

Joint High-level Segment (14 September 2017)

Agenda 3: Thematic session on the role of the Convention and its Protocol in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

PRTRs can serve as a key tool for the assessment and promotion of progress towards several SDGs. The OECD is exploring the development of practical and implementable methodology to do so.

For example,

- Target 12.4 on environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes appears to be the one for which the use of PRTR data is the most directly relevant. PRTR datasets can be used to measure progress towards 'reduction of releases to air, water and soil.'.
- PRTR data also facilitates the measuring of progress towards Target 12.5 on reduced waste generation. Data on implemented source reduction activities, is collected by some PRTRs and can inform on progress on "prevention" and "reduction" activities.
- PRTR data may also be used to assess progress towards Target 12.8 on access to information for sustainable development.

There are several challenges though, mainly due to the differences between PRTRs in terms of chemical coverage, thresholds and sector coverage.

The OECD therefore encourages all countries to integrate harmonised elements when establishing or revising their PRTRs, so as to foster enhanced international comparability of PRTR data, and OECD is happy to help countries in doing so. The OECD is also currently working on the development of feasible and practical methodologies for how data from different PRTRs can be integrated and we will keep this forum informed about any progress made.

Draft Statement from OECD (Mr. Bob DIDERICH, Head of Division, Environmental Health and Safety Division)

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Agenda 4: Budva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Our Sustainable future

*Following the adoption by the Joint High-level Segment, OECD make the following statement:*

OECD welcomes the Budva Declaration, and we are ready to play a role, in close collaboration with UNECE, as a source of expertise, data, and good practices in establishing and implementing PRTRs.

The UN-ECE's PRTR protocol and the OECD's legal instrument on PRTRs both promote PRTRs across the world. The OECD would like to offer to continue to work closely with UN-ECE and its Protocol Parties by developing technical guidelines and sharing good experiences with setting up and operating PRTRs.

3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (15 September 2017)

Agenda 3 (a): Coordination mechanisms and synergies

I would like to provide an update on OECD's activities on PRTRs. Our projects mainly focus on 1) improving PRTRs, 2) enhancing the use of PRTR data, and 3) harmonising PRTRs across the world.

To assist countries in improving their PRTR, OECD recently published two resource compendia of release estimation techniques; one is on techniques to estimate off-site transfers, and the other is on techniques to estimate releases from products. We are currently reviewing another compendium on techniques to estimate releases from non-point source, which is expected to be finalised in 2018.

The OECD is also exploring promotion of the use of PRTR data both internationally and locally.

- We initiated a study on how to use PRTR data to track progress towards the UN SDGs. As we discussed at the high-level segment, PRTRs can play a key role in tracking progress with SDGs, but we still need to develop the methodology.
- We are also collecting information on good practice of PRTR data application for local environmental management. We expect to publish the document in 2018.

I would also like to remind stakeholders that we published the "Guidance Document on Elements of a PRTR", which proposes a global list of pollutants, common reporting thresholds, and industrial sectors based on a comparison of existing national PRTRs and common elements across PRTRs. We encourage all countries to implement these harmonised elements when establishing or revising their PRTR, in order to foster comparison and co-operation between national PRTRs.

3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (15 September 2017)

Agenda 3 (b): Technical Resources and subregional and national activities

I would like to remind delegates about a technical resource developed by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) called the IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management and which contains a specific module on setting up PRTRs.

UNITAR and the OECD presented this module at a side event yesterday. <a few words on how the side event went>

The IOMC Toolbox is an internet application that enables countries to identify the most appropriate and efficient national actions to address specific national problems related to chemicals management. It identifies the available tools that will help a country address the identified problems.

The PRTR module specifically provides guidance on:

- PRTR initiation: designing a PRTR system, gaining support from decision-makers, and establishing the PRTR
- PRTR operation: running a PRTR, including staffing and collecting, reviewing, and disseminating data
- Long-term success: expanding the benefits and activities of a PRTR and making future enhancements

We invite all countries who wish to set up or improve their PRTR to use this Toolbox.