



## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement      Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде      برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



### UNEP-DTIE Chemicals Branch Costs of Inaction Initiative

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*UNEP-DTIE Chemicals Branch work on Mainstreaming is directly concerned with implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Two of our current programmes aim to highlight the economic consequences of inaction on implementing sound management of chemicals (SMC): the Global Chemicals Outlook and the Costs of Inaction Initiative.*

#### Why a Costs of Inaction Initiative?

It is widely recognized in the international environmental policy community that work to improve chemicals management at the national level is seriously underfunded. This is partly due to a lack of knowledge of the costs of chemicals mismanagement, stated in economic/monetized terms or at least quantitative accounts, which makes the prioritization of investment in SMC at the national and international levels substantially more difficult.

#### What the Costs of Inaction Initiative aims to achieve

The Costs of Inaction Initiative is a four year project that will attempt to produce for the first time a more complete picture at the national, regional and global levels than we have had to date on the environmental and human health costs of failure to introduce, improve, or enforce chemicals management policy. The goal is to provide decision makers at all levels of governance with the information necessary to provide an economic business case for increasing investments in SMC, consistent with international agreements and decisions, and to address national priorities to protect human health, the environment and the sustainability of development.

The COI Initiative includes four modules as follows:

- ❖ *Module A:* With funding from the Government of Sweden, the COI Initiative has commenced to produce a *Baseline Assessment Report* which will uncover and assess the existing knowledge on the COI on SMC.
- ❖ *Module B:* A Blue Ribbon Panel will be convened to develop the methodology and approach to fill the priority gaps in knowledge identified in Module A. The Panel will include senior distinguished experts, including economists, from all UN Regions and reflecting different levels of economic development.
- ❖ *Module C:* Regional and national level field research will be conducted in all UN regions using the approach and methodology developed in Module B.
- ❖ *Module D:* A strategy will be developed and executed to effectively disseminate the project results into national and international political and policy processes.

#### Request for Information

For the COI Initiative's *Baseline Assessment Report*, we are currently seeking economic/monetized and quantified data on the environmental and human health costs of harmful chemicals, such as socio-economic assessments for National Implementation Plans of the Stockholm Convention, and national studies on environmental and health effects of chemicals use and production. Please see the attached Data Search Framework for more details. We would very much appreciate if you could send us such reports or links to where such reports can be downloaded. Information, and any restrictions on the use of information, can be sent to Ms. Khanam Jauhan, [Khanam.Jauhan@unep.org](mailto:Khanam.Jauhan@unep.org) and Ms. Sharon Khan, [Sharon.Khan@unep.org](mailto:Sharon.Khan@unep.org).

For updates on our work, follow our website: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/mainstreaming/default.htm>.