

EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Views of Turkey on Waste Management and Chemicals

High Level Segment: Round Table 4

13 May 2010

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair, I'd like to thank to distinguished panelists for sharing their reflections with us.

Distinguished delegates,

Chemicals have important role in economic growth in Turkey like in other developing countries. In recent years, it has become important to make risk assessments by determining the usage amounts and hazard characteristics of chemicals in order to strengthen preventive measures in chemicals management.

We noted that many countries have already implemented a diversity of policy measures such as regulations requiring information about chemicals inventory, provisions requiring private enterprises to make risks assessment of chemicals on human health and environment, and establishment of workforce health monitoring systems.

However, insufficient and unavailable information and data on chemicals, information sharing among responsible entities, access to information, insufficient human and technical capacity for risk assessment, inadequate health and safety protections for chemical workers, protection mechanisms against chemical accidents and finally, global cooperation against international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals are the main challenges that many countries face.

We expect that the global community will develop innovative solutions to these challenges in the forthcoming policy session of the fourth implementation cycle.

Mr. Co-Chair,

Turkey attaches high priority to waste management within the context of its national sustainable development policies, international commitments through the UN system and

national program for the EU accession process. Solid waste management strategies should introduce healthy and economic solutions to protect the environment and provide higher living standards without jeopardizing development.

In view of having a sound and integrated waste management, municipal waste management efforts need integration, coherence and policy guidance at the national level. National framework plan for waste management is one of the good practices that Turkey implements for this purpose.

Initiatives that attach economic value to waste which promotes re-use and recycle of waste should be supported. For that purpose, establishment of local waste markets should be promoted. This new emerging market, by its nature, has a specific character with respect to risks it entails. The health of workers and their working environment should be monitored and improved.

Thank you.