

# Challenges faced by developing countries in risk assessment, prevention and reduction of chemicals: One Perspective

Prepared and presented by: Gillian Guthrie  
Jamaica

# OUTLINE

- Overview of the principal international mandates for SMC
- Select 'regional' mandates for SMC
- Status of the implementation of select key provisions of the main chemicals MEAs (Africa and GRULAC)
- Key SMC which need to be highlighted
- Risk Management Issues
- How can CSD assist?

# International Mandate for Sound Chemicals Management

## Agenda 21:

- Chapter 6 (Protection and Promotion of Human Health)
- Chapter 8 (Integrating environment and development in decision-making)
- Chapter 19 (ESM of Toxic Chemicals including prevention of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products), and
- Chapter 20 (ESM of Hazardous Wastes including prevention of illegal international traffic of hazardous wastes)



# **International Mandate for Sound Chemicals Management (cont'd)**

- 2. ILO Conventions No. 170 ( Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work), No. 174 (Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents) and No. 187 (Occupational Health and Safety)**
  
- 3. FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides**
  
- 4. The Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety**
  
- 5. Johannesburg Plan of Implementation**
  - para. 23 - articulation of the '2020 target'
  - para 23( c )- global implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of the classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS)

# **International Mandate for Sound Chemicals Management (cont'd)**

## **5. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**

- Overarching Policy Strategy
- Global Plan of Action (GPA)

## **6. Main Chemicals Multilateral Environmental Agreements –**

- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for Certain Hazardous Pesticides and Chemicals in International Trade
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)



# Select 'Regional' Mandates for Sound Chemicals Management (SMC)

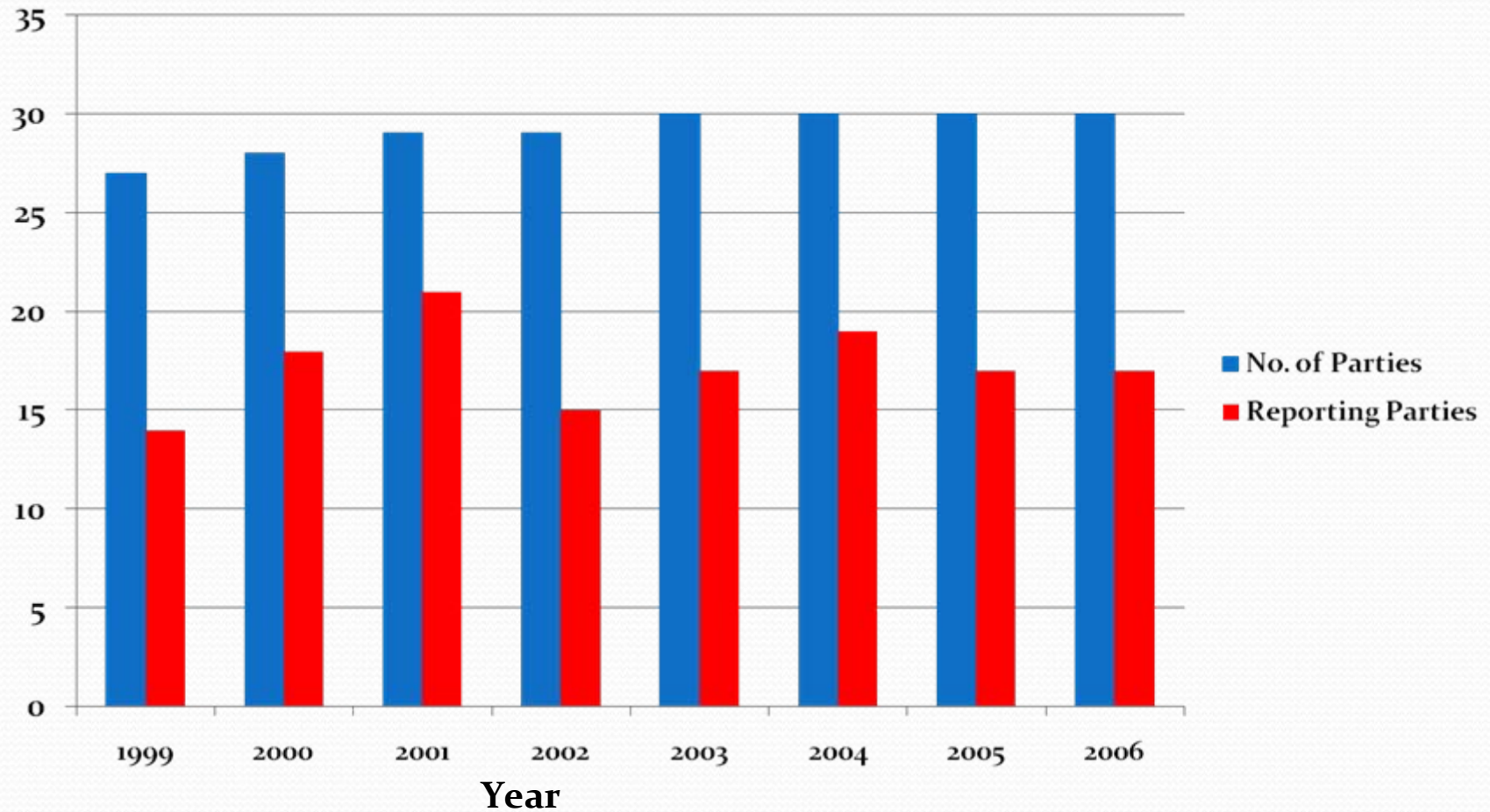
## **The Americas:**

- Health and Environmental Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) Declaration

## **African region:**

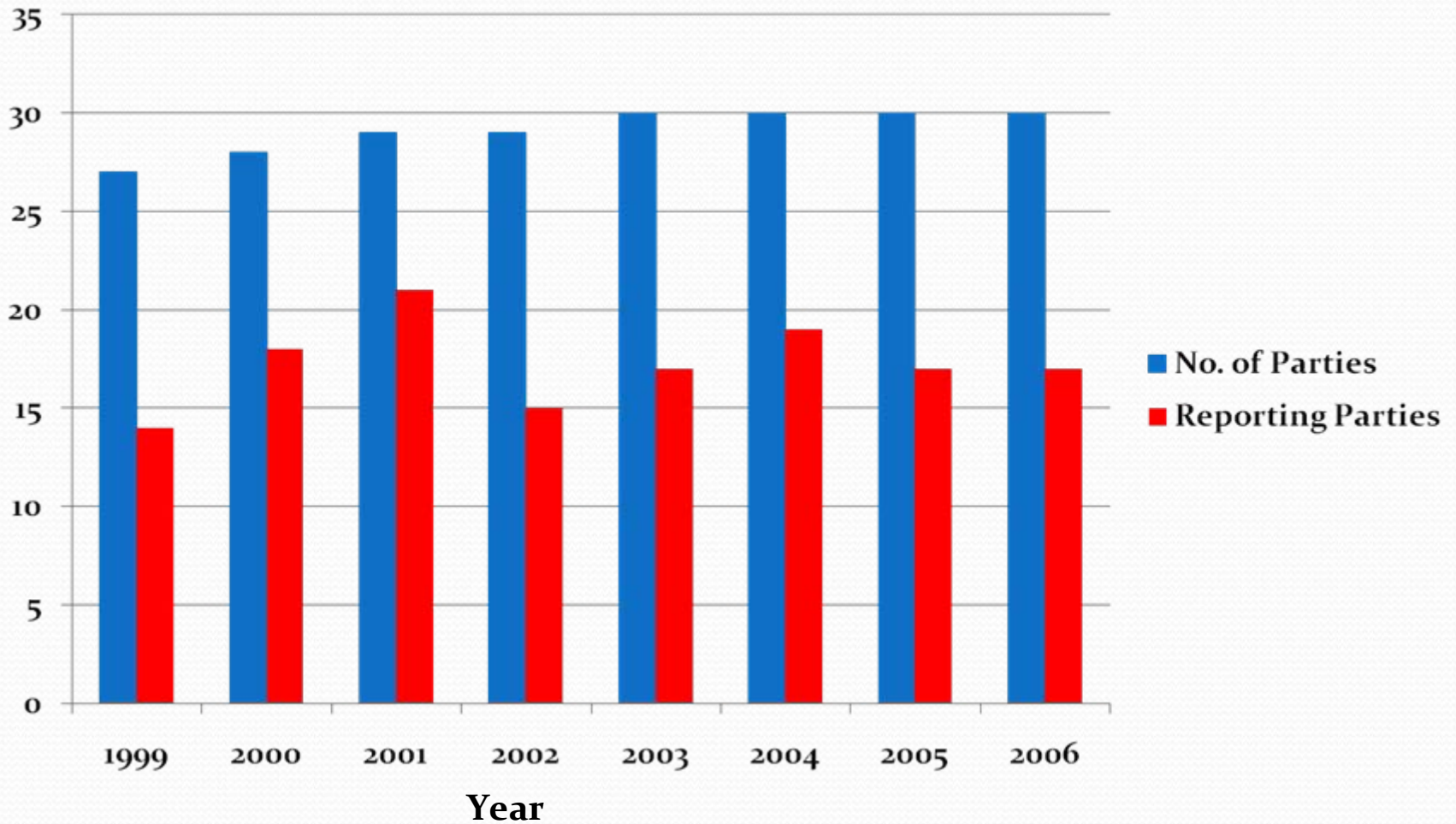
- Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa

# Basel Convention: National Reporting in the Africa Region





# Basel Convention: National Reporting in the Latin America and Caribbean region





# Stockholm Convention on POPs

## **Status of submission of National Implementation Plans (Article 7) –**

11 out of 29 Latin America and Caribbean Parties (40%)

28 out of 48 Africa Parties (58%)

- **9 new POPs added to Annexes A, B and C of the Convention in May 2009**
- **Entry into force of the new amendments to the Convention for most countries in August 26, 2010**
- **Parties will be required to transmit updated NIP by August 25, 2010**

## **Status of national reporting (*Article 15 of the Convention*)-**

6 out of 29 LAC Parties (20%) for 1<sup>st</sup> National Report

6 out of 40 Africa Parties (15%) for 1<sup>st</sup> National Report

- **First Round of Reports: deadline of Dec. 31, 2006 then extended to July 31, 2007**
- **Second Round of Reports: deadline: October 31, 2010**
- **Electronic Reporting System developed to facilitate the National Reporting exercise.**

# Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Pesticides and Chemicals in International Trade

## Latin America and the Caribbean

- 40 chemicals are presently subject to the PIC procedure: 25 pesticides, 4 extremely hazardous pesticides and 11 industrial chemicals
- Import responses for the LAC region (2009):
  - 458 for pesticides
  - 119 for industrial chemicals
- Complete notifications (2009)
  - 24 chemical products not included in Annex III
  - 130 chemical products included in Annex III
- GRULAC representatives on the Chemicals Review Committee:  
Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, Jamaica and Peru



# Chemicals/Waste Management Issues of Importance to Developing Countries

Green Light	Amber Light	Red Light
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste management in OECD countries</li> <li>• OECD country emissions of CFCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal waste generation</li> <li>• Developing country emissions of CFCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hazardous waste management and transportation</b></li> <li>• <b>Waste management in developing countries</b></li> <li>• <b>Chemicals in the environment and in products</b></li> </ul>

‘ .....Chemical production volumes in non-OECD countries are rapidly increasing, and there is insufficient information to fully assess the risks of chemicals in the environment and in products.....The greatest environmental impacts will be felt by developing countries, which are less equipped to manage and adapt.....’

## Issues that need to be addressed

- The link between sound chemicals management (SMC) and the MDGs
- Highlight the cost (accounting) to economic development, health and quality of life as a result of inaction or inadequate action in respect of the SMC
- Move away from a 'project type' approach to SMC to a 'coordinate, integrated and lifecycle' approach to facilitate the inclusion of SMC in national sustainable development plans
- Adequate financial and technical support for SMC , including ODA



# Risk Management Issues

- Improved access to and use of information on highly toxic chemicals to inform the decision-making process:
  - a) Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (Stockholm Convention)
  - b) Chemicals Review Committee (Rotterdam Convention)
  - c) National, Regional and International databases (including the Chemicals Information Exchange Network [CIEN])
- Infrastructure at the national, regional and international levels to facilitate the collation of scientific information to facilitate risk assessment and reduction
- Access to affordable and effective alternatives to highly toxic chemicals
- Establishment of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
- Implementation of the GHS
- Institution of early warning systems at the regional and sub-regional levels, where appropriate, with regard to the risks posed by the production and use of chemicals

# Risk Management Issues (cont'd)

- Promote the development of National Risk Management Policies
- Legislative requirements to facilitate risk assessment, reduction and evaluation
- Increased cadre of technical professionals to assist in risk assessment reduction and evaluation processes (including the share of expertise; South-South cooperation )
- Strengthen the scientific and technology base at all levels (including support for the regional technical and capacity building centres established under the Basel and Stockholm Convention centres)
- Establish and strengthen national risk reduction programmes



# Engagement of Industry and Civil Society in Sound Chemicals Management (SMC)

- Promote sector-specific education and awareness raising
- Promotion of Green Chemistry within industry
- Technology transfer – facilitate access to ‘green’ technologies
- Strengthen communication of information with respect to the hazard associated with chemicals from manufacturer (possibly in developed country) to importer/distributor (possibly in developed country)

# Engagement of Industry and Civil Society in SMC (cont'd)

- Promote incentives for 'green' alternatives to hazardous chemicals, processes and technologies
- Promote partnerships between the regulatory community, industry and civil society in the sound management of chemicals



## How can CSD Assist?

- Promote SAICM implementation as well as the improved implementation of the main chemicals Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- During the 2-year period that the CSD will focus on the chemicals thematic cluster, the Commission should encourage collaboration and coordination between National CSD Focal Points and National SAICM Focal Points
- Include SMC in the Work Programme of the (including the institution of focal point) of relevant regional organizations (in the LAC region, CEPAL and ECLAC)
- Promote the integration of environmental concerns into development cooperation programmes (mainstreaming)

## How Can CSD Assist? (cont'd)

- Coherent government wide policy actions (ministry wide coordination and collaboration – finance, trade, health, environment, labour, agriculture etc) and cooperation with business and civil society
- Cooperation between the regional WHO bodies, FAO, ILO and UNEP regional offices in promoting sound chemicals management



## How can CSD Assist?

- Promote the identification of and work on emerging policy issues, including issues already identified by ICCM – (i) nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, (ii) hazardous substances within the lifecycle of e-products, (iii) chemicals in products, and (iv) lead in paints
- Promote SMC in the Work Programme of regional economic integration organizations
- Promote the funding of SMC by national , regional and international financing organizations