

## **UNITAR statement during 2<sup>nd</sup> MOP PRTR Protocol – 3 July 2014, Maastricht, the Netherlands**

### **Agenda item 3c – Communications tools and materials**

As previously mentioned by UNEP, the new Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted in October 2013 and has been already signed by 99 countries. The Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. Controlling the anthropogenic releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle has been a key factor in shaping the obligations under the convention, and therefore we find that there are important links between the obligations under the Convention and PRTRs.

In this regard, I would like to inform participants of this meeting that UNEP and UNITAR, with financial support of Norway and Switzerland, are collaborating to develop Mercury:Learn, a platform that offers online training modules on how to identify and quantify mercury releases from different anthropogenic activities, such as coal combustion, mining, waste management, and others. This platform is based on UNEPs Toolkit on Identification and Quantification of mercury releases, which provides standard releases estimation factors for mercury. This Toolkit and its proposed factors have been already used by several countries in the estimation of mercury releases under their PRTRs. We invite participants to visit [mercury.unitar.org](http://mercury.unitar.org) to explore the online modules. Modules to prepare a baseline inventory Level 1 are already available. Modules for a more specific Inventory Level 2 will be available in August 2014. We hope this will be a useful tool for countries in their efforts to report mercury in support of the Minamata Convention, that of course, can be ideally done through national PRTRs.

Another tool I would also like to mention is the IOMC Toolbox, a project that is being developed by all IOMC Participating organizations, with financial support of the European Union. The IOMC Toolbox is a problem-solving tool that enables countries to identify the most appropriate and efficient national actions to address specific national problems related to chemicals management.

It follows a format of decision trees that helps interested stakeholders to identify the available IOMC resources that will help them to address the identified national problem(s) or objectives. Special focus is given to identifying simple cost-effective solutions to national chemicals management issues.

As IOMC Participating Organizations, OECD and UNITAR are working jointly on a PRTR component in the Toolbox, which has the objective of taking countries through a decision-making scheme on implementing a PRTR. This scheme is also being prepared with financial support from the European Union.

We have a side event tomorrow at 1 pm in Room 0.11. We hope you join us to learn more about this tool that will be available for you to decide on your processes to implement a PRTR.