

MAIN ACTION ITEMS

I. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

1. ECE will circulate by end of March 2009 the online database (matrix) of PRTR capacity-building activities to the Coordinating Group (CG) and invite comments, amendments and additions to the matrix for presentation at ICCM2. CG members are requested to review of the activities in the PRTR CB matrix, to ensure accuracy and to flag any duplicative reporting of activities.
2. ECE will add the Guidance on Implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs to the PRTR Resource Centre on Release Estimation.

II. SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

3. The CG will prepare an information note to ICCM2 aiming to increase recognition of PRTRs at the Conference. The body of the note will describe and diagram strategic linkages, e.g. to the Stockholm POPs, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. The note will include examples from developing countries, highlighting benefits from e.g. Chile and Mexico, and describe what kind of resources are available to support PRTR development and whom to contact. A main message should be that PRTRs assist countries to compliance with their MEA obligations, e.g. those of the Stockholm POPs Convention.
4. The CG will organize a two-hour side event at ICCM2 on Monday, 11 May 2009. Four to five speakers will be invited to participate in a panel discussion. UNITAR will lead the organization of the event.
5. UNECE, UNITAR, Norway and UK will form a SAICM Working Group and provide with the SAICM secretariat with an outline of the event programme. OECD will present PRTR.net at the ICCM2 PRTR side event. UNECE, UNEP, UNITAR, OECD, and CEC will participate in ICCM2.

III. GLOBAL MERCURY NEGOTIATIONS

6. UNEP Chemicals will check back with the UNEP Hg team on opportunities to introduce PRTRs into the global mercury negotiations.
7. Japan will check to see if mercury common to all PRTRs.

IV. CLIMATE CHANGE

The CG agreed to organize a side event to COP-15 on the role of PRTRs in measuring GHG emissions and supporting reporting requirements under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. UNITAR, UNECE, OECD, REC, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland and UK agreed to prepare proposal for side event. UNECE will contact EC/EEA.

V. FURTHERING COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL PRTR PROJECTS

8. The EC-supported Project to Promote Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Central Asia and UNEP/UNITAR GEF Global POPs PRTR Project will coordinate the scheduling of their major meetings aiming to avoid conflicts and enhance synergies between the projects. ECE will help facilitate communication between the EC-support Central Asia Project and the GEF Global PRTR project.

9. The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) will share PRTR materials published in Spanish with UNITAR in support of the six Central American countries and three South American countries cooperating with the GEF Global PRTR Project. IGO and national experts will inform UNITAR of their interest and availability to contribute to the GEF Global PRTR Project.

10. Given a range of PRTR capacity development activities undertaken and planned by members of the CG in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, an informal group comprising UNEP, UNECE, UNITAR and REC will meet regularly via teleconference in between the annual sessions of the GC to discuss details of coordination of relevant activities. UNEP agreed to chair this group.