

# **Report on the International PRTR Coordinating Group Activities (Item 3)**

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*Chair of the International PRTR Coordinating Group*

# International PRTR Coordinating Group

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The International PRTR Coordinating Group (ICG) is an open/informal group which overall objective is:

- to enhance coordination and cooperation at the global level among international organizations, governments, NGOs and other interested parties on their efforts related to the development and implementation of PRTR systems, facilitating the exchange of information on though the ongoing and planned PRTR-related activities carried out by its participants and partners worldwide.
- to raise awareness and promote PRTRs in international fora.

## Bureau and meetings

- UNITAR, Canada and Spain currently serve on the Bureau. The UNECE Aarhus Convention/Protocol on PRTRs Secretariat also serves as secretariat.
- Meetings of the ICG usually take place yearly, *back to back* with the OECD WP on PRTRs meetings. The last one (15<sup>th</sup>ICG) was held on January, 2023 keeping with this tradition. (Next one, January, 2024)

*All the updated information on the ICG is available on the UNECE/PRTR website:*  
<https://unece.org/environment-policypublic-participation/international-prtr-coordinating-group>.

# Main outcomes 2022-2023

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- The participants reiterated their commitment to coordination and synergies in relation to the work on PRTRs..
- ICG welcomed **good practices and innovative approaches** shared by different countries and international organizations during the *tour de table* and “hot-topic” (\*) sessions. The participants requested the secretariat to liaise with the potential speakers on PRTR related topics for the next meeting:
  - **Collection, comparability and management of PRTR data**, including with regard to the scope of PRTRs in the context of new developments linked to the use of chemical substances; further harmonization of different PRTR systems and issues of data equivalence,..
  - **Dissemination of available PRTR data**, including good practices for a successful awareness campaign and for interactive data visualization options for communicating/presenting PRTR information.
  - **Using PRTRs** for issues related to environmental justice and pollution prevention initiatives, including to the development and application of BATs

*(\*) PRTR “hot topic”...any topic that is innovative or considered as a priority in the implementation of PRTRs*

- ICG also took note of the UNITAR proposal on a “PRTR Partnership” which was prepared together with OECD and in consultation with UNECE.

# Main outcomes 2022-2023

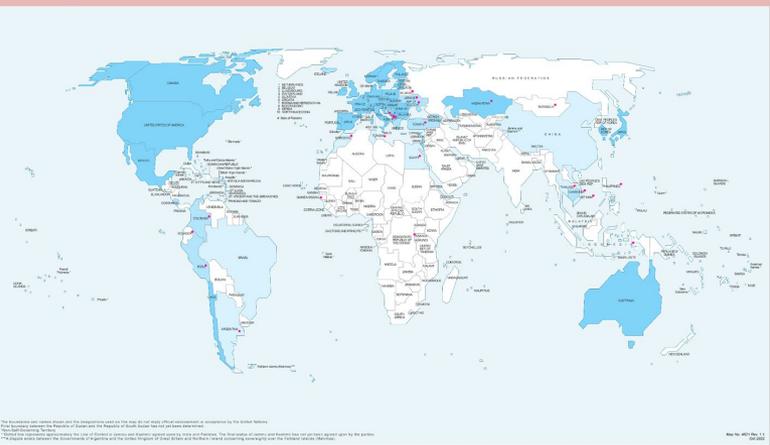
a) 1<sup>st</sup> Proposal: to use the UN stylized map



b) Draft international commitments map - with countries that ratified (1):



c) According to this first proposal and based on our old map and the OECD survey :  
Draft degree of implementation map- with countries degree of implementation (shades of blue) (1):



## PRTR GLOBAL MAP 2023

As of November 2023, **73 countries**, coming from all regions, have committed to develop PRTR systems. This includes legal commitments under the **United Nations Protocol on PRTRs**, the **Aarhus Convention** and the **Escazu Agreement**, or commitments stemming from **OECD membership**.

15<sup>th</sup> ICG

“...the Group requested the Chair with the support of the secretariat to prepare a new version of the map for the next meeting, integrating comments made by participants”

**Works ongoing. Not yet a final decision on how to improve the information shown on the GLOBAL MAP in “one click”...**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

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