



Regional Discussion

Western Asia & Arab Region

Outcome of the RIM on CSD-18 Thematic Areas

**Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining &
10-year Framework for SCP**

By

Anhar Hegazi

Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division

UN ESCWA; Beirut, Lebanon

New York, 4 May 2010

INTRODUCTION



UN-ESCWA
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

- **The Regional preparations for CSD-18 were completed through collaboration efforts among countries in the region, ESCWA, LAS, and UNEP/ROWA;**
- **The ESCWA Arab RIM was organized within the framework of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR), as the relevant IG Expert Forum;**
- **The draft RIR was circulated to Member States for comments, finalized by ESCWA and endorsed by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment ‘CAMRE’ in its 21th Session on 9-10 November 2009.**



I. TRANSPORT



A. Status and Progress Achieved

A. 1- Status

- Road Transport is the largest mode in the sector, and passenger cars represent about 60 per cent of its fleet;
- The number of person per vehicle varies from 57 in Sudan to 1.8 in Qatar and 2.4 in Bahrain;
- The air transport represent 3.0 per cent of the global industry, while maritime transport is accommodating about 2/3 of the global trade;
- Vehicle fleets tend to be old with the exception of GCC countries;

I. TRANSPORT



A. 1- Status (Contd.)

- The sector consumes about 45% of the total petroleum products, using different fuels specifications;
- The Modes of traffic management and the limited public awareness are not facilitating smooth flows of traffic;
- The limited penetration of public transport aggravates problems of congestion, travel delay and pollution;
- The sector produces 22 % of GHG emissions in the region;
- Environmental standards and regulations relating to the transport sector are either non-existent or not sufficiently enforced.



I. TRANSPORT



A. 2 Progress Achieved

- National and regional Efforts to achieve transport sustainability including:
 - Enacting Policies and measures to improve the management of the transport Sector, “public transport , emission inspections”;
 - Updating land transport fleets ;
 - Adoption of cleaner fuels and advanced transport technologies (NE & Hybrid cars)

- Improving the fuel specifications , “Unleaded Gazoline”, “Sulfur Reduction” ;
- Enhancing roads and transport networks to rural areas;
- Enhancing road safety, “National entities, Traffic Causality Reduction”;
- Improving Institutional Frameworks and Standards.



I. TRANSPORT



B. Challenges and priority areas for action

1. Challenges:

- Lack of integration between policy and plans;
- Lack of appropriate technology transfer and capacity-building programmes;
- Limited/lack of funding for upgrading transport infrastructure and fleets;
- Limited awareness on appropriate options and advanced transport management techniques.

I. TRANSPORT



B. Challenges and priority areas for action

2. Priority Actions:

- To develop or update national transport strategies while giving priority for enhancing mass transport;
- Improving transport fuel efficiency;
- Urban planning and improving traffic and road safety;
- Reviewing and harmonizing transport legislations and policies;
- Mobilizing international, regional and national funding for high priority projects;
- Enhancing regional coordination and cooperation for capacity-building and raising awareness.

II. CHEMICALS



A. Status and Progress Achieved

A.1 Status

I. Arab countries have contributed to the development of the relevant international initiatives including:

- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
- The Dubai declaration on international chemicals management,
- The Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) and the Global Plan of Action (GPA)

A.2 Progress Achieved

II. Regional Programmes were developed and implemented on:

- Trade and Environment Capacity Building,
- Capacity-building in safe management of hazardous wastes.

II. CHEMICALS



A. 2 Progress Achieved (Contd.)

III. Actions were taken to establish:

- **The SAICM Arab Coordination Unit;**
- **National committees and cleaner production centers.**

IV. Strategies and plans were developed:

- **A draft Arab Strategy on preventing illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes;**
- **The SAICM Arab implementation plan, guidelines and the standards to define priorities.**

II. CHEMICALS



B. Challenges and priority areas for action

B.1 The Challenges

- Lack of updated and complete databases on chemicals;
- Lack of legislations and enforcement mechanisms;
- Difficulties due to the existence of multi-stakeholders, and delay in establishing national committees to secure coherence and synergies;
- Insufficiency of mechanisms used to address the socio-economic impacts of chemicals and the standards to evaluate relevant risks;
- Limited realization of developed countries commitments to transfer technologies and build capacities;
- Lack of international financial mechanisms for SAICM implementation .

II. CHEMICALS



B.2 Priority Areas for Action

❖ National and Regional Levels:

- Integrated management strategy for chemicals and hazardous wastes;
- Applying the principle of risk calculation, analysis and assessment;
- Suitable mechanisms to deal with relevant environmental impacts;
- Enhancing partnership and ensuring wider participation of stakeholders in implementing the strategic approach;
- Easy-access databases and information systems for chemicals.

II. CHEMICALS



B.2 Priority Areas for Action (Contd)

❖ At the International Level:

- **Developing international mechanisms and frameworks to enhance the capacities of developing countries in implementing SAICM;**
- **Adopting an international sustainable financial mechanism to support the implementation of SAICM in developing countries;**
- **Encouraging commitment by developed countries, regarding information dissemination, providing expertise to enhance chemicals management and transfer of modern technologies.**

III. WASTE MANAGEMENT



A. Status and Progress Achieved

A. 1. Status:

- 83, 500 and 90.0 million tons of solid municipal, agriculture and industrial waste (in 2007);
- 330 thousand tons of hazardous medical waste;
- Collected waste is less than 50% of the generated;
- 5.0 billion US\$/year wasted due to lack of investment;
- 5.2 billion US\$/year to fight adverse impacts.

III. WASTE MANAGEMENT



A. Status and Progress Achieved

A. 2. Progress achieved:

- Issuance of several laws and regulations aimed to organize work in waste management;
- Efforts to provide necessary financing and training for relevant programmes;
- Most Arab countries ratified the Basel convention on trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal .
- Establishing of national cleaner production centers;
- Organizing training sessions and workshops.

III. WASTE MANAGEMENT



UN-ESCWA
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

B. Challenges and Priority Areas for Action

B.1 Challenges:

- **Lack of accurate informational or statistical data on waste quantities;**
- **Insufficiency of legislations and weak enforcement;**
- **Weak infrastructure for waste management;**
- **Lack of comprehensive national plans to deal with industrial waste;**
- **Lack of awareness as to the role of the integrated waste management, and lack of investment by the private sector.**

III. WASTE MANAGEMENT



UN-ESCWA
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

B.2 Priority Areas for Action

➤ At the National Level:

- **Defining a comprehensive strategy for integrated waste management of all forms of wastes;**
- **Adopting the methodology of cleaner production, as well as the best environmental practices to limit the generation of waste;**
- **Establishing monitoring, inspecting and following-up mechanisms.**

III. WASTE MANAGEMENT



UN-ESCWA
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

B. Challenges and priority areas for action

2. Priority Areas for Action(Contd.)

➤ At the Regional Level:

- **Establishing an Arab system for data and information that facilitates cooperation, coordination;**
- **Preparing an updatable Arab plan of action;**
- **Reviewing and updating existing legislations;**
- **Launching comprehensive awareness campaigns;**
- **Supporting institutional capacities, developing human resources;**
- **Enhancing the role of the private sector in waste management;**
- **Promoting international cooperation in the field.**

IV. MINING



A. Status and Progress Achieved

A. 1. Status:

- The region has a wealth of several raw minerals available however
- Developed activities are still insufficient to it.

A. 2. Progress achieved:

➤ At the National Level:

- a) Establishing national centers for remote sensing and geographic databases;
- b) Enacting laws and regulations governing the exploitation of reserves.

➤ At the Regional Level:

- a) Establishing and activating the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO);
- b) A plan of action is being developed for the development of the mineral wealth sector.

IV. MINING



C. Challenges and Priority Work Areas

C. 1. The Challenges:

- **Shortage of available databases and lack of customs and taxation regulations**
- **Outdated existing legislations and laws and lack of enforcement.**

C. 2. Priority areas for action

- **Finalizing the Arab strategic plan of action;**
- **Improving infrastructure and encouraging international investments in mining sector;**
- **Enhancing capacity building programmes on relevant areas;**
- **Reviewing existing legislations and laws.**

V. 10 Years Framework for SCP



A. Status and Progress Achieved

A. 1- Status

- Significant efforts to adopt and implement policies on SCP in different sectors focusing on:
 - Energy;
 - Water;
 - Rural Development;
 - Tourism;
 - Education and Lifestyles.

- Results are still limited in general and varies among Member Countries in nature.



Thank You!