

Scientific and Technological Communities

Intervention for CSD-18 Thematic Discussion on Chemicals

May 4-5, 2010

Thank you, Madame Chairman, and thank you to all the panelists for their presentations about critical issues remaining for establishment of sustainable development.

Improvements in capacity building, safety and security, and assessment of risks and hazards of chemical exposures are critical to meeting the goals of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management.

Initiatives on chemicals and sustainable development rely on scientific information and on safe, effective and environmentally sound technological advances. The scientific, technological and engineering communities carry out scientific research and technology development and application for identifying best practices, generating and reviewing scientific data, providing methods for improvement, and developing processes for sustainable management of chemicals. In addition, scientists, technologists and engineers contribute to life cycle assessment, chemical safety and security, risk assessments for chemicals, and to capacity building projects related to science education and technological capability development.

In 2008 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry. UNESCO and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, IUPAC, are Partners in leading the year's events. IUPAC and UNESCO plan an exciting series of activities in conjunction with national, regional and local chemical organizations around the world. The objectives are closely tied to the United Nations Millennium Development goals, and IUPAC believe that chemistry is central to the achievement of these goals. In particular, Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education, and Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability, will be particularly emphasized during the International Year of Chemistry.

Molecular transformations are basic to production of foodstuffs, medicines, fuels and materials. The world's people will rely on science, technology and engineering as a component of management systems to maintain a sustainable, wholesome environment for the earth and its people.

Thank you.