

NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Views of Turkey on Moving Towards Zero Waste and Sound Management of Chemicals

High Level Segment: Round Table 3

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Turkey attaches high priority to waste management and chemicals within the context of its national sustainable development policies, international commitments through UN system and national programme for the EU accession process.

Rapid economic growth together with an increasing population, diversifying and growing consumption and production patterns resulted in changed composition and quantity of wastes.

Turkey considers waste sector not only for pollution prevention but also an opportunity for economic growth due to jobs created. This potential sector, by its nature, has a specific character with respect to risks it entails. Therefore, the health of workers and their working environment should be monitored and improved.

Mr. Chair,

3R concept, namely reduce, reuse and recycling of waste attaches an economic value to waste. For that reason, public-private partnership opportunities should be encouraged in order to attract private sector involvement.

The involvement of all stakeholders is a vital element of waste management therefore we should keep in mind the importance of awareness rising programs for the waste minimization.

Legal, institutional and financial instruments are necessary for better implementation of waste strategies at all levels. In this respect, waste management strategies should introduce healthy and economic solutions to protect the environment and provide higher living standards. Environmentally sound waste management considering waste minimization,

decomposition and re-use at source are the vital elements which contribute sustainable development, poverty eradication and achieving other MDGs.

Mr. Chair,

Turkey supports the chemicals part of the CSD -19 discussions particularly in terms of three issues.

Firstly, chemicals have important role for economic growth. Income generation, employment level and social welfare are highly correlated with chemicals sector in many countries. At the same time, chemicals contribute to job creation, improved living standards, human health, efficient production of goods and services.

Secondly, risk and environmental assessments are essential for chemicals. While maximizing the benefits from the chemicals, minimization of risks for human health and environment are the utmost importance. For this reason, chemical safety programmes have to be developed. Within these programmes, strategies for minimizing the risks on worker's health, particularly on women and youth, combating the illegal dumping of hazardous chemicals and strengthening preparedness for chemical emergencies and accidents should be included.

Mr. Chair,

Awareness raising, capacity building and information sharing is another set of concern in terms of chemicals. In this respect, Turkey supports all attempts for information and data sharing between countries, including research findings on chemical safety. We also put a great importance for strengthening capacities of research institutions and communities to enable and facilitate their responsible and active participation in the processes of chemicals management. We believe that CSD 19 will contribute to foster public-private partnership in order to strengthen the capacity of national industries and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for the safe and responsible handling of chemicals.

Turkey is looking forward to a successful outcome of CSD-19 which, we believe, will contribute Rio+20 discussions, as well as constructive outcomes

Thank you Mr. Chair.