SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

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SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS (SMC) AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A CLEAR RELATIONSHIP

- People in extreme poverty are often most vulnerable to the adverse effects resulting from poor chemicals management.

- Promoting SMC have beneficial economic and development outcomes:
  - Increased capacity to manage chemicals in a sound manner
  - Reduced health risks through reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals
  - Reduced levels of other environmental pollutants
  - Increased competitiveness of national industries
  - Enhanced export potential
CSD-18 MAIN MESSAGES

- Significant progress has been made at all levels, but much remains to be done to achieve WSSD 2020 goal to ensure that chemicals are managed in a sound manner.

- International community particularly needs to address the ongoing shift of production and use of chemicals to developing countries.

- Need to engage all key stakeholders.
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR SMC

- Managing chemical problems ‘after the fact’ generally more costly than implementing SMC from the beginning
- Need to explore sustainable solutions for SMC
- Four main strategies have been identified:
  - Strengthening the governance framework
  - Mainstreaming SMC into development agendas
  - Promoting sustainable chemical production and use
  - Developing public-private partnerships (PPPs) and the use of economic instruments
STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- **Challenge:** To promote an integrated and coherent policy framework at all levels

- **Recommendations:**
  - Promote a better unified and coherent international framework, following the example of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
  - Strengthen existing institutions at the international level and promote collaboration through coherent and efficient partnerships
  - Better link between environment and health as well as finance/development planning sectors
  - Strengthen national coordination infrastructures and mainstream chemical safety into national development plans.
MAINSTREAMING SMC INTO DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

- **Challenge**: To foster political buy-in and to ensure predictable funding

- **Recommendations**: Ensure that SMC is integrated into the international development agenda and national development plans:
  - Promote cost-benefit studies assessing both the direct costs and benefits of SMC and the wider social costs and benefits,
  - Develop UNDG approved performance indicators for ESM that can be used in UNDAFs,
  - Adopt a UNDG thematic policy on SMC,
  - Seek support for SMC projects within the development of UNDAFs and ODA,
  - Consider chemical and waste management together as part of a life cycle approach.
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE CHEMICAL PRODUCTION AND USE

- **Challenge:** To promote sustainable chemical production and use in consumer products

- **Recommendations:**
  - Promote green chemistry: i.e. use of eco-design, safe substances, and energy efficient process,
  - Promote instruments of corporate social and environmental responsibilities: environmental auditing and reporting
  - Promote responsible advertising, marketing and consumers information tools incl. labelling and certification
  - Promote transfer of knowledge within industry to identify safer substitutes and alternatives
DEVELOPING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPS) AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

- **Challenge:** To strengthen the capacity of national industry and SMEs

- **Recommendations:** To promote PPPs at the national and regional level to move towards a green economy:
  - Develop a private sector engagement strategy,
  - Develop a global chemicals PPP strategy:
    - Identify and develop PPP-supporting capacity building activities,
    - Determine chemical issues that PPPs may be a suitable response for,
    - Develop PPP-supporting capacity building activities through multilateral donors.
  - Internalise the costs of chemical management into national programmes through the use of economic instruments
CONCLUSIONS

- Promoting SMC have beneficial development outcomes and is an important pathway to implement green economic policies.
- Mainstreaming of chemicals and wastes in the development agenda is closely linked with the future of the chemicals and wastes cluster.
- It is important that chemicals and wastes MEAs, IGOs, governments, civil society, and the private sector continue to promote the cross-cutting nature of the chemicals and wastes management agenda.