

Protocol on PRTRs for fact-based decision-making to achieve SDGs



- PRTRs have a twofold role as a reporting tool and a source of pollution-related data
- The Protocol contributes to the prevention and reduction of pollution by increasing transparency and by encouraging improvements in environmental performance and in production

Main achievements in supporting countries

- **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*
- **Int Org 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, UNEP)*
- **Global Round Tables: Exceptional cooperation and synergy – UNECE & OECD, UNEP and UNITAR**

Lessons learnt and challenges

- **Strong political commitment - precondition for achievements**
- **Informed decision-making - prerequisite for SDGs**
- **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**

Further steps in assisting countries

- **Raise awareness of decision-makers: use of PRTRs for policies in other sectors (health, energy etc)**
- **Promote informed decision-making processes**
- **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**