

## **Protocol on PRTRs**

6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group of the Parties

9 November 2018

Item 6. Development of the Protocol

Statement by Switzerland

*The last decades have shown that the PRTRs are a suitable tool to standardize reporting for pollutants released or transferred off-site but also to foster a transparent participation of industry and the public. A global expansion and concomitant harmonization of the efforts is key to further success. The third GRT on PRTRs revealed a strong momentum in implementing PRTRs on a global scale. The UNECE Protocol on PRTRs offers to use this momentum while assuring strong harmonization. Such harmonized progress requires advancement through binding amendments and not to rely entirely on recommendations of good practices. After 10 years of experience with the Protocol, Switzerland considers it as crucial that the bodies of the Protocol take on their responsibility for keeping the Protocol alive, i.e. to implement Article 6(2) of the Protocol. Switzerland recommends focusing on feasible and necessary revisions of the annexes prior to revisions of the other provisions of the Protocol. We believe that even though no agreement can be reached regarding the proposal of the Bureau, Switzerland is more content with the revised proposal of the EU to discuss a possible amendment of the Protocol at the next meeting of the Working Group of the Parties.*