

International PRTR Coordinating Group

**First meeting
20 March 2006, Ghent, Belgium**

SUMMARY

The first meeting of the International Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) Coordinating Group was held in Ghent, Belgium, on 20 March 2006, under the chairmanship of Mr. Osmany Pereira Gonzalez (UNEP).

A. Statement of Purpose. The participants decided that the International PRTR Coordinating Group should focus its activities on promoting the coordination of PRTR capacity building activities in developing countries or countries with economies in transition. It could also serve as a reporting mechanism for the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), in particular, to measure progress on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Action Plan and to analyze trends in national implementation. Regional meetings of the SAICM could also provide opportunities for the Coordinating Group to provide information on national developments.

B. Terms of Reference and participation. The Coordinating Group reviewed draft Terms of Reference for the new body which had been prepared and circulated by the Secretariat prior to the meeting (IPRTRCG(2006/2)). It was agreed that Coordinating Group meetings would be organized by a voluntary bureau consisting of the three founding Intergovernmental organizations (UNECE, UNEP and UNITAR). Any country delegation that would like to be a part of the Bureau, as well as other groups that are considered "participants" would be invited to join the Bureau of the International PRTR Co-ordinating Group. All members would be considered equal participants in the meetings of the Coordinating Group.

Participants were invited to review the revised version of the Terms of Reference and submit their comments to the Secretariat (michael.stanley-jones@unece.org) by 15 September 2006.

C. Outreach. The Meeting requested that the Chairman contact the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) secretariat and inform it that the new Coordinating Group would be interested in opportunities to contribute to IFCS activities in future.

D. Next meeting. The Coordinating Group agreed to hold its next meeting back-to-back with the OECD PRTR Task Force in February 2007. UNECE will serve as Secretariat.

A revised version of the draft Terms of Reference and the list of participants are annexed to this Summary and Report of the meeting.