

ANNEX 7

PRTR/Emission Inventory Action Plan

Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)/Emission Inventory Action Plan

Forum III participants, in:

Recognizing the contribution of PRTRs/emission inventories in raising public awareness on potential chemical risks and as an effective tool to stimulate chemical risk reduction and prevention/reduction of emissions;

Reaffirming the provision in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 calling for voluntary reporting of PRTR/emission inventories data in the absence of mandatory reporting requirements;

Noting that public dissemination of PRTRs/emission inventories data with right-to-know policies are core elements of, and driving forces for, sound environmental management;

Stressing the importance of providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for developing and implementing national PRTRs/emission inventories;

Recommending that the development of PRTRs/emission inventories should, as appropriate, build on and be linked to National Profiles, national action plans on priority chemicals, and existing national information systems;

Recognizing assistance provided by UNEP, UNITAR and through multi/bi-lateral cooperation;

Recognizing the important contribution of the OECD in areas such as data estimation and using PRTRs/emission inventories as a tool for environmental management initiatives (e.g. risk assessments) and welcoming any further initiatives in this area;

Acknowledging the efforts undertaken in the context of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe to develop a legally binding instruments on PRTRs in the context of the Aarhus Convention;

Noting with appreciation the ICCA's stated support for PRTRs/emission inventories programmes;

Noting the importance that full PRTRs/emission inventories data are eventually made publicly available in formats that encourage intra- and inter-national consistency, in multiple forms including searchable electronic databases accessible without cost on the internet as well as other electronic and paper forms;

Emphasizing that various international environmental agreements contain provisions on emission reporting; and

Noting the importance of tracking progress on the establishment of PRTRs/emission inventories world-wide,

- Encouraged countries without PRTR systems to take steps to initiate a process to design a national PRTR/emission inventory taking into account national circumstances and needs;
- Called for the establishment of a PRTR/emission inventory in at least two additional countries in each IFCS region by 2004;
- Called upon countries to involve all affected and interested parties in designing PRTRs/emission inventories and to ensure that all parties have the information and capacity to participate in an effective way;
- Urged countries to link reporting requirements under international agreements to national PRTRs/emissions inventories;
- Called upon the multi- and bi-lateral donor community to provide financial and technical assistance in response to national requests for PRTR/emission inventory related assistance;
- Called upon UNEP and UNITAR to increase technical and financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen national capacities and capabilities to design and implement national PRTRs/emission inventories;
- Requested ICCA to report to Forum IV on progress achieved in implementing ICCA policy on PRTRs/emission inventories, including possible interim voluntary public disclosure by ICCA members with facilities in countries without voluntary or regulatory PRTR/emission inventory systems; and
- Requested the IOMC PRTR Coordinating Group to:
 - 1) Prepare a report for Forum IV, summarizing the status and progress in developing PRTRs/emission inventories;
 - 2) Investigate opportunities to engage countries that are not members of the OECD in work of the Group;
 - 3) Prepare a report addressing the linking of reporting requirements under international agreements to national PRTRs/emission inventories; and
 - 4) Coordinate the action called for above and prepare a consolidated report for review and possible further action at Forum IV.