



Press Statement:

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RE: Uganda continues to build capacity in Sound Management of Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention

Management of chemicals is one of the areas that NEMA regulates to minimize risk to human health and the environment. As such, training and capacity building of national stakeholders on the lifecycle management of hazardous chemicals, particularly those listed under Multilateral Environment Agreements is necessary.

Uganda is a party to Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which seeks to promote shared responsibility among countries in international trade of hazardous chemicals so as to protect human health and the environment from potential harm. The best example in this case would be importation of a chemical like DDT which was proposed for in door spraying against mosquitos as a national mitigation measure against malaria in 2007.

A training was thus held drawing from key regulatory bodies including; Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Department of Occupational Safety and Health (Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development), and Uganda Revenue Authority.

One of the key objectives of the training was to provide tools and approaches to use to apply precaution in industrial chemicals management. Ultimately, the workshop was aimed at strengthening precautionary decision-making and national decision-making processes for management of industrial chemicals in the implementation of Rotterdam Convention.

The Convention lists a total of 53 chemicals which include pesticides and industrial chemicals, that are subject to the Prior Informed Consent Procedure and other chemicals restricted or banned by parties through notification of Final Regulatory Actions (FRAs).

As a party to the Convention, Uganda is required to implement the provisions including among others, submitting notifications of Final Regulatory Actions taken by the country regarding management of hazardous chemicals.

The country also benefits from the information exchange as we are made aware of national bans or severe restrictions of hazardous chemicals by other Parties, and

information on incidents resulting from the use of hazardous pesticide formulations that cause human poisoning or environmental damage.

Uganda is currently developing regulations for the management of industrial chemicals and therefore the workshop was timely as it will inform the drafting of the regulations.

The training was facilitated by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Africa Institute based in South Africa

For more information about the Rotterdam Convention visit: <http://www.pic.int/>

Ends

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