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**Draft General Recommendations
on the Improvement of Waste Classification and Inventory Systems in Eastern
European, Caucasus and Central Asian Countries¹**

Governments of EECCA countries are recommended to consider the following measures where it's relevant, for the improvement of classification system, collection and reporting on the wastes:

Legal, Policy and Institutional Base

1. Review the current national legislation on wastes and revise it where necessary so that it sets the goals for the management of wastes, in particular hazardous wastes, general regulations on the collection of data and distribution of responsibilities for the collection and submission of data. For this purpose to use the international experience, including the definitions and principles established in EC legislation (for example, in the framework Directive on Wastes 75/442/EEC, framework Directive on Hazardous Wastes 91/689/EEC, Directive on the List of Wastes 2000/532/EC and Normative Document (EC) No 2150/2002 of European Parliament and EC Council for Wastes Statistics).
2. Development of the wastes management should be based on the existing data on the generation, use and disposal of wastes and establish the specific goals, in particular on the waste inventory and collection.
3. To designate one leading ministry or department responsible for data collection on waste, which will closely cooperate with other organizations and establishments.

Waste Classification

¹ Unofficial translation from Russian by the Ministry of Environment of Georgia. The Recommendations were developed at the workshop on waste classifications and inventories that was held on 3-4 October 2003 in Tbilisi.

4. To use the existing international classification systems or their components while developing or improving national waste classification systems. As one of the possible approaches could be considered the use of the European list of wastes approved by the Resolution 2000/532/EC, or European Statistical Nomenclature of Wastes (EC) 2150/2002, Annex III as the basis for the creation of national classifications, linking them with the classification of types of economic activities (International Standard Classification of all types of economic activities UN or Statistical classification of types of economic activities in European Economic Community and UN Global Coordinated System of Classification and Chemicals Marking.
5. To seek that national lists of wastes, among others,
 - a) Include hazardous as well as non-hazardous wastes;
 - b) Facilitate the inventory of accumulated wastes, as well as the collection and processing of current data on generation, utilization and disposal of wastes;
 - c) Are used when developing ecological indices and reporting;
 - d) Are used when issuing permits and licenses on waste management;
 - e) Serve as the basis for the development of economic tools for the prevention of waste generation, as well as for stimulating effective management of wastes and sustainable use of natural resources;
 - f) Further the international comparability of data and their submission to international organizations and establishments.

Waste Inventory

6. In case of the absence of background data on the accumulated wastes, main sources of their generation and capacities for their processing, the ministries of environment with the help of bringing in other relevant departments and local authorities, as well as scientific establishments and NGOs, should conduct the inventory of waste generation sources and waste processing enterprises (businesses), and the existing waste burial sites including ownerless and non-approved landfills and deserted storage facilities of chemicals for the purpose of creation of mapped database on the existing and potential sources of the pollution of environment.

Data Collection and Reporting

7. On the basis of the approved relevant legislative and normative acts ensure regular reporting of enterprises (with the use of waste passportisation, for example) on waste generation, storage, export, import, processing and their disposal.
8. To aspire that, after the examination and control conducted by the authorized local bodies, this primary reporting goes into the leading responsible body (Ministry of environment or Statistical Committee) and is used for the purposes of regulation of environmental activities, creation of electronic database, statistical and ecological reporting, development of environmental policy, and publication of informational materials for the general public.

Indices

9. Ministries of Environment together with Statistical Committees should use the primary data on the wastes for publishing aggregated indices in the field of waste management. With this purpose the set of indices should be developed on the basis of international experience (practice), specifically developed by European Environmental Agency system “driving forces – loads – status – impact- retaliatory measures”:
 - a) Showing general scope of waste use, pressure on the environment, as well as the volume and trends of waste generation;
 - b) Ensuring the links of various types of economic activities with the materials flow and waste generation;
 - c) Allowing to adequately assess the effectiveness of environmental policy for the prevention of waste generation, as well as for sustainable waste management and use of natural resources.

Needs for Strengthening of National Potential

10. Arrange the training courses for raising the skills of the staff of local and central environmental bodies engaged in the inventory and reporting issues on wastes and encourage the familiarization with the experience of other countries in this field.
11. Enhance the computer networks and software for creation and management of centralized electronic waste database.
12. Train the staff of ministries of environment responsible for publishing state environmental reports and the staff of Statistical Committees engaged in statistical environmental reporting in practical application of waste management aggregated indices.

International Cooperation

13. Actively participate in international meetings on waste classification and inventory arranged in the framework of international agreements on these issues, such as Basel Convention, and in international programs and projects carried out by UN EEC, UNEP and other international organizations.
14. Stir up the efforts for the attraction of donors' assistance with the aim of strengthening the national potential in the field of waste management and low-waste and non-waste technologies.