

# Global Chemical Agenda- Evolution and Challenges

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# Outline of presentation

- Evolution of international instruments on chemicals
- Chemicals and waste related conventions
- Stakeholder involvement
- Where to find more information

# Evolution

- Montreal protocol
  - Adopted 1987
  - In force in 1989
  - 191 Parties
- Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal.
  - Adopted in 1989
  - In force in 1992
  - 170 Parties

# Evolution

- Adoption of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 at the Rio Conference in 1992
  - (a) Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks;
  - (b) Harmonization of classification and labeling of chemicals;
  - (c) Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks;
  - (d) Establishment of risk reduction programmes;
  - (e) Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals;
  - (f) Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.

# Evolution

- Coordinating bodies
  - Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) 1994
  - Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), 1995
- Development of Conventions
  - Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and pesticides in International Trade, In force 2004, 120 parties
  - Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, In force 2004, 154 parties

# Evolution

- Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, paragraph 23, 2002
- Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, 2005
- The World Summit Outcome, 2005
- Adoption of the Strategic Plan for International Chemicals Management (SAICM), 2006

# Legally binding instruments

- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. In force 1989.
- Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal. In force 1992.
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and pesticides in International Trade. In force 2004.
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. In force 2004

# Basel Convention

- The Basel convention was designed to address the uncontrolled movement and dumping of hazardous wastes, including incidents of illegal dumping in developing countries by companies from developed countries.
- The objectives are
  - To minimize the generation of hazardous waste
  - To dispose them as close to the source of generation as possible
  - To reduce the movement of hazardous waste

# Rotterdam Convention

## **The objectives of the Convention are:**

- to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm;
- to contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.

# The Stockholm Convention

- The Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically and accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife.

# Stakeholder involvement, legally binding instruments

- Conference of the parties (COPs)
  - Governing bodies of the legal instruments
  - Consist of Parties
    - A state or regional economic integration organization that has consented to be bound by this Convention
  - Civil society and private sector may be admitted as observers
  - Intergovernmental Organizations are observers
  - Rules of procedure
- Committees
  - Similar rules to the COPs

# Stakeholder involvement, nationally

- National implementation of legally binding instruments
  - Depends on national legal requirements and procedures
  - Use the possibilities to ensure correct implementation
- National mandates for the negotiations under the COPs and Committees
  - Most countries have to some degree involvement of civil society

# Additional issues

- UNEP, Medium Term strategy 2010-2013 with 6 priority areas:
  - (a) Climate change;
  - (b) Disasters and conflicts;
  - (c) Ecosystem management;
  - (d) Environmental governance;
  - (e) Harmful substances and hazardous waste;
  - (f) Resource efficiency – sustainable consumption and production.

# Where to find more information

- [www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/)
- [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)
- [www.who.int/ifcs/en/](http://www.who.int/ifcs/en/)
- [www.who.int/iomc/en/](http://www.who.int/iomc/en/)
- [www.pic.int/](http://www.pic.int/)
- [www.pops.int/](http://www.pops.int/)