



**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 the most vulnerable to the health effects and diseases that result from poor chemicals management
- The cost of managing chemical problems 'after the fact' is generally more than the costs associated with the implementation of SMC from the beginning
- Promoting SMC have beneficial economic and development outcomes



**CSD-18 MAIN MESSAGES**

- Significant but insufficient progress has been made in SMC at all levels
- Much remains to be done to achieve WSSD 2020 goal
- Ongoing shift in chemical production and use to developing countries provide considerable challenges to the international community as it works towards SMC



**SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR SMC**

- 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

- **Challenges:** 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 the environment with 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

- **Challenges:** 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

- **Challenges:** 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 mother/daughter companies in identifying safe substitutes and processes to hazardous chemicals.



### DEVELOPING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPs) AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

- **Challenges:** 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
- In the long term mainstreaming of chemicals in the development agenda is intimately 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

