

Tenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (Geneva, 27-28 November 2023)

Statement by Switzerland

Item 6(i)

Thank you, Madame Chair. Good morning, everybody. PRTR databases are a technical implementation of the principles of transparency in the field of pollutant emissions. The harmonized development of the open global protocol on PRTRs is a key element in ensuring continued relevance of its provisions that have not been updated for 20 years now. The *“Draft proposal on a possible decision on promoting innovative approaches for modernizing pollutant release and transfer registers, their global promotion and synergy”* calls Parties to start preparing this renewal now by building on voluntary measures. Such recommendations indeed have their relevant role. However, the harmonized development of PRTRs is best carried out under the umbrella of binding international agreements such as the Protocol on PRTRs.

Given the voluntary nature of the provisions in the Draft decisions, Switzerland could support the *“Draft proposal on a possible decision on promoting innovative approaches for modernizing pollutant release and transfer registers, their global promotion and synergy”* as proposed by the Bureau.

With regard to the figure in the annex, which reflects a high level of representation, Switzerland strongly suggests to delete the acronym LCPs next to the acronym PRTRs. LCPs should be considered – in any case on this level of representation – as partial quantity of PRTRs given PRTRs aim to typically cover at least 90% of industrial emissions from relevant point sources – including LCPs.

Item 6(iii)

Thank you, Madame Chair. Good afternoon, everybody. Switzerland thanks the Secretariat for its efforts to cope well with the difficult budgetary situation. Switzerland continuously advocates in favor of a sustainable and predictable financial mechanism under the Protocol. The current scheme of contributions, based on voluntary support cannot guarantee the implementation of all the activities under the work programme. We believe that even though no agreement can be reached at the moment, it is highly important that the possibility to discuss alternative options of financial arrangements remains open for the future. Paragraph 12 of the *“Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers”* in the annex of the note does foresee proposals by the Bureau and the Working Group regarding options for more predictable, stable and equitably shared funding to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties at sixth session. Switzerland therefore can support the *“Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers”* to be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.