

Thailand Statement

Strategies for Sustainable Chemicals and Waste Management

Thursday, 13 May 2010, 3.00-6.00 pm, ECOSOC Chamber

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, Thailand aligns with the statement made earlier by Tanzania on behalf of G77 and China.

As we are all aware from the comprehensive review of the implementation last week that significant progress have been made on chemicals and waste management agenda, but much still need to be done to ensure sound chemicals and waste management which will lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment across the globe by the year 2020.

With that, we believe that the strategies for sustainable chemicals and waste management should include, but not limited to:

- 1) The first and foremost strategy is that, chemicals and waste issues must be addressed in conjunction with other development issues, particularly, education and poverty reduction. Chemicals and waste issues must be prioritized and integrated in the national development agenda with the consideration of health and environmental factors, as well as social and economic factors.
- 2) Strengthening international cooperative efforts, as well as implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) is an important strategy for trans-boundary issues on chemicals and waste that can not be tackled by the effort of only one country. The issues need to be addressed using a life-cycle approach, in an integrated and coordinated manner. The ExCOP decisions on enhancing the synergy between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in Bali early this year provides a good opportunity for us to tackle international chemicals and waste management throughout the life-cycle.
- 3) Strengthening the link between the health and environment sectors is another key strategy. Accurate information on health risk assessment and health impacts of hazardous chemicals and waste will greatly assist in decision-making process for effective and sustainable chemicals and waste management.
- 4) Partnership and cooperation from industrial and business sectors are also important to practice Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and minimize the health and environmental impacts of their products and services, including those that are resulted from hazardous chemicals and waste.
- 5) Changing of unsustainable production and consumption behavior is required to achieve sustainable chemicals and waste management. Green procurement policy is one of the strategies to increase the demand and creation of new markets for green products and services. The use of incentive and financial instrument is another important tool to encourage the change in consumption behavior as well as to create a sustainable financial mechanism for chemicals and waste management.

- 6) Actions and cooperation at local community and individual level are also very crucial for effective chemicals and waste management for the development of sustainable and green society. It requires a life-long learning and individual responsibility that should be embedded in all educational and social paradigms.

We would like to call for more efforts and cooperation from all stakeholders in creating a sustainable financial mechanism and capacity building programme so that developing countries are able to address chemicals and waste issues effectively.

In closing, Thailand would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment in chemicals and waste management. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the international community so that together we can achieve sound management of chemicals and waste and pave the way towards the sustainable future.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman
