export control/ customs;
- challenges, obstacles and incentives for implementation of synergies at the national level;
- capacity assistance for implementation of synergies at the national level; and
- opportunities for informing the SAICM process.

The results reported by each working group are available on the workshop website.

3. Synergies for Capacity Development under International Agreements: Opportunities and Challenges

3.1 Defining the Concept of Synergy Development

Three levels of synergy development – information exchange, coordination and integration – were examined.

Seizing opportunities to realize mutual benefits was the working definition of synergy development used in the workshop. More specifically, synergies can be developed at three levels of increasing sophistication. First, synergy development may mean improving information flow and exchanging information among various government agencies on a particular issue. A second level could involve more systematic coordination of activities to include joint operations. Finally, a more profound degree of synergy development would mean integration of activities and institutions operating in a specific area. To realize full integration, government bodies would give up sectoral approaches (see examples in text box on next page).

Not all chemicals and waste management activities need to be fully integrated; coordination or information exchange may also realize the benefits of synergy.

The workshop also concluded that not all chemicals and waste management activities need to be fully integrated; coordination or information exchange may be sufficient to realize the benefits of synergy. Opportunities for integration should be systematically examined, even if sectoral approaches remain appropriate for a number of issues. In many cases, a combination of the three types of synergy development (to be taken on an issue-by-issue basis) may be most suitable. Any amount of synergy development can save resources as work is not needlessly duplicated, facilitate administration as activities are streamlined, and improve policy making through the opportunity for the cross-fertilization of ideas.

3.2 Identifying Synergies within the Chemicals Management Framework

Synergies at the three levels described above can be identified within several realms or spheres: across government sectors; between different administrative levels; between the national, regional and international levels; and with non-governmental organisations.

Identifying synergies across government sectors

Synergies may be developed between different government ministries.

Responsibility for the management of chemicals and implementation of the relevant agreements at the national level is usually held by more than one government ministry or entity. Synergies may, therefore, be developed among and within the environmental, health, agriculture, trade, industry and other ministries or institutions within the country. By pooling resources, ministries from the various sectors may economise as well as meet the requirements of more than one international agreement.

The Various Levels of Synergy Development: Two Examples

The three levels of synergy development – information exchange, coordination and integration – can be illustrated through the following two examples. With regard to chemical inspections, at the most basic level various government entities responsible for inspections may hold meetings to exchange information about each others' activities. At the second level, these bodies may decide to coordinate joint inspections. At the third level, they may decide to create a single inspectorate responsible for fulfilling the inspections for all chemicals.

A second example of synergy development is emissions reporting. At the first level, agencies responsible for monitoring and reporting emissions of particular chemicals would share this information with other agencies responsible for similar activities. At the second level, agencies would coordinate their emissions reporting, for example, by using similar reporting formats or a common database. Thirdly, a fully integrated approach would involve renouncing separate emission inventories in favour of a single, multimedia PRTR.

Similarly, focal points for different agreements, which may be scattered throughout a government, can benefit from synergy development. Focal points and national authorities for the various agreements could improve information exchange or even coordinate activities. For example, in order to implement agreements under their responsibility and realize synergies, focal points could coordinate in advance of international meetings, share the use of laboratories, or provide joint training for customs officials.

Identifying synergies between administrative levels

Governments could ensure that national policies encourage the sharing of information and collaboration on chemicals and waste management among provincial or state governments.

Synergies can be developed across the national, state/provincial and local levels of government. As these administrative levels may have overlapping and interdependent responsibilities in the management of chemicals, the opportunities to develop synergies through information exchange and coordination are significant. To promote synergies at the state/provincial level, for example, national governments could ensure that national policies encourage the sharing of information and collaboration on chemicals and waste management with provincial or state governments. At the local level, national government could ensure that local authorities are aware of their responsibilities in the application of ratified international agreements and provide training on cross-cutting methods of implementation.

Identifying synergies at the regional and international levels

Establishment of a regional dioxin laboratory, rather than multiple national ones, is an example of synergy development at the regional level.

There are opportunities to develop synergies among governments at the regional and international levels to increase the effectiveness of chemicals management initiatives (see also text box on page 38). For instance, this may involve joint requests by governments for international support for capacity building activities that meet the requirements of more than one agreement. At the regional level, governments may choose to conserve resources by establishing a single dioxin laboratory for the region, rather than investing in national ones, for instance. They may decide regionally to share information about legislation and policies in chemical and waste transit countries, identify “centres of excellence”, standardize import/export data, or contribute to a regional PRTR effort.

Identifying synergies with non-governmental organizations

Areas of synergy may be found when government and non-governmental organizations share information through meetings, publications, websites and other means. There are also many opportunities for collaboration and integration. Stakeholders such as industry associations, environmental protection groups, labour unions, health organizations and others may cooperate in areas of synergy. Industry may wish to collaborate with government in the development of chemicals-management policy. NGOs within a sector (labour) and

across sectors (such as health and trade) may strengthen their negotiating positions by developing common positions to present to government and to advocate internationally. Industry and public NGOs may find it useful to cooperate in educating workers on appropriate chemical use and protection, and on capacity-building programmes for customs officers. Health and environmental protection groups may choose to share information on their pest management initiatives and possibly collaborate on guidance-document development.

3.3 Seeking Synergies between Chemical Management and National Development Priorities

The workshop noted that it is insufficient to identify synergies only within the chemicals management framework. It is equally important to seek synergies between the chemicals/waste agenda and other areas of sustainable development within national development priorities. Governments face the challenge of matching limited funds to an enormous array of priorities, of which chemicals and waste management are only one. Linking chemicals and waste management to health, economic and social development can also facilitate mobilization of both national and external financial resources. Examples of such linkages include the effects of chemical pollution on drinking water, the protection of vulnerable groups (such as women or children) and poverty reduction.

3.4 Potential Benefits of Synergy Development

Participants agreed that an effective approach to realise the benefits of synergy development is the pursuit of the “Five Cs” of synergy development: *coherency, co-ordination, consistency, continuity, and cost efficiency*. By actively pursuing the Five C’s, synergy development can result in the following benefits:

An effective approach to overcoming obstacles is the pursuit of the “Five Cs” of synergy development: coherency, co-ordination, consistency, continuity, and cost efficiency.

- communications-related benefits, including improved information exchange within and among relevant parties, and raised awareness for the general public;
- administrative benefits such as the minimization of overlaps and inconsistencies in policies and programmes and increased transparency;
- 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 and intra-government support for allocation of resources to implement chemical policies and programmes; and

- health and environmental-protection benefits through more effective risk reduction through cooperation.

Overall, the benefit of synergy development is increased effectiveness as roles are clarified and resources streamlined. Tangible benefits could be an improvement in enforcement capacity as various agencies cooperate and technical expertise is pooled nationally or regionally. Increased effectiveness also means closing gaps, leading to a more thorough life-cycle management of chemicals, which in turn yields important health and environmental benefits. Moreover, synergy development can facilitate mobilising national commitment for chemicals and waste management priorities (see Text Box below) and may have a positive impact in attracting the attention of international and bi-lateral donors. Finally, building synergies has the characteristic of engendering win-win situations: integrated management to avoid hazardous spills also protects workers' health, and such integration also fulfils the requirements of more than one international agreement.

Using Synergies to Mobilize National Commitment

The successful implementation of agreements depends in large part on political will at the national level. Unfortunately, this may be lacking. Ministries may be unused to working together, there may be disagreements about priorities between various levels or political allegiances may impede collaboration among implementing agencies. The benefits of overcoming these problems and facilitating cooperation among authorities likely outweigh the costs, however. Improving communication and coordination allows ministries and other stakeholders to develop a coherent approach that is more effective at mobilising support than unilateral efforts. For instance, representatives from a number of relevant ministries may jointly visit ministries of planning/finance or parliamentarians to highlight the importance of chemicals management in the national development agenda. The effect may be further magnified by coordinating with non-governmental stakeholders to present a unified message.

3.5 Potential Challenges to Synergy Development

Throughout the workshop participants emphasized the existence of obstacles to the successful implementation of agreements and, more generally, to the sound management of chemicals and waste. For example, it can be difficult to change already existing government structures at the national level and coordinate multiple international agreements, each with their own constituencies and memberships, mandates and requirements. Sharing information takes time and resources, and integrating activities may require giving up a measure of autonomy and resources.

It can be difficult to change already existing government structures at the national level and coordinate multiple international agreements.

Specific obstacles to implementing synergies at the national level raised by workshop participants included, *inter alia*:

- inter-governmental competition;
- lack of skills among key personnel and lack of qualified personnel;
- multiple authorities for certain chemicals/waste-related issues;
- individualistic nature of some focal points;
- financial impediments;
- lack of coherence among policies/laws/regulations;
- lack of political will and public pressure;
- failure to link sound chemicals management to economic development/poverty reduction and other key, “broader” issues; and
- inadequate information/awareness of the potential benefits of collaboration.

3.6 Initiating a Process for Synergy Development at the National Level

In addition to exploring the benefits and challenges of synergy development, participants made recommendations throughout the workshop on the *process* for implementing synergies at the national level. The practical recommendations included:

The workshop recommended practical steps for countries to initiate a process for synergy development.

- Development of a National Profile, which provides an overview and documents strengths and weaknesses of national chemicals and waste management infrastructure.
- Preparation of a situation analysis, based on the National Profile, 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.).
- 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, and seeking regional collaboration.
- Regular co-ordination meetings in preparation for and as a follow-up to international meetings and negotiations, such as the SAICM PrepCom meetings.

4. Creating Synergies in Specific Areas

Based on discussions and presentations in plenary and working group reports, a set of recommendations was drafted, discussed and endorsed by participants. These recommendations address a range of topics amenable to synergy development.

4.1 Legislation and policy development

A coherent legislative and policy framework is a necessary condition for facilitating synergies. Conversely, fragmented legislation often leads to administrative gaps, duplication and ineffective control. An analysis of the 11 agreements reviewed for the workshop revealed that legislative and policy development is a potential area of synergy: nine of the agreements have such specific legal requirements. For instance, the Aarhus Convention and the Basel Convention each require that Parties take the necessary legislative, regulatory and other measures to implement the provisions of the Convention. The Rotterdam Convention mandates Parties to establish and strengthen their national infrastructure for implementation of the Convention, through implementation of legislation or administrative measures.

An analysis of the 11 agreements reviewed for the workshop revealed that legislative and policy development is a potential area for synergy development.

These requirements imply the need for capacity in order to meet the obligations agreed to by countries under international agreements. The *process* of developing a legislative and policy framework for the implementation of these articles may reveal areas of potential synergy, which could then be realized by developing a coherent framework. A challenge at the national level is that since several agreements include such provisions, consideration should be given to whether separate approaches to legislation and policy development for each agreement should be pursued or whether to take an integrated approach to developing legal and regulatory mechanisms in order to implement these agreements.

In order to develop synergies for legal and policy matters, workshop participants made the following recommendations:

Model legislation integrating the relevant conventions' requirements should be developed at the international level.

- A platform for exchanging information and providing examples of national legislation should be developed at the regional or international levels.
- A clearing house for legal instruments showcasing best practices should be developed at the regional level.
- Model legislation integrating the relevant conventions' requirements should be developed at the international level in the form of a template for omnibus legislation. The Conference of the Parties for the various agreements could then endorse it.

- National implementation of a legislative and policy framework should follow the methodology outlined in Section 3.6.
- State/provincial and local legislation should be integrated into the national framework to enhance enforcement.⁷

The Role of State and Local Authorities in the Implementation of International Agreements

Participants recognised that different layers of government can be relevant for the implementation of international agreements and that there is an important role for state/local authorities. There was general agreement on the need for federal/central authorities to share information, resources, and generally discuss relevant issues with state/local authorities. In addition, however, state/local authorities must also have the capacity and interest to fulfill their obligations related to implementing international agreements.

In order to develop the capacity of state/local authorities, the workshop recommended, *inter alia*, the:

- involvement of local authorities in preparations for or participation in COPs;
- dissemination of specific and adequate information to all levels of governments, in different languages, if needed;
- improvement of state/provincial or municipal legislation;
- promotion of awareness rising and civil society participation in decisions/policy making at all levels;
- fostering of partnerships among local governments;
- development of economic initiatives for local authorities to facilitate the implementation of the international agreements on the national level; and
- facilitation of technology transfer to local communities involved with production/management of toxic substances or residues.

⁷ UNITAR held a Thematic Workshop on “Developing and Strengthening National Legislation and Policies for the Sound Management of Chemicals” in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22-25 June 1999. A final report is available.

4.2 Inter-ministerial coordination

Coordination among and within ministries is critical to identifying and developing synergies at the national level. National coordination can ensure a coherent and holistic policy approach at the international level and provide benefits to the various sectoral ministries represented. The FAO Code makes a specific recommendation on ministerial coordination (Article 9.1.2 recommends that governments facilitate the exchange of information between regulatory authorities to strengthen cooperative efforts), and workshop participants agreed that this is widely necessary.

A national chemicals coordinating committee can oversee all chemicals and waste management issues and establish priorities, including implementation of international agreements.

Priorities related to chemicals and waste management should be determined according to an overarching framework, such as Chapters 19 and 20 of Agenda 21, rather than according to sectoral concerns. Workshop participants recommended that countries establish a national chemicals coordinating committee to oversee all chemicals management issues and establish priorities on chemicals and waste issues, including implementation of international agreements. This permanent committee should include representatives from ministries/governmental institutions managing chemicals and waste issues, focal points for international agreements, other affected ministries and stakeholders. The committee could create steering groups for clusters of conventions or crosscutting issues and consider the reorganization of institutional arrangements to promote synergy development, as appropriate.

When immediate creation of the committee is not feasible, countries should establish an interim working group to coordinate national implementation of agreements and policy positions at the international level. The committee, or the interim working group, should coordinate reporting by focal points and others to ensure information reaches all relevant ministries and stakeholders through websites, meetings, workshops, list-serves and the media.⁸

4.3 Stakeholder involvement and public participation

Public participation promotes public ownership which ensures sustainability, increases accountability and promotes transparency.

Involving stakeholders and the general public in chemicals and waste management creates opportunities to identify synergies as new ideas and approaches may be suggested. Public participation also promotes public ownership which ensures sustainability, increases accountability and promotes transparency. The Aarhus Convention, the ILO Conventions 170 and 174 and the Stockholm Convention all specifically mandate stakeholder involvement, while the Rotterdam Convention mandates public access to information.

All of these requirements imply the need for training and capacity building for stakeholders. It should also be considered whether a

⁸ UNITAR held a Thematic Workshop on “Strengthening Interministerial Coordination for the Sound Management of Chemicals” in Geneva, Switzerland on 29-30 August 2002. A final report is available.

coordinated approach to stakeholder involvement for all agreements should be used or if distinct and isolated involvement is preferable.

Participants offered these specific recommendations:

- Countries should identify contact persons and establish offices to attend to public concerns and receive ideas to facilitate the identification of synergies.
- Countries and stakeholders should develop a Public Participation Policy or Protocol outlining the principles and specific commitments by which government will abide. The Protocol should serve as a guide for the implementation of all agreements.
- Countries should consider developing legislation to provide an integrated framework for public participation.

4.4 Information exchange and dissemination

Information exchange is crucial to developing synergies among those who are involved with international agreements at the national level.

The exchange of information is crucial to developing synergies among those who are involved with international agreements at the national level to coordinate and integrate their efforts, as well as to create opportunities for synergies development with others within government (within the federal and among the state/provincial levels). Information exchange and dissemination is an area of potential synergy among the international agreements as nine of the 11 refer to it and most have specific obligations. The Rotterdam Convention for instance, requires Parties to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning relevant chemicals, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information, while ILO Convention 174 specifies the notification obligations of employers and the competent authority on hazards.

Information exchange regarding hazardous substances is therefore an area of possible synergy development. For example, countries could consider – if more than one agreement includes such provisions – whether capacity would be enhanced by increased information exchange among existing focal points (*e.g.* regular meetings of focal points) or by an integrated approach to focal point duties (*e.g.* creating a single focal point or “cluster”) in order to maximize efficiencies.

Participants made the following concrete recommendations to enhance synergies for information exchange:

A national chemical safety website – owned by all stakeholders – can contain pertinent information on national chemical safety activities.

- Countries should take advantage of new technologies for communication such as email list-serves, electronic information kiosks, phone trees, electronic databases and shared websites.⁹
- Countries should ensure that agreements' focal points meet regularly.
- Countries may wish to formalize information exchange through a charter that ensures commitment from interested and affected parties.

It was in particular noted that development of a national chemical safety website or platform should be considered. Such a website would be “owned” by all stakeholders and contain information such as the country’s National Profile, information on ministries and stakeholders active in chemical management, and other pertinent information on chemical safety activities at the country level. The website should be maintained as a “living” resource and be continually updated.

4.5 Awareness raising

A coordinated approach to awareness raising may maximise the use of resources and have a “multiplier” effect regarding public awareness.

Raising public awareness on chemical substances and waste is necessary to safeguard public and environmental health. It is also a possible area of synergy as 8 of the 11 agreements contain at least general references to access to information. Although the public need not be aware of all the technical information related to the agreements, participants identified risk and hazard information (*e.g.* labelling and banned chemicals) as topics requiring awareness raising efforts. A coordinated approach to awareness raising amongst similar conventions may maximise the use of resources and have a “multiplier” effect regarding public awareness.

Specific recommendations included:

- Governments should develop and use their National Profiles to raise awareness among nongovernmental sectors so as to forge partnerships in areas of synergy.¹⁰
- Information campaigns on chemical and waste issues should be coordinated and integrated to provide a clear and unified message (*e.g.* on safe handling of all chemicals). All sectors of the public, including decision makers and children, should be targeted through appropriate channels (*e.g.* community theatre and radio plays for certain communities).
- Focal points should coordinate and consider integrating their

⁹ UNITAR held a Thematic Workshop on “Strengthening National Information Systems and Information Exchange for the Sound Management of Chemicals” in Geneva on 2-4 September 1998. A final report is available.

presentations and awareness raising materials aimed at other government officials (e.g. joint press conferences).

PRTR as a Tool for Synergy Development

Participants identified pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) as a tool that can assist countries to implement synergies in the area of emissions reporting. A PRTR is a catalogue or database of releases and transfers of potentially harmful chemicals including information on the nature and quantity of such releases and transfers. A typical PRTR covers releases to air, water and land, as well as wastes transported for treatment, disposal or recycling. As most agreements require the tracking of various chemicals/wastes emissions, these could be integrated into a single PRTR, as appropriate, thus fulfilling the requirements of various international agreements. Countries could consider, in a manner similar to that suggested for the GHS, that chemicals included under international agreements be considered priority for inclusion in a PRTR. PRTRs could also include information on international agreements, such as through websites, in order to raise public awareness of the issues covered by the agreements.

¹⁰ UNITAR held a Thematic Workshop on “Strengthening National Awareness Raising and Education for Chemicals Management” in Geneva, Switzerland on 19-21 October 1998. A final report is available.

4.6 Education and training programmes

Since each agreement has its specific technical and procedural requirements, organizing training so as to fulfill the implementation requirements of several agreements is an important area of synergy. For instance, the ILO Conventions 170 and 174, the Stockholm Convention, the Montreal Protocol and the Convention on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances all require training at the national level for various sectors.

In countries with limited capacities, the need to ensure synergies is even more pronounced in the area of training in order to make use of limited resources. Countries should therefore consider if coordinated or integrated training is required or if the implementation of each agreement requires specific training.

Integrated capacity building on relevant agreements should be organized regionally and training should highlight areas of synergy.

The workshop recommended that:

- Integrated capacity building on relevant agreements should be organized regionally. Training should highlight areas of synergy among the agreements.
- Integrated capacity building for customs officials and law enforcement officers on the requirements of the various agreements should be implemented, as this is an area of synergy.
- Education for elementary and secondary schools should focus on the effects of the substances controlled by the agreements in an integrated manner (*e.g.* burns from improper handling).
- Universities should offer programs that integrate the chemical and waste disciplines and undertake research on integrated implementation of the agreements.

4.7 Risk assessment

Risk assessment is an area of potential synergy as several agreements require or recommend it. Specifically, the Rotterdam Convention (Annex IV requires the Secretariat to collect relevant information on risk or hazard evaluations as a criteria for listing pesticides as severely hazardous, and the Stockholm Convention (in Article 8) requires risk assessment information gathering for the listing of a chemical in the Convention.

Training that integrates the various assessments types required by the agreements should be offered regionally.

Countries may face the challenge to determine if exchanging risk and hazard information is sufficient or if an integrated national approach – including perhaps regional cooperation or “twinning arrangements” – to developing capacity for risk assessment would be more constructive.

Participants recommended the following actions to facilitate achieving synergies for building risk assessment capacity:

- An integrated guidance document should be developed explaining the various types of assessments required by the agreements.
- Training that integrates the various assessments types required by the agreements should be offered regionally.

4.8 Risk management

Strengthening risk management skills would be beneficial for the implementation of the various agreements and an area of potential synergy. The FAO Code recommends that risk management decisions be based on all available data or information, as part of national pesticide registration process and risk assessment respectively. ILO Convention 170 requires employers to assess the risk arising from the use of chemicals at work and take specific actions to protect workers health against such risk.

An integrated strategy could involve building up a core team of experts that could provide advice and undertake step-by-step risk-benefit analysis, involving relevant stakeholders.

Countries may need to consider if it would make sense to develop an integrated strategy for building capacity to undertake risk management (e.g. building up a core team of experts that could provide advice, undertaking step-by-step risk-benefit analysis, involving relevant stakeholders) rather than having a decentralized approach (e.g. each ministry having its own experts on risk assessment and management).

Participants made the following specific recommendations to encourage synergy development for risk management:

- Risk managers at key institutions should be trained on the integrated risk management approach.¹¹
- At the international level, a guidance document should be developed outlining a systematic process for risk management under the various agreements.
- At the national level, NGOs could assist in training on integrated risk management.

4.9 Chemicals analysis and monitoring

Several agreements require or recommend chemical analysis and monitoring. For example, the Stockholm Convention requires Parties to encourage or undertake national monitoring of POPs and chemical analyses, while the Convention on Narcotics requires Parties to provide

¹¹ UNITAR held a Thematic Workshop on “Strengthening National Capacities for Risk Management Decision Making for Priority Chemicals” in Geneva, Switzerland on 4-6 October 1999. A final report is available.

quantities of substances for analytical or investigation purposes. Countries may need to consider if an integrated approach – including perhaps regional cooperation or “twinning arrangements” – increase capacity more than a decentralized approach.

The first step to integration of chemical analysis and monitoring should be a national assessment, for instance through a National Profile.

Participants agreed on the following recommendations to improve capacity and realize synergies:

- The first step to national integration of chemical analysis and monitoring should be a national assessment, for instance through a National Profile.
- At the international level, capacity building (training and infrastructure) should be integrated to serve the analysis and monitoring needs of the various agreements.
- Regional laboratories should be developed to support the requirements of several countries and various agreements.

Integrated capacity development should be provided at the local, national and regional levels.¹²

4.10 Import/export control and other areas of enforcement

Co-operation and integration across ministries toward integrated border control mechanisms may be warranted.

A number of conventions contain provisions on import/export control providing an opportunity to develop synergies in legislation and enforcement measures among the Conventions. For example, the Stockholm Convention requires the gathering and reporting of statistical data on import/export of listed chemicals and of States involved in the export/import. The Montreal Protocol requires Parties to establish a system for licensing the import and export of controlled substances. The Convention on Narcotics requires the names and addresses of importers/exporters be collected for inspection.

Although the substances controlled by these and other Conventions differ, many require the tracking and reporting of imports/exports, providing an opportunity for synergistic action. Countries should therefore consider how to move from separated import/export control mechanisms (established for each agreement) towards greater co-operation and integration within and across ministries.

Participants recommended that countries explore possible synergies for import/export control across agreements in the areas of:

- legislation and enforcement;
- training/capacity building;

¹² UNITAR held a Thematic Workshop on “Strengthening National Capacities for Chemical Analysis and Monitoring for the Sound Management of Chemicals” in The Hague, The Netherlands on 5-8 November 2001. A final report is available.

Donors and convention secretariats should identify and cooperate on programs that realize synergies on common themes.

- communications among national authorities, focal points and customs officers;
- development/strengthening of licensing regimes and development of 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 (or closely linked to) the harmonized customs codes system; and
- and ensuring packaging and labelling regimes are harmonized across agreements and match international standards (such as the GHS).

At the international level, donors and convention secretariats should identify and cooperate on programs that realize synergies on common themes, for instance in capacity building for customs officials. 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) 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.¹³

¹³ Although not present at the workshop, the UNECE's Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (CEFACT) is working to develop "Single Window Guidelines" in order to integrate import-export controls in a manner that would have the potential for large improvements in inter-ministerial communications and effective operations. For more information, visit: <www.unece.org/cefact>.

The GHS as a Tool for Synergy Development

Participants identified the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) as an international tool that can assist countries to implement synergies in the areas of classification and labelling and emissions reporting. The GHS is a new internationally agreed tool for chemical hazard communication, incorporating harmonized chemical hazard classification criteria and provisions for standardized labels and safety data sheets. Participants recognised that implementation at the national level of the GHS could support integrated implementation of agreements by acting as a broad-based “building block” for strengthening chemicals management. Classification, labelling and development of safety data sheets require a broad spectrum of expertise and skills. Building capacity in these areas is an opportunity to build synergy across agreements. 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. Chemicals addressed under other international agreements should be classified and labelled using the GHS to provide a harmonised approach at the international level.

5. The International Dimension of Synergy Development

Although the focus of the workshop was implementation at the national level, participants returned frequently to the need for synergies to be developed at the international level as well. They emphasized that synergies would be enhanced by greater collaboration and dialogue between international partners.

5.1 Collaboration among Convention Secretariats, International Organizations and Donors

The workshop developed specific ideas on collaboration among convention secretariats, international organizations and donors. These included the following recommendations:

The workshop recommended stronger co-ordination between agreements and through decisions of Conferences of the Parties.

- Assess and seize opportunities for adapting the institutional framework of the various agreements to enable close cooperation.
- Expand the IOMC or establish a co-ordinating group to include convention secretariats and other bodies involved in agreement-related training (such as GTZ and the Ozone Action Programme).
- Establish joint working programmes among Conferences of the Parties, for instance, following the CBD, CCD, Climate Change and Forum on Forests.
- Develop a unified approach for chemicals and waste agreements to work with the World Customs Organization for better import/export control.
- Integrate reporting procedures and guidelines at the international level, thus facilitating dialogue among reporting sectors at the national level.
- Require stronger co-ordination between agreements and through decisions of Conferences of the Parties.
- Link capacity development decisions taken in one Conference of the Parties with those of others.

Strengthening Regional Mechanisms to Support Synergy Development

During the workshop participants expressed repeatedly the need to strengthen regional mechanisms, as neighbouring countries often face similar conditions and can benefit from common solutions. They suggested using regional mechanisms (such as the Basel Convention's Regional Centres, regional economic integration organizations, and regional offices of international organizations, etc.) 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 on the various international agreements for focal points and relevant ministries;
- serve as depositories and facilitate information exchange on lessons learned by countries in a region; and
- cooperate in joint activities to protect shared ecosystems and common borders.

5.2 Considering Synergies in Designing Capacity Development Projects

Participants made specific recommendations for building synergies into the design of capacity development projects. They suggested that training should focus on building the capacity of key personnel who could then train others in the country and ensure ongoing awareness of agreements (through “training of trainers” programmes). This approach would help build institutional memory at the country level and lessen the impact of staff turnover. They also suggested that capacity development activities take a building block approach, thus ensuring that countries have basic national policies in place before building more sophisticated institutional, informational, and legal systems for implementation.

Design and implementation of capacity building projects should always identify linkages to sustainable development priorities and engage all relevant ministries and sectors.

Other suggestions included that the design and implementation of projects should always identify linkages to sustainable development priorities. Projects should engage all relevant ministries and sectors, including economics/finance, and the use of economic instruments at the national level to facilitate integration and synergy development. Capacity building projects should address a number of levels, from political decision-makers to customs officials and environmental inspectors. Individual projects should make linkages to and strengthen the overall national chemicals management framework, as isolated, convention-specific support activities are likely to have limited impact.

To Convention secretariats and international organizations, participants also made specific requests for capacity building. They asked that organizations such as UNITAR prepare common information packages, and that mechanisms be developed to keep all relevant personnel updated regarding changes to agreements, for instance, through INFOCAP. They also suggested that international project design should include provisions for the use of regional centres or “centres of excellence”. Finally, they suggested that experiences gained in earlier capacity-building initiatives under the various agreements should inform new ones.

5.3 Development of International Guidance and Training Materials to Facilitate National Synergy Development

Guidance may be developed in the form of toolkits, which could be used either in training programs led by a trainer or for self-training.

In addition to recommendations regarding cooperation and the design of projects, participants made specific requests for international guidance and training material for developing synergies at the national level. They highlighted that while a range of specific guidance documents and training materials are available from a number of agreements, most of them do not facilitate integrated capacity building and are not in a form that is easy to use for training purposes. Many agreements rely only on training of government officers working in the area. Instead participants suggested that materials be developed in the form of toolkits, which could be used either in training programs led by a trainer or for self-

training. Participants specifically identified universities as important in promoting synergies by including the chemicals and waste management issues regulated by the various agreements directly into chemistry and waste management curricula.

Specific guidance requested includes:

- Development of a framework/model legislation covering various international agreements.
- Creation of training materials targeting focal points and customs officials.
- Development of issue-specific guidance documents on synergies, such as risk assessment across agreements.
- Expansion of the UNITAR guidance material prepared for the workshop to include decisions of Conferences of the Parties for relevant conventions.
- Targeted guidance and training material to address the needs of decentralized bodies, such as states/provinces and local authorities.
- Targeted guidance and training material to address the needs of civil society organizations on the integrated implementation of agreements.
- Development and dissemination of case studies that address synergetic capacity building.

5.4 Key Issues Relevant to SAICM

Participants expressed their support for the SAICM process and for an integrated, synergistic approach to the implementation of international agreements. The level of integration will necessarily vary by country and region. The workshop identified a number of issues and recommendations that should be channelled into and considered by SAICM. They include the following:

The workshop identified a number of issues and recommendations that should be channelled into and considered by SAICM.

- 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.

Some additional recommendations to SAICM were also proposed:

- SAICM should encourage the linking of health and environmental issues to industrial processes related to pesticides, industrial chemicals and chemical wastes, thereby giving high priority to enabling synergies for the sound management chemicals and wastes.
- 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.

Annex A: Summary Table of National Capacity Requirements Under International Agreements

Key: +++ Specific Obligation; ++ Specific Recommendation; + General Reference

<i>Chapter 19, Agenda 21: Elements for sound chemicals management</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Aarhus</i>	<i>Basel</i>	<i>CWC</i>	<i>FAO Code</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>ILO 170</i>	<i>ILO 174</i>	<i>Rotterdam</i>	<i>Stockholm</i>	<i>VC/MP</i>	<i>UN Narcotics</i>
(A) Adequate Legislation	Generic legislation	+++	+++	+++	++	+	+++	+++	+++		+++	+++
	Import/export control legislation		+++	+++					+++	+++		
	Enabling legislation for chemical use restrictions/bans		+++							+++		+++
(B) Information Gathering and Dissemination	Development of chemical lists and/or inventory		+		++		+++	+++	++	+++		
	Emissions reporting	+++								+++	+++	
	National information systems/exchange	+++		+++	++	+	+	+++	+++	+++		+++
	International information exchange	+++	+++	+++	+	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
	Hazard data generation				++	+						
	Data confidentiality	+		+++		+	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++
	Access to information	+++		+	++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++		
(C) Capacity for Risk Assessment and Interpretation	Hazard assessment/classification		+	+	++	+	+++	+++	+++	+		

<i>Chapter 19, Agenda 21: Elements for sound chemicals management</i>		<i>Issue</i>	<i>Aarhus</i>	<i>Basel</i>	<i>CWC</i>	<i>FAO Code</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>ILO 170</i>	<i>ILO 174</i>	<i>Rotterdam</i>	<i>Stockholm</i>	<i>VC/MP</i>	<i>UN Narcotics</i>
		Hazard/risk communication (e.g. labeling)	+++	+++		++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
		Risk assessment				++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++		
(D) Establishment of Risk Management Policy		Packaging requirements		+++		++	+	+++		+			
		Capacity for risk management decision-making				++		+++	+++				
		Chemical-specific use restrictions/bans			+++	+		+++		+++	+++	+++	
		Life-cycle management		+		+	+	+		+++	+		
		Precautionary principle/approach							+++		+	+	
(E) Capacity for Implementation and Enforcement	General Implementation Issues	Focal points		+++	+			+	++	+++	+++		+
		Interministerial coordination				++							
		Stakeholder involvement	+++			++		+++	+++		+++		
		Resource mobilisation		++	+++	++				++	+++	+++	
		Technical assistance		+++	+++	++	+			+++	+++	+++	+++
		Training/skills building		+		++	+		+++	+++	++	+++	+++

Chapter 19, Agenda 21: Elements for sound chemicals management		Issue	Aarhus	Basel	CWC	FAO Code	GHS	ILO 170	ILO 174	Rotterdam	Stockholm	VC/MP	UN Narcotics	
		Technology transfer		+++		++				+	+++	+++		
		Development of alternatives			+	++				+++	+++	VC ++ MP +++		
		Evaluation of implementation	+++	+	+++	++	++		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	
	Enforcement	Capacity for chemical analysis/monitoring			+	++	+	+++				+++		+++
		Enforcement of regulations/decisions		+++	+++	++			+++		+++	+++	+++	+++
		Access to justice	+++					+++						
	(F) Capacity for Rehabilitation of Contaminated Sites and Poisoned Persons						++			+++		+++		
(G) Effective Education Programmes			+++	+	+		+	+++			+++	+++	+	
(H) Capacity to Respond to Emergencies				++	+++		+	+++	+++					

Annex B: Workshop Agenda

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

30 March – 2 April 2004
International Environment House (MIE 2 Annex)
Chemin de Balexert 7-9
Geneva, Switzerland

Timetable & Agenda

Tuesday, 30 March 2004

OPENING SESSION AND INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS

09.00 Welcome Remarks

- Mr. Marcel Boisard
Executive Director, UNITAR
- Representative of OPCW (to be confirmed)
- Mr. Nelson Sabogal
Senior Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention
- Mr. Jeremy Wates
Executive Secretary of the Aarhus Convention, UNECE
- Mr. Franz Perrez
Head of Section Global Affairs, Swiss Agency for the Environment,
Forests and Landscape

09.20 Introduction of Participants

09.30 Workshop Context, Objectives and Methodology

- Achim Halpaap, UNITAR

09.45 Introduction to International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management

- Peter Peterson & Jonathan Krueger, UNITAR

10.25 Logistics Announcement

10.30 Coffee Break

SESSION 1: IDENTIFYING THEMES FOR DEVELOPING SYNERGIES FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

10.45 Introductory Panel Presentations and Discussion: Perspectives on Synergies for Capacity Building

This moderated panel features the perspectives of a number of stakeholders and provides an opportunity to identify preliminary key issues and challenges regarding synergies for capacity building. Each speaker will give a brief presentation of about 10-15 minutes summarizing their experiences and key issues regarding synergies for capacity building, followed by an interactive discussion.

Moderator: Mr. Franz Perrez
Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape

Panel:

- Mr. Ibrahim Sow
Direction Environnement, Senegal
- Mr. Gilson Spanemberg
Ministry of Health, Brazil
- Mr. Bengt Bucht
Swedish National Chemicals Inspectorate (KEMI)
- Mr. Laurent Granier
Global Environment Facility
- Mr. Marc Debois
European Commission
- Ms. Mariann Lloyd-Smith
IPEN
- Ms. Sofie Flensburg
Geneva Environment Network

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch Break

14.30 Session 1 (cont.)

Concise Statements of Participants

Interested participants are invited to provide brief statements (5 minutes maximum) highlighting successful approaches for synergy development linked to international agreements, identifying practical problems faced and suggesting key topics that should be further developed during the course of the workshop. The interventions should not be descriptive in nature (e.g. summarize activities or existing programmes). Statements will be grouped according to the following categories:

- Governments and public authorities
- Non-governmental organizations
- International organizations and Convention secretariats

15.30 *Coffee Break*

16.00 Concise Statements of Participants (cont)

17.00 Plenary: Summary of Day 1 and Identification of Themes for Further Discussions

Participants will be asked to nominate and agree on topics which should be further discussed in working groups during the following days.

17.30 Close

Wednesday, 31 March 2004

SESSION 2: EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGIES IN NATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

This session takes place mainly in working groups. It provides the opportunity for a more in-depth exchange of experiences gained and lessons learned regarding key themes for synergies for national capacity development under international agreements. Working groups may reflect on existing experiences with national mechanisms, discuss fundamental issues, and identify key questions to be focussed on in national efforts to address synergies. Guidance materials will be provided to assist and structure the discussions. Possible working group topics may include, for example, the following¹⁴:

- Institutional co-ordination among focal points
- Information exchange
- Awareness raising
- Classification and labelling
- Risk management decision making
- Import/Export control regulations and enforcement
- Capacity for analysis and monitoring
- Coordination of technical assistance
- Technology transfer
- Stakeholder participation
- Reporting and evaluation

09.00 Introduction to Working Groups in Plenary (WG 1-3)

09.15 Discussion in Working Groups (WG 1-3)

Parallel working groups will meet to elaborate on key topics identified on day one.

11.15 Presentation of Working Group results and discussion in Plenary (WG 1-3)

¹⁴ These possible topics were developed based on an analysis of the international agreements, as well as the topics mentioned in the abstracts submitted by participants.

12.00 - 13.30 *Lunch Break*

13.30 Introduction to Working Groups in Plenary (WG 4-6)

13.45 Discussion in Working Groups (WG 4-6)

Parallel working groups will meet to elaborate on the key topics identified on day one.

16.00 Presentation of Working Group results and discussion in Plenary (WG 4-6)

17.00 Close

Thursday, 1 April 2004

Session 2 (cont.)

09.00 Introduction to Working Groups in Plenary (WG 7-9)

09.15 Discussion in Working Groups (WG 7-9)

Parallel working groups will meet to elaborate on key topics identified on day one.

11.15 Presentation of Working Group results and discussion in Plenary (WG 7-9)

12.00 - 13.30 *Lunch Break*

SESSION 3: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING SYNERGIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Taking previous plenary and working group discussions into consideration, this session will identify the opportunities and challenges for implementing synergies at the national level.

13.30 Introduction to Working Groups in Plenary

13.45 Discussion in Working Groups

- Identifying Incentives for National Implementation of Synergies
- Challenges and Obstacles for National Implementation of Synergies

15.00 Presentation of Working Group results and discussion in Plenary

SESSION 4: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

This session provides participants with an opportunity to discuss and consider options regarding possible opportunities for action to assist in the development of synergies for capacity building at the national level. This may include development of guidance and training materials and identification of opportunities for informing the SAICM process.

15.30 Introduction to Working Groups in Plenary

15.45 Discussion in Working Groups

- Opportunities for the Development of Guidance and Training Materials
- Opportunities for Informing the SAICM Process

17.00 Presentation of Working Group results and discussion in Plenary

17.30 Close

Friday, 2 April 2004

SESSION 5: REVIEW OF WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

09.30 Plenary

The Secretariat will table the main observations and conclusions of the workshop for discussion and possible adoption by participants.

Close (the workshop is expected to end not later than 12:30)

Annex C: List of Participants

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Annex D: List of Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
COP	Conference of the Parties
CWC	Chemical Weapons Convention
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEN	Geneva Environment Network
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GTZ	<i>Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit</i> (German Technical Cooperation)
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
INFOCAP	Information Exchange Network for Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IOMC	Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network
KEMI	Kemikalieninspektionen (Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate)
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PIC	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
SAEFL	Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests, and Landscape
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SBC	Secretariat of the Basel Convention
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP DTIE	United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organisation



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