

## **Workshop to highlight initiatives in the sound management of chemicals**

New York/Geneva, 30 November 2009: Chemicals touch on many aspects of development and affects drinking water, air and food quality. Their sound management is needed for healthy people and environments, as well as ecosystems, and is central to sustainable human development.

Significant progress on the sound management of chemicals has been made and many successful experiences have emerged all around the world that have reduced and prevented chemical risks through better practices in production, storage, transport, use and disposal of chemicals.

Practitioners from different countries will meet in Geneva 3-4 December 2009 in the Workshop on Case Studies in the Sound Management of Chemicals to share their experience in the management of persistent organic pollutants, pesticides and other chemicals of priority concern. These include addressing issues such as open burning of plastic wastes, heavy metals in toys, and stockpiles of obsolete pesticides. Taken together these initiatives highlight various factors that contribute to the better management of chemicals:

- 1) Making chemicals a priority in national development plans
- 2) Involving stakeholders
- 3) Using a more integrated and multi-sectoral approach in programmes
- 4) Improving legislation
- 5) Improving international cooperation
- 6) Sharing information and knowledge
- 7) Taking a full life-cycle view when assessing and managing chemicals
- 8) Increasing research the promotion of alternatives

The 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development set a goal that by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health. In preparation for the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18, New York, May 2010), the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme have compiled initiatives from around the world in the sound management of persistent organic pollutants, pesticides and other priority chemicals into a publication entitled "*Practices in the Sound Management of Chemicals*", to be launched during the CSD-18 .

This workshop is a part of the preparation on the thematic topic of chemicals that will be discussed at the CSD-18.

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