

## DEVELOPING A GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK FOR A NATIONAL SAICM IMPLEMENTATION

HOW CAN INVOLVEMENT OF RELEVANT GOVERNMENT SECTORS IN NATIONAL "SAICM" IMPLEMENTATION BE ENSURED AND WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION ?

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### INTRODUCTION

Chemicals management concern many sectors (industry, energy, agriculture, health, environment, ...) and a lot of social and economic activities. That is why chemicals management is complex and difficult. This paper is based on lessons and experiences from the Republic of Burundi (Africa) through the preparation of the Burundi NIP (National implementation plan of the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants).

During 2 years (2004-2006), Mr Jérôme KARIMUMURYANGO, the National Expert Coordinator of the Project POP/Burundi which prepared the Burundi NIP, learned lessons in "involving government sectors" in chemicals management because in the National Committee of the Project POP/Burundi, Government sectors are represented.

#### **1. How can involvement of relevant government sectors in national SAICM implementation be ensured ?**

These are some strategic approaches to develop at national level by government to facilitate SAICM implementation :

##### ***i) A correct and serious identification of relevant government sectors to be involved.***

As there are many sectors concerned by chemicals management, the problem is to identify the relevant sectors.

These criteria can be considered in the identification :

- the activities of the sector and their social and economic implication;
- the structure and the organization chart of the sector;
- the composition of the staff sector;
- the experience of the sector in chemicals management;
- chemicals issues in the sector.

##### ***ii) To appoint a Focal point from each relevant sector identified***

The Focal point represents the sector and inform the sector about all chemicals management activities at national level.

**iii) To train the Focal points designed**

The training would be focused on these issues :

- What are chemicals ?
- What is chemicals management ?
- What is SAICM ?
- How to present a report of chemicals management ?

**iv) To define the responsibilities of the Focal point**

These specifications will facilitate the Focal point activities.

**v) To provide equipments for chemicals management in each relevant sector identified**

Without a minimum of equipments, the Focal point and the sector will not participate to the chemicals management.

**vi) To provide equipments for information and communication**

Each relevant sector identified has to be able to send and receive informations on chemicals, at national level and international level. For this, a minimum of equipments (computer, telephone, fax machine, e-mail and internet capacities) has to be provided to the relevant sector and used by the Focal point.

**vii) To develop chemicals management activities in the relevant sectors identified**

Those activities will keep the Focal points and the sectors interested by chemicals management.

**viii) To interest the sectors staff in chemicals management**

Sectors staff can be interested through workshops, conferences, seminars, trainings. N.B. Those workshops, conferences, seminars and trainings have to be organized through the inter-ministerial coordination.

**2. What are effective means of inter-ministerial coordination ?**

Through lessons and experiences from Burundi, these elements would be effective means of inter-ministerial coordination :

**i) A correct identification of the ministries**

- What are the relevant ministries to be members of the inter-ministerial coordination ?
- Does the ministry identified as member of the inter-ministerial coordination know its place and role in national chemicals management ?

**ii) Training opportunities**

Does the ministry identified as member of the inter-ministerial coordination have persons trained in chemicals management ?

**iii) Clear definition of the ministry activities in chemicals management**

- Does the ministry have a ministerial/sector action plan or programme of chemicals management ?

- Is the ministerial/sector action plan or programme implemented ?

**iv) An effective structure/organization of the inter-ministerial coordination**

- What is the structure of the inter-ministerial coordination ?
- Who are the persons (president, vice-president, secretary,...) in charge of the inter-ministerial coordination ?

**v) Clear definitions of role and place, objectives, activities agenda and outcomes**

- What are the place and role of each ministry in the inter-ministerial coordination ?
- What are the objectives and activities of the inter-ministerial coordination ?
- What are the outcomes expected from the inter-ministerial coordination ?

**vi) Material and visual address of the inter-ministerial coordination**

Does the inter-ministerial coordination have an office? A secretariat? A specific staff? Specific office equipment (computer, telephone, fax machine, ...) ?

**vii) Financial resources available**

- Does the inter-ministerial coordination have a specific budget ?
- Who is the responsible of the inter-ministerial coordination budget ?
- How is the budget defined and consumed ?

### **3. Conclusion**

- i) Chemicals management issues concern a diversity of government sectors and actors;
- ii) Strategic approaches to develop at national level by government to facilitate SAICM implementation exist but have to be adapted to each specific country;
- iii) The effective means of an inter-ministerial coordination in chemicals management have to be identified and defined taking in account the specific realities of the country;
- iv) National Governance for SAICM implementation would be a sustainable system/framework of sharing informations, experiences, knowledges in chemicals management at national level.