

UNITAR statement during 3rd MOP PRTR Protocol – 15 September 2017 Budva, Montenegro
Agenda Item 3.a – Coordination mechanisms and synergies

UNITAR, in collaboration with UN Environment, and financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is implementing a global project to improve access and accuracy of environmental data on Persistent Organic Pollutants, among other priority chemicals, and to enhance awareness and public participation on environmental matters through the implementation national PRTRs in 6 countries, namely: Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Cambodia, Ecuador and Peru.

The project builds on previous GEF funded project on PRTRs development during 2009-2012. The main outcome was the design of PRTR systems in all participating countries, which were the same we are currently working with, except from Belarus and Moldova.

The current UNITAR-UN Environment project focuses on the usefulness of PRTRs in assisting country to comply with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) obligations, such as reporting, access to information and awareness raising. It is also important to highlight that during the first PRTR project supported by GEF, Chile designed and implemented a PRTR and this system is currently used to report to the Chemical-related conventions and to provide access on releases and transfers of chemicals to all citizens. This is a clear example of how PRTRs can, through synergies, serve different purposes and different national obligations.

In addition to that, UNITAR is identifying several initiatives by other partners that can have important synergies with our ongoing GEF project. As examples, the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), together with UN Environment and ZOI promoted PRTR, including a pilot project, in the Hrodna oblast of Belarus. We are also happy to see the important developments that have been done by Partners such as the German Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) and REC in increasing public awareness and knowledge on PRTR, to use PRTR data and to be involved in the implementation of PRTR Protocol in the Balkan Region.

We also foresee possible synergies on PRTRs implementation in the Asian region and we will monitor this closely with US EPA and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

We also look forward to explore new opportunities with governments, agencies, institutional donors and other organizations willing to strengthen the potential of PRTRs as tools for emissions reduction, monitoring, reporting and effective environmental information systems.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank for the continued technical support to UNITAR from OECD, UNECE, UN Environment, Spain, United States, Norway, Switzerland, and other members of the PRTR Working Group and International Coordinating Group, in our work on PRTR capacity-building.