PRTRs FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

2nd Global round table on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

24-25 November 2015
Madrid, Spain

Organised by

The secretariat of the UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

and

the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

in cooperation with

the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

and

the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

hosted by

the Government of Spain

LIST OF SPEAKERS
as of 17 November 2015

The Global round table, in general, will have the following format: the invited panellists from different regions (e.g. Latin America, North America, Asia and different subregions of UNECE) will deliver short presentations (up to 7 minutes), which will be followed by discussions. One and a half hour lunch breaks can be used for networking and bilateral discussions.

DAY I	Tuesday, 24 November 2015

Item 1. Opening (14.30-14.40)

• Mr. Pablo Saavedra INARAJA, State Secretary for Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain will deliver a welcoming statement.

1 This document was not formally edited.
Item 2. PRTRs across the world (14.40-16.40)

This session aims to inform delegations about the current status of establishing PRTRs across the world, including major challenges in implementing or developing PRTRs, and about relevant activities carried out by international organizations.

- Ms. Tina SKÅRMAN, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Releases and Transfer Registers and Mr. Noriyuki SUZUKI, Chair of the Task Force on Pollutant Releases and Transfer Registers under OECD will deliver introductory statements.
- Mr. Íñigo De VICENTE-MINGARRO, Chair of the international PRTR Coordinating group will present a global map on PRTRs.
- Mr. Kevin MUNN, Programme Officer, Chemicals and Waste Branch, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will present projects related to PRTRs.
- Mr. Fabrice CLAVIEN, Chemicals and Waste Management Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) will present projects related to PRTRs.

Representatives of Regional Organizations and Governments will share experiences on lessons learned in developing and implementing PRTRs.

- Mr. Carlos DE MIGUEL, Chief of Unit, Policies for Sustainable Development, UN Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will present recent regional developments related to PRTRs.
- Ms. Tatjana HEMA, Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), Barcelona Convention secretariat will present recent regional developments related to PRTRs.
- Ms. Svetlamna BOLOCAN, Head of Department, Ministry of Environment Republic of Moldova will present national experience in the implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs.
- Ms. Amina HALIM, Chef de service de la Santé, Department of Surveillance and Risk Prevention (DSPR) of Morocco will present the Moroccan Pilot PRTR-system.
- Mr. Daniel NUNEZ, PRTR Coordinator, Ministry of the Environment of Peru will present an introduction to the Peruvian PRTR.

16.40-17.00 Coffee break

Item 3. Next Generation PRTRs (17.00-18.00)

PRTRs have potential to be used as a “knowledge platform”. This might be achieved through visualization of PRTR data on maps or through linking PRTRs to non-PRTR information, such as information on levels of toxicity of chemical substances and their impacts on human health.
The added value of this “next generation PRTRs” is to provide users not only with environmental data, but also with knowledge about meaning of data in relation to human health and peoples’ living conditions. In this context, PRTRs have potential to provide “knowledge-on-demand”, thereby helping Governments and stakeholders to make more effective and diverse use of PRTR data, including for pollution-related decision making.

Participants will be invited to consider how information provided through PRTRs can be transformed into knowledge and learn good practices on e.g. visualizing air, soil or water quality, comparability of the numerous chemical substances and their use; as well as use of PRTRs for illustrating impacts on human health, and for taxation. Furthermore, the session will provide an opportunity to discuss the understanding of a “knowledge-on-demand” concept and the differences between “making data available” and “making knowledge available” to PRTR users.

Presentations will be held on the following topics:

a) Data visualization
   - Mr. Sho OHNISHI, PRTR Division, Chemical Management Center, National Institute of Technology and Evaluation, Japan;
   - Ms. Karen MAILHIOT, Director, Program Integration Division, Science and Technology Branch, Environment Canada, Canada.

b) PRTR for addressing social issues / Cross-cutting applications
   - Mr. Luis TAPIA, PRTR Administrator, Ministry of the Environment, Chile;
   - Mr. Uri SHILHAV, PRTR Coordinator, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Israel.

DAY II Wednesday, 25 November 2015

Item 4. Emerging PRTR challenges (9.30-13.00)

The session will address common challenges in and emerging opportunities for developing and implementing PRTRs. Participants will be invited to share their experience and knowledge about key steps in development, implementation and use of PRTRs.

The session will be composed of two thematic parts. Each part will start with short presentations of topics by panellists, which will be followed by discussion. Thereafter, participants will be invited to continue discussions in small groups or bilaterally (see organisation of work for this session below). Participants are invited to prepare questions on the topics of discussion and be ready to share experience related to their daily work on PRTRs.

Part 1: Presentations on Data handling (9.30-10.45)

The panel discussion will focus on the following three sub-categories of data handling:
• Ms. Linda LINDERHOLM, Scientific Adviser, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency Sweden, on Data Collection with a focus on diffuse sources.

This topic focuses on different aspects of data collection, such as inclusion of diffuse sources, awareness raising, reporting infrastructures, measures to deal with non-reporting entities.

• Ms. Ulrike SCHUELER, Scientific Officer, Federal Environment Agency Germany, on verification of data quality.

This topic covers different aspects of infrastructures (e.g. IT and measuring tools) and activities (e.g. expert panel, peer review by third party) for verifying and improving PRTR data quality.

• Mr. Íñigo De VICENTE-MINGARRO, PRTR-España Administrator, Spanish Register of Emissions and Pollutant Sources, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain, on use of combined data from different PRTRs.

This topic covers benefit of using data from different PRTRs, the identification of equivalence (e.g. through the use of tables comparing code classifications (such as for industrial and economic activities: International Standard Industrial Classification and Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community) and national choices for PRTR rules and regulations (e.g. confidentiality).

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

Part 2: Presentations on the use of PRTR-data in relevant international reporting (11.15-12.30)

• Mr. Nebojsa REDZIC, Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Serbia, on use of PRTR data in international reporting, including to the UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution;

• Mr. Andreas GRANGLER, Policy officer, Federal Land Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany (on behalf of the European Commission, DG Environment, Industrial emissions unit) on the European-PRTR, including its recent evaluation.

The panel discussion will focus on good practices related to reporting to different international instruments (e.g. European-PRTR, multilateral environmental agreements such as the Protocol on PRTRs and UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) by using PRTRs.

Part 3: Break Time for bilateral or small group discussions (12.30-13.00)

Participants are invited to prepare questions related to issues discussed during the above thematic panels with the view of seeking possible assistance and exploring options for cooperation.
Item 5. PRTRs for different stakeholders (14.30-17.20)
The session, moderated by Mr. Jorge OCANA, will provide an opportunity to share experience and views of different stakeholders and to discuss how PRTRs could contribute to sustainable development. The session will start with short presentations of the below topics by panellists, which will be followed by discussion by participants:

a) Speakers on PRTRs to monitor success in sustainable development: focus on green pharmaceutics and green chemistry:
   - Mr. Steve DEVITO, Senior Scientist, United States Environmental Protection Agency, USA;
   - Mr. Pedro MORA, Vice-chair of the Committee for Sustainable Development and Environment of the Spanish Confederation of Business and Industries (CEOE);

b) Speaker on PRTRs as a communication tool for producer, retail and consumer and their relevance for the sustainable development goals:
   - Mr. Kevin MUNN, Programme Officer, Chemicals and Waste Branch, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

15.50-16.10 Coffee break

c) Speakers on the issue of fostering public participation:
   - Mr. Roland RITTER, Scientific Officer, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland;
   - Ms. Begoña Maria-TOME GIL, Climate Change And Energy Advisor, Union Institute of Work, Environment and Health (ISTAS-CCOO);
   - Mr. Christian SCHAIBLE, Policy Manager Industrial Production, Industrial Production, European Environmental Bureau;

d) Speaker on PRTRs for science and education:
   - Ms. Louise SÖRME, Advisor, Statistics Sweden (SCB), Sweden.

17.20-17.35 Coffee break

Item 6. Chairs’ Statement (17.35-18.00)
The Chairs Ms. Tina SKÅRMAN and Mr. Noriyuki SUZUKI, will present key points derived from the discussions and will close the meeting. The report on the Global round table, including the Chairs’ statement, will be finalised after the meeting.

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