

UNITAR statement during 2nd MOP PRTR Protocol – 3 July 2014, Maastricht, the Netherlands

Agenda Item 3.a – Coordination mechanisms and synergies

UNITAR, in collaboration with UNEP, and financial support from the GEF, implemented in the period of 2009-2012 a project on piloting PRTRs as tools to report POPs among other priority chemicals. The main goal of the project was to evidence PRTRs as important tools to comply with certain reporting requirements under MEAs, such as the Stockholm Convention on POPs. PRTRs were successfully designed with this objective in 6 countries. We are pleased to announce that as a follow-up to this work, UNEP and UNITAR presented a new proposal to the GEF together with 6 countries for the further implementation of these PRTRs, and it has been recently approved by the GEF. We expect that countries will be able to use implemented PRTRs to report according to certain obligations under the Stockholm Convention on POPs. We are hoping to start these projects at the end of 2014 in Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and Peru. Projects are planned for 3-years duration.

UNITAR is also supporting a PRTR design project in Azerbaijan, with the financial support of UNEPs SAICM Quick Start Programme.

UNITAR is identifying several initiatives by other partners that can have important synergies with these projects. As examples, we look forward to work together with ZOI and UNEP that also have activities related to PRTRs in the European region. We also look forward to keep close contact with ECLAC and countries in Latin America, to count the PRTR projects that will be implemented in Ecuador and Peru as part of the plans in Latin America to strengthen Principle 10 implementation. We are also happy to see the important developments that have been done by Partners such as the German Environmental Agency, the European Environmental Agency, REC, and Green Women in terms of online reporting tools for PRTRs and we look forward to explore opportunities with this Partners to use these systems as examples for the countries that we will support in the following years.

On other matters, we were very glad to collaborate in the preparation of the PRTR Global Round Table. We thank the invitation from UNECE and OECD to UNITAR to do this. It was a very interesting and fruitful event. We look forward to collaborating in similar events in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank for the continued technical support from OECD, UNECE, UNEP, Spain, United States, Norway, Switzerland, and other members of the International PRTR Coordinating Group to UNITAR in our work on PRTR capacity-building.

