

PRTRs: PROMOTING INFORMED DECISIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE¹

3rd Global round table on PRTRs

7–8 November 2018
Geneva, Switzerland

Organised by

The secretariat of the ECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

and

the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

in cooperation with

the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

and

the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Chairs: Ms. Tina Skårman (Sweden), Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Releases and Transfer Registers and Mr. Noriyuki Suzuki (Japan), Chair of the OECD Working Group on Pollutant Releases and Transfer Registers.

LIST OF SPEAKERS

DAY I² Wednesday, 7 November 2018

Item 1. Opening (10.00–10.10)

- Mr. Marco KEINER, Director Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
- His Excellency Mr. Dejan ZLATANOVIĆ, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² Coffee breaks around 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Item 2. PRTRs across the world (10.10-13.00)

This session aims to provide information about current status of PRTRs in the world, including major challenges in implementing or developing PRTRs, and activities to address these by international organizations.

- Ms. Tina SKÅRMAN, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Releases and Transfer Registers and Mr. Noriyuki SUZUKI, Chair of the Working Group on Pollutant Releases and Transfer Registers under OECD.

International Organizations

- Mr. Íñigo De VICENTE-MINGARRO, Chair of the International PRTR Coordinating Group.
- Mr. Andrea CARARO, Chemicals and Waste Management Programme Unit, Division for Planet, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).
- Mr. Mohamad KAYYAL, Programme Management Officer, Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (UNEP MED POL), Barcelona Convention secretariat.
- Mr. Carlos DE MIGUEL, Head of Policies for Sustainable Development Unit, United Nations Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Countries

- Mr. Sokunthea UON, Vice Chief Office, Department of Hazardous Substance Management, General Directorate of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia.
- Ms. Nino GOKHELASHVILI, Head of Sustainable Development Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia.
- Ms. Sarantuya JIGIIDDORI, National coordinator for Strengthening Capacities for Developing a National PRTR in support of SAICM in Mongolia, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia.
- Ms. Camila ALVA ESTABRIDIS, Director of Pollution Control and Chemical Substances, Ministry of the Environment, Peru.
- Mr. Med Cherif FOURTI, General Engineer, Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development (OTEDD), Tunisia.

Item 3. How to apply PRTRs to achieving the SDGs (15.00-18.00)

The session will provide an opportunity to share experience and opinions on how PRTRs contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

a) Introduction

Representatives of the two Bureaux will provide introductory remarks and inform participants on current work under OECD and the UNECE Protocol on PRTRs related to the topic;

- Ms. Lesya KARNAUKH, Member of the Bureau, UNECE Protocol on PRTRs.
- Mr. Steve DEVITO, Member of the Bureau, OECD Working Group on PRTRs and Ms. Caitlin BRIERE, Program Analyst, Environmental Protection Agency, United States of America.

b) PRTRs building on existing reporting structures

Delegates will discuss the role of PRTRs in assessing progress in PRTR-related targets of SDGs, green chemistry and assessing sectorial environmental performance/measuring environmental policies impacts;

- Mr. Grégoire NIMESKERN, Engineer in charge of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, General Directorate for Risks Prevention, Ministry for Environment, France.
- Mr. Alex RADWAY, Policy Advisor, Directorate General Environment, European Commission.
- Mr. Bastian ZIEGLER, Industry and Environment Expert, European Environment Agency.
- Mr. Orlando CABRERA RIVERA, Manager of Environmental Quality and Climate Change Program, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation – via video-link.
- Ms. Cheryl KEENAN, Senior Analyst, Eastern Research Group.

c) Potential of PRTRs

Delegates will discuss the potential of PRTR systems designed from the beginning to support promotion of sustainable development by e.g. offering additional information on energy and water consumption, taxation systems that account for environmental performance, etc.

- Ms. Maayan PORAT GANZ, PRTR Advocate, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Israel.
- Mr. Nebojsa REDZIC, Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Serbia.
- Ms. Shanshan Ding, Green Supply Chain Project Manager, Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE), China.

DAY II³

Thursday, 8 November 2018

Item 4. Emerging PRTRs 10.00-13.00

The session will address common challenges and emerging opportunities in the development and implementation of PRTRs. To foster interactive discussions between participants, small (maximum 3) groups will be set up, where the participants will share their experience and knowledge about key steps in the development, implementation and use of PRTRs. The session will be organized as follows:

Group Discussions

a) International reporting / Single window approach

The discussion will address sharing of experience from PRTR-systems that are cross cutting and serve as a single window access point to e.g. government services or fulfilment of a variety of reporting obligations, including good practices on reporting to different international agreements by using PRTRs. Delegates may also discuss how to overcome common difficulties in establishing a PRTR-system that is used by a variety of government entities.

- Moderator: Ms. Tatiana TUGUI, Environmental Pollution Prevention Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Republic of Moldova.

b) Variety of uses and users of PRTR systems and related communication strategies

The discussion will address different user groups for PRTR data and existing or potential use for PRTR data, including through combination with other information and data and using PRTR data for adaptation measures against climate change. It may cover strategies that aim at promoting PRTRs and improving the use of PRTR-systems by different stakeholders and strategies to avoid wrong use of data and use of PRTR platforms as a tool for education.

- Moderator: Mr. Noriyuki SUZUKI, Director, Center for Environmental Risk Research, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan.

c) Role of equivalency in comparability

The discussion will address possible methodologies to expand comparability of data from different PRTRs, e.g. the identification of equivalence (e.g. using tables comparing code classifications (Industrial activities, NACE / ISIC)), flexibility in comparing chemicals with similar characteristics. It may also include efforts to harmonise PRTRs among countries.

- Moderator: Mr. Íñigo De VICENTE-MINGARRO, PRTR-España Administrator, Spanish Register of Emissions and Pollutant Sources, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain.

³ Coffee brakes around 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

13.00-15.00 Lunch break

[Break Time for bilateral or small group discussions]

Item 5. PRTRs for different stakeholders 15.00-17.20

The session will provide an opportunity to share experience and views of different stakeholders and to discuss how PRTRs could contribute to sustainable development. The session will be moderated by Mr. Jorge OCANA, Manager, Chemicals and Waste Management Programme Unit, UNITAR. It will start with short presentations of the below topics by panellists, which will be followed by discussion by participants:

a) Pollution data – science, education and risk assessment

- Mr. Michael PETRONI, Environmental & Natural Resources Policy PhD Program, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.
- Ms. Mara SILINA, Co-Chair, European ECO Forum.
- Mr. Fredrik HALLGREN, Project Manager, Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL).

b) Consumption and production – PRTRs as tools for sustainability

- Mr. Masayuki SEKIGUCHI, Section Chief, Ministry of the Environment, Japan.
- Mr. Glenn STORBRÅTEN, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norway.
- Ms. Christina RAAB, Global Implementation Director, Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) programme.
- Mr. Christian SCHAIBLE, Policy Manager for Industrial Production, European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

c) Hurdles and opportunities in establishing a PRTR

- *Plenary discussion on hurdles and opportunities*

Item 6. Chairs' Statement (17.35-18.00)

The Chairs, Ms. Tina SKÅRMAN and Mr. Noriyuki SUZUKI, will present key points derived from the discussions and will close the meeting. The report on the Global round table, including the Chairs' statement, will be finalised after the meeting.
