

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS RELATED TO CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

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PRESENTED

TO STAKEHOLDERS SENSITIZATION

WORKSHOP ON CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Global Concern of Chemicals
- Stockholm Convention
- Rotterdam Convention
- Basel Convention
- Montreal protocol
- GFC
- Minamata

INTRODUCTION

Convention means:

- An agreement between countries covering particular matters.
- A set of agreed, stipulated or generally accepted standards and norms.
- ✓ Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements at Global Level, including Chemical-related, administered by **UNEP**.

Global Concerns of Chemicals

- Hazardous of chemicals

A health risk

- Toxic or Very Toxic
- Corrosive
- Harmful
- Irritant
- Sensitizing
- Cancer causing
- Effect reproduction
- Effect on other systems (Endocrine.....)

- Hazardous of chemicals

Physical Hazards

- Fire and explosion hazard
- Explosive
- Oxidizing
- Flammable

Dangerous to the Environment

- Toxic to living organisms
- Persistence in the environment
- Bioaccumulation

INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS ON SOUND CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

- The Rio de Janeiro in 1992 adopted the agenda 21 chapter 19 which addressed the issue of ESMC including prevention of illegal international trafficking of toxic and dangerous products, was addressed.
- The considered a considerable number of international bodies are involved in work on chemical safety. Recognized:
 - Many countries has work programmes for the promotion of chemical safety are in place.
 - Such work has international implications, as chemical risks do not respect national boundaries.
 - However, a significant strengthening of both national and international efforts is needed to achieve an environmentally sound management of chemicals

RECOMMENDATIONS OF RIO CONFERENCE

Six Programmes Areas were Proposed:

- Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks;
- Harmonization of classification and labeling of chemicals;
- Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks;
- Establishment of risk reduction programmes;
- Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals;
- Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.

MAIN CONVENTIONS

- The **Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal.
- The **Rotterdam Convention** on the Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC).
- The **Stockholm Convention** on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); and
- **Minamata** Convention on Mercury.
- **GFC** – Global Framework on Chemicals Management
- **Montreal** – Protocol on ODS

Stockholm Convention

- It is a Global Action Towards Risk Reduction of POPs
- Is an international environmental treaty, signed in 2001 and effective from May 2004,
 - ✓ It aims to eliminate or restrict production and use of Persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- POPs are organic compounds that are resistant to environmental degradation through chemical, biological and photolytic processes and hence bio-accumulate
 - ✓ with potential significant impact to human health and environment.

Stockholm Convention ...

- Objective is to protect human health and the environment from the harmful impacts of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
 - ✓ Eliminate or restrict the production, use, import and export of POPs.
 - ✓ Substitution by better alternatives
 - ✓ Eliminate POPs stockpiles and wastes
 - ✓ Procedure for adding new POPs for action
 - ✓ Promote Best Available Technologies BAT/BEP (Best Environmental Practices) technologies to reduce unintentional POP emissions

Stockholm Convention

- **Some of chemicals under the convention:**
 - ✓ **Pesticides:** Aldrin, Chlordane, DDT, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Mirex, Toxaphene, Hexachlorobenzene.
 - ✓ **Industrial Chemicals:** Hexachlorobenzene, PCBs
 - ✓ **Unintended byproducts:** Polychlorinated-*para*-dibenzodioxins (PCDD) or **Dioxins** and Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF) or **furans**.

Elimination of POPs

- **Support transition to safer alternatives**
 - ✓ (DDT permitted for disease vector control until locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are available.
 - ✓ PCBs: governments allowed until 2025 to phase out 'in-place, in-use equipment; improve ability to minimize release of byproducts: dioxins, furans, HCB, PCBs); and
- **Target additional POPs for action**
 - ✓ criteria :persistence, bio-accumulation, toxicity, potential for long-range transport.

The Rotterdam (PIC) Convention

- The increase in chemicals production for the past four decades had raised both public and official concern posed by hazardous chemicals and pesticides.
- To respond to that concern, UNEP and FAO started developing and promoting voluntary information exchange programmes in mid 1980's.
- In 1985, FAO launched its International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.
- In 1987, UNEP set up the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals on International Trade
- In a short while, in 1989 the two organizations introduced the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.



The Rotterdam (PIC) Convention

- It is an outcome of the 1992 Rio Summit whereby Delegates adopted Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, which called for the adoption of a legally binding instrument of PIC by 2000.
- The Convention is on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.
- Convention and its Final Act Adopted was 24 February 1998 and Entered into force 2004 and Tanzania ratified on
- **Objectives**
 - ✓ Aimed to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals
 - ✓ in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and contribute to their environmentally sound use.

The Rotterdam (PIC) Convention

- **The convention promotes open exchange of information and calls on exporters of hazardous chemicals to:**
 - ✓ use proper labeling, include directions on safe handling, and
 - ✓ inform purchasers of any known restrictions or bans.
- **Signatory countries can decide whether to:**
 - ✓ allow or ban the importation of chemicals in the treaty, and
 - ✓ exporting countries are obliged to make sure that procedures within their jurisdiction comply

The Rotterdam (PIC) Convention

- Some of the chemicals listed in Annex III of the RC include:
 - ✓ Alachlor,
 - ✓ Aldicarb,
 - ✓ Aldrin,
 - ✓ Chlordane,
 - ✓ DDT,
 - ✓ PCB
 - ✓ Dieldrin,
 - ✓ Endosulfun,
 - ✓ Actinolite Asbestos, and
 - ✓ PBB.

Basel Convention

- It is on the control of Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their disposal.
- **Main objectives:**
 - ✓ An international treaty designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations.
 - ✓ To protect human health and the Environment from the adverse of hazardous wastes
 - ✓ To minimize the generation of hazardous wastes in terms of quantity and hazardousness;
 - To dispose of them as close to the source of generation as possible with the environmental sound management approach; and to reduce

Basel Convention ...

- How the convention started:
 - ✓ Illicit movements from developed to developing countries of hazardous wastes for 'treatment' or 'disposal';
 - ✓ Hazardous waste disposal costs in developed countries were high, regulations becoming stricter;
 - ✓ Disposal costs in developing countries were low, few regulations, low standards and weak enforcement;
 - ✓ No international framework to control dumping;
- Hazardous waste (Specified in Annex I: include explosive, flammable, poisonous, infectious, corrosive, toxic, ecotoxic)

The Montreal Protocol

- The Protocol is on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- Signed in September 1987 and came into force on 1st January 1989.
- It was developed in response to scientific findings on depletion of the atmosphere ozone layer,
 - ✓ due to chlorine and bromine emissions from human activities
 - ✓ causing considerable damage to the environment and human health
- The convention aims to reduce and eliminate consumption and emissions of Ozone Layer Depleting Substances (ODS) by setting freeze and phase out schedules

The Montreal Protocol ...

- Under the protocol each Party implementing :
 - ✓ have a commitment of complying with the schedule for ODS phase out and must therefore introduce control measures
 - ✓ Regulations, Control of imports
 - ✓ Cleaner Production programmes
 - ✓ Awareness, training
- Some of these ODS include;
 - ✓ Chlorofluorocarbons
 - ✓ Carbon Tetrachloride
 - ✓ 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (Methyl Chloroform)
 - ✓ Bromochloromethane, and
 - ✓ Methyl Bromide.

GFC: Global Framework on Chemicals – *A Free Planet from Harm of Chemicals and Wastes*

- *It was adopted September 2023 in Bonn Germany after being negotiated since 2020*
 - ✓ provides agreed overview of High Level Commitments, objectives and targets to be achieved
- **Goal:** *By year 2030, Chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impact on the environment and human health.*
- **The GFC document:** *is a detailed document outlining work areas, activities, actors, timeframes, targets, and indicators of progress.*
- The document complements towards achievement of the SDG which its achievements require proper management of chemicals.

MINAMATA CONVENTION

- It is a legally Binding Instrument on Mercury Signed on 2013 in *Minamata Japan*.
- Tanzania ratified and became a Party of the Minamata Convention on 24 October, 2020.
- It was a recently negotiated by Governments, spear headed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Health Aspects & Management & Control aspects.
- Controls in reduction, in a range of products, processes, industries where mercury is used, released, emitted.
- Mercury to be phased out by 2030.

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTIONS

- The **Basel Convention** – VPO Focal Office and Implementer
- The **Rotterdam Convention** on PIC – VPO Focal Office, GCLA and TPHPRA are Implementer
- The **Stockholm Convention** - VPO Focal Office and Implementer
- **Minamata** Convention on Mercury - VPO Focal Office and Implementer in collaboration with GCLA.
- **GFC** – GCLA Focal Office and Implementer in collaboration with other stakeholders
- **Montreal** – VPO Focal Office and Implementer in collaboration with GCLA

I Thank You For Your Attention

