



ARMENIA

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Waste Management: Policy options to address barriers and constraints, taking into account lessons learned and best practices

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

The issue of environmentally friendly disposal of hazardous industrial waste is very important in my country given the fact that Armenia does not have processing plants or specialized polygons to treat and bury waste.

Recognizing the need for environmentally safe disposal of hazardous waste and the importance of strengthened control of their trans-border movement and disposal in order to prevent unlawful international circulation, and taking into account the increasing trend of discarding hazardous waste in developing countries, Armenia ratified the UN Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal.

A key milestone in Armenia in the area of management of hazardous and other types of wastes was the elaboration and adoption of the “Law on Waste” in November 2004. The Law defines the state policy in the area of waste use, aimed at preventing the harmful impact of waste on the environment and human health, while maximizing its use as a secondary raw material. In order to ensure the enforcement of that Law, 29 sub-legislative acts have also been adopted.

Furthermore, to meet the requirements of those legal acts and ensure ecologically safe waste management, the following measures are being implemented in Armenia:

- State registration of waste (everything from municipal waste to hazardous industrial waste is being classified);
- Passportization of hazardous waste;
- Registration of waste generation and processing, as well as the removal locations, with the purpose of creating and running the register;
- The process of approving projects for waste generation norms and their installation quotas developed by legal entities and private entrepreneurs; and
- Activities for setting up a state waste cadastre.

Another significant step in this area has been the establishment of the Waste Research Centre, a state non-commercial organization within the structure of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia. The activities performed by the Centre are aimed at providing assistance in preparing and implementing the state policy and strategy in the area of waste management, as well as regulating these issues. In order to minimize the volumes of generated hazardous and other types of wastes, certain steps were undertaken in Armenia to

realize economic approaches. In that context, the “Law on Wastes” stipulates mechanisms on economic incentives for the managing actors engaged in processing/recycling and utilization of wastes. It should be mentioned that Draft “Law on Wastes” was submitted to the Basel Convention Secretariat for consideration and international expertise examination and positive expert conclusions were obtained for this document.

Based on recommendations and principles set forth in the Agenda 21 and Bahia declaration of Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Armenia has developed National Profile on Management of Chemicals and Waste, which is one of the important stages for sustainable development process in the country. The profile assisted with identifying current problems as well as determining the direction of further activities towards the elimination of those problems.

Despite some of the important steps that have been taken in Armenia in this sector, certain areas are in need of further work, including:

- Creation of an ecologically safe waste management system, including the improvement of appropriate legal framework;
- Creation of registers for the waste generation, processing and utilization objects and their disposal locations;
- Monitoring of waste disposal spots with the aim of assessing the impact of waste on the environment;
- Ensuring reduction in waste generation, maximum use, including the expansion of secondary use of waste;
- Elaboration and initiation of measures on ecologically safe disposal of generated wastes; and
- Establishment of specialized waste disposal polygons and landfills.

Armenia remains committed to the implementation of policies in these areas and will work with the relevant international bodies to achieve its goals in this context.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.