



*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

THE HON. DENIS KELLMAN, M.P.
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT AND DRAINAGE
GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS

ON BEHALF OF
THE MEMBER STATES
OF THE
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)
TO THE
19TH COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MAY 12, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

We in the CARICOM region continue to support the effective implementation of the main Chemicals Related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) namely the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Convention. However, the fulfillment of all the obligations under many of these treaties remains a major challenge for developing countries, including CARICOM Small Island Developing States. In this regard, we request that a comprehensive global financing strategy for chemicals be developed as a matter of priority to support implementation of these MEAs. The Private sector should be included in the architecture of such a strategy.

It is also necessary to further enhance the support given to regional technical centres designated under these Conventions so that they can effectively respond to the needs of their constituents.

The Management of waste, including chemical waste and its disposal remains a major challenge for Small Island developing states. In this regard, developing countries, including CARICOM, are encouraged to pursue an integrated approach to waste management as well as the promotion of waste prevention, recycling and recovering strategies.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the progress made to date at the Global level through the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and commend the outcomes of the 2nd Session of the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM). We also welcome the efforts being made to further the engagement of the Health Sector and SAICM implementation through the Health Sector Strategies.

There is need still to:

- (1) Further strengthen SAICM Implementation
- (2) Enhance public-private partnerships to supplement Inter-governmental activities.
- (3) Enhance capacity-building and technical assistance to support developing countries.
- (4) Support the synergies with respect to the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.
- (5) Support the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and labeling of chemicals.

- (6) Monitor the growth in chemicals production and upscale positive changes made especially for developing countries to benefit.
- (7) Mainstream sound chemical management into development agendas at the political level.

Mr. Chairman,

As we continue to work towards the achievements of the 2020 goal, it will be important for SIDS to accelerate and further strengthen our national and regional risk based chemical assessment and management capabilities through National Implementation plans.

It is also critical to enhance decision makers understanding of the importance of chemical management to sustainable development. Importantly SIDS should be supported in their efforts to strengthen the regulatory structure for the life cycle approach to chemical management.

Though SIDS are not the most significant contributors to global Mercury pollution, we are vulnerable to exposure from mercury containing products. It is therefore important for us to continue to actively participate in sessions of the Inter-governmental negotiating committees for a global legally-binding instrument on mercury.

We request that the special case of SIDS be recognized and the necessary support be provided to enhance the implementation of the relevant national policies and programmes. Particular issues important to SIDS includes our limited capacity for long-term environmentally sound storage of mercury and mercury waste.

We appreciate the continued support provided by the quick start programme (QSP) to the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM). However, we note the imminent closure of the (QSP) Trust Fund, and request that the international community establish a more robust funding mechanism to replace the Trust Fund.

Thank you Chair.