

Presentation Title: “Synergies between the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Marrakech Process”

Presentation Sub-Title: “Marrakech Process Enabling Activities under SAICM”

Abstract

The Marrakech Process a global process to support: 1) **the implementation** of projects and programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and 2) **the elaboration of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP)**. The process responds to the call of the WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to develop a 10YFP to support regional and national initiatives to promote the shift towards SCP patterns. The proposal of the 10YFP will be reviewed by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during the 2010/11 two-year cycle. UNEP and UN DESA are the leading agencies of this global process, with an active participation of national governments, development agencies, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders.

The Marrakech Process is a dynamic process based on a multi-stakeholder platform which includes regular global and regional expert meetings, voluntary task forces, a development cooperation dialogue, a Business and Industry Forum as well as an NGO Forum, and other activities designed to promote progress on SCP and the elaboration of the 10YFP.

Under the framework of SCP and the wider scope of the Marrakech process, UNEP has been promoting the implementation of specific projects on SCP that are actively involving the chemical sector and sectors where hazardous chemicals are handled, used and disposed of. UNEP’s “Responsible Production” model for chemical safety management and chemical product stewardship has been developed in close cooperation with technical institutions, industry representatives and governmental authorities. Bringing together selected industrial sectors, this project aims at fostering chemical safety and risk information along supply-chains and engaging distributors, traders and buyers in safer production, accident prevention and emergency preparedness. Under the “Responsible Production” project, a series of capacity building initiatives targeted at Small and Medium Sized companies (SMEs) are being promoted by UNEP in both Thailand and Peru engaging the mining (Peru) and the chemicals (Thailand) industry and their local site level business partners (SMEs), taking into account the local contexts and the current needs of the sectors. The capacity building materials being developed under this project are being aligned with the chemical industry’s Responsible Care Global Charter and Global Product Strategy. Furthermore, this project is being profiled as an enabling activity for the implementation of related topics under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Another initiative being initiated by UNEP to advance the sustainable management of chemicals and support the SAICM is the project on “Safer Operations and Emergency Preparedness in the Value Chain of the Chemical Sector”. With activities focusing on the challenges facing the chemical sector in China, this project focus on the production side and aims at promoting chemical safety management in the chemical industry value chain, demonstrating the benefits of adopting a multi-stakeholder approach to risk communication and the development of integrated emergency plans.

Also as contribution to SAICM, UNEP is currently promoting the development and application of a “Flexible Framework for Addressing Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness”, which aims at improving the ability of national governments to manage chemical accident prevention and preparedness and to improve safety of local communities living in or near zones of potential industrial risks. To achieve these objectives, guidance is being developed to provide support to governments that want to develop, improve, or review their laws, regulations and policies with respect to chemical accident prevention and preparedness in order to reduce the likelihood of chemical accidents, and minimize any impacts of accidents on people, communities, the environment and property should an accident occur. The Guidance is being designed to be flexible, in order that it can be used by a variety of countries worldwide, address different types of chemical accidents risks, allow countries to choose relevant parts and adapt them in light of their particular circumstance, and allow countries to decide how to implement their accidents programme in stages, as priorities, resources, and experience allow.

Rationale

The above mentioned initiatives are being aligned into the global effort towards the promotion of SCP under the Marrakech process and the 10YFP, which will be reviewed by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during the 2010/11 two-year cycle. Working at the Regional, National and Local levels, and with a strong emphasis on promoting risk information along complex value-chains, lessons being learnt from these initiatives are of obvious relevance to the discussions on information needs on chemicals in articles and products.