

UNITAR statement during the Fourth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs

26 November 2015, Madrid, Spain

Agenda , Item 4 (a) - Synergies with Partner organizations

UNITAR is actively committed in seeking and strengthening synergies with partner organizations in capacity building efforts for implementation of PRTR systems throughout the world. UNITAR wishes to acknowledge the generous technical support provided by its traditional partners that are UNECE, UNEP, the OECD and other members of the International PRTR Coordinating Group. UNITAR would like today to acknowledge in particular the amazing contribution of the government of Spain in being such a fantastic host and co-organizer of this international PRTR week, which has been rich in content, exchanges and learning. UNITAR would also like to acknowledge the significant financial contribution of the GEF and SAICM, which have made possible to carry capacity building projects on developing PRTRs in several countries.

In 13 May 2015, UNITAR signed an agreement with UNEP to execute the GEF funded *Global project on the implementation of PRTRs as a tool for POPs reporting, dissemination and awareness raising for Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Peru*. Through this project, UNITAR continues the collaboration undertaken with UNEP from 2010 to 2012 in the prior phase of this GEF global project. Whereas the first phase was successful in assisting participating countries to design a National PRTR Executive Proposal, the second phase aims at updating and implementing these proposals with fully operational national PRTRs. In addition, the six participating countries will draft national PRTR legal framework and conduct national pilots on using PRTR to report on POPs among other priority chemicals. In parallel, training modules and guidance materials on PRTR implementation and POPs reporting will be developed, and harmonization will be fostered among the national PRTR systems. A particular attention will be given to develop successful national strategies for public access to environmental information.

The main goal of these two global projects is to evidence PRTRs as important tools to meet the reporting obligations under multilateral environment agreements (MEAs), such as the Stockholm Convention on POPs, and to develop lessons learned and guidance materiel for this purpose. The lessons learned will be consolidated in a report and disseminated at the international level. Furthermore, the project will help the Republic of Moldova in meeting its obligations under the Kiev PRTR Protocol, as well as to promote the Protocol's ratification.

UNITAR is happy to announce that the Steering Committee of the GEF project is meeting for the first time today, and that the project inception workshop will be taken place tomorrow and Saturday, thus completing this international PRTR week. The workshop will be followed by a study tour next Monday (November 30th) to learn from the PRTR system and experience in Spain. In this regard, UNITAR would like to give once again a warm thanks to the

government of Spain for making it possible for the participating countries to benefit from this week learning experience. We cannot think of a better way to start the project.

UNITAR would also mention that its SAICM funded project in developing a PRTR proposal in Panama is about to resume, after a period of pause due to a change in the government and in the National Coordination Team.

Finally, UNITAR would like to invite all interested parties about its capacity building activities to contact us for more information.