



# Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers - Protocol on PRTRs -

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# Protocol on PRTRs Introduction

Making information on pollution releases and waste transfers public, has led to companies reducing their pollution and identifying smarter production methods



- **Adoption:** 2003, Kyiv
- **Entry into force:** 8 October 2009
- **Parties:** 38 Parties from across the UNECE region
- **Accession:** Global, open for accession to any UN Member State
- Pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) are **inventories of pollution** from industrial sites and other sources
- The Protocol is an **independent instrument**. At the same time, it strengthens the first pillar of the Aarhus Convention
- The Protocol **enhances public access to information** through the establishment of coherent, nationwide PRTRs



# Protocol on PRTRs Developments and achievements

## Link with other MEAs and initiatives

- PRTRs are used for multiple reporting obligations and across sectors making best use of synergies
- PRTRs are used for the sound management of chemicals
- Strong linkage with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and initiatives e.g.:
  - the Stockholm Convention and its reporting mechanism
  - Minamata Convention and UNFCCC Climate Change related reporting

- **Reporting tool** for industry to provide data on their emissions (monitoring pollutant releases to water, air and land over time)
- **Database** that facilitates data management
- **Data visualization tool** that sets emissions in spatial and other context (e.g., health, infrastructure, demographic and economic data) and makes data accessible and more useful
- **Tool for fact-based decision making** at multiple levels

- **Protocol on PRTRs - prototype for establishing PRTRs across the globe**
- **Protocol enabled to establish coordinated reporting systems on pollutants**
- **Encouraged innovative and efficient approaches to PRTRs use**
  - *cost-efficient international reporting*
  - *support polluter pays principle*
  - *support complex decisions on economic, social and environmental matters*
- **International Organisations contributed different expertise - important role for capacity building and advisory support**
  - *technical matters (e.g. UNITAR, UNEP, OECD)*
  - *policy recommendations (OECD, UNEP, ECE)*
  - *legal and institutional frameworks (ECE)*
- **Global Round Tables: Exceptional cooperation and synergy – UNECE & OECD, UNEP and UNITAR**



# Protocol on PRTRs

## Lessons and challenges



### ENVIRONMENT

- **Strong political commitment**  
- precondition for achievements
- **Informed decision-making** - prerequisite for successful outcomes of achieving SDGs and other commitments
- **Data collection and dissemination and public rights to information** - key drivers for SDGs
- **PRTRs - important tool to promote transparency** in environmental matters around the globe
- **Need for technical and expert capacity and for use of modern ICTs**





# Protocol on PRTRs Plans and prospects



## ENVIRONMENT

- **Promote importance of modernization of PRTRs**  
for informed decision-making processes
- **Raise awareness of decision-makers:**  
use of PRTRs for policies in other sectors (health, energy etc)
- **Promote simple, single window reporting by polluters**
- **Increase integration of PRTR systems and other databases**
- **Improve traceability of chemicals in products**
- **Quantify health impact of pollution**  
as non-preventing pollution may cost more
- **Improve harmonization of PRTRs internationally**
- **Reach out to Youth & promote PRTR as educational tool for SDGs**
- **Encourage countries to accede to the Protocol**  
as to enjoy its solid framework



ENVIRONMENT



**Thank you!**

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