

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Group of Experts on Monitoring of Radioactively Contaminated Scrap Metal

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Agenda Item 6

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**Title: THOUGHT STARTER FOR COUNTRY-BASED PILOT PROJECTS TO
DEVELOP NATIONAL ACTION PLANS TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE
RADIOACTIVELY CONTAMINATED SCRAP METAL**

UNITAR Methodology and Experience

UNITAR's Programmes in Chemicals, Waste and Environmental Governance provide legal, institutional and technical support to governments and stakeholders in developing and transition countries around the world to develop sustainable capacity for managing dangerous chemicals and wastes.

UNITAR has significant experience in and has conducted capacity building programmes to assist national strategy development processes for a range of international activities, including:

- national action plan development for Stockholm Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
- design of PRTRs (pollutant release and transfer registers), and
- national pilot projects in support of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) implementation.

In addition, more than 100 countries have completed a National Chemicals Management Profile, which documents the existing infrastructure and gaps for national chemicals management and is an entry point to identifying relevant institutions and facilities. Some 30 countries have initiated a National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.¹ The UNITAR approach to capacity building supports a country-driven programmatic and integrated approach to chemicals management, as endorsed at the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in Dubai, February 2006.

Proposal for Capacity Building to Manage Contaminated Scrap Metal at the National Level

Countries require national capacity to determine their national approach to, and effectively monitor and manage contaminated scrap metal, however in many cases that capacity may be lacking. To support national activities to prevent, detect and

¹ More information about all UNITAR activities related to chemicals, waste and environmental governance can be found on the website: <<http://www.unitar.org/cwg/>>.

react to issues related to contaminated scrap metal and implement the Protocol, UNITAR would be interested to explore development of a capacity building programme to develop national action plans to improve management of contaminated scrap metal in 2-3 pilot countries.

The development of national action plans would require a coordinated and systematic (“step-by-step”) approach at the national level and could, for example, include the following elements:

- *Development of Baseline Report and Situation Analysis.* A national infrastructure assessment provides baseline information about and identifies the magnitude and nature of potential problems related to national management of contaminated scrap metal. Additionally, it provides an analysis of relevant legal, technical and administrative infrastructure with the objective of revealing existing capacities and capabilities, as well as gaps or areas that require strengthening to address the identified problems.
- *Development of National Strategic Action Plans.* A National Action Plan represents a comprehensive strategy which outlines a precise goal and objectives; planned activities; indicators of success; suggested implementation mechanisms; and financial and human resource needs required to strengthen effective scrap metal management and implement the Protocol at the national level.
- *Implementation Activities.* Based on the proposals in the national action plan, implementation of specific activities to concretely build capacity to strengthen and effectively manage issues related to contaminated scrap metal, such as strengthening of customs authorities, revision to relevant regulations/legislation, etc.

Development of national capacity in this area also has, in our view, strong potential to be strengthened by the development of public-private partnerships to execute certain activities. UNITAR would be interested to explore this possibility with other interested parties. Experience gained in the pilot countries could also be shared, for example, via regional workshops. These national pilot projects would be a complimentary activity to the more technical training that is also under consideration. UNITAR would be pleased to explore further with members of the Group of Experts, and subject to securing the required financial resources, the development of such a pilot programme.