



International POPs Elimination Project

*Fostering Active and Efficient Civil Society Participation in
Preparation for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

Implementing multilateral agreements relating to chemicals in French-speaking African countries: opportunities and obstacles

**Henry René Diouf
Pesticide Action Network-Africa**

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About the International POPs Elimination Project

On May 1, 2004, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN <http://www.ipen.org>) began a global NGO project called the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided core funding for the project.

IPEP has three principal objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in activities that provide concrete and immediate contributions to country efforts in preparing for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;
- Enhance the skills and knowledge of NGOs to help build their capacity as effective stakeholders in the Convention implementation process;
- Help establish regional and national NGO coordination and capacity in all regions of the world in support of longer term efforts to achieve chemical safety.

IPEP will support preparation of reports on country situation, hotspots, policy briefs, and regional activities. Three principal types of activities will be supported by IPEP: participation in the National Implementation Plan, training and awareness workshops, and public information and awareness campaigns.

For more information, please see <http://www.ipen.org>

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Implementing multilateral agreements relating to chemicals in French-speaking African countries: opportunities and obstacles

From 7th to 9th December 2004, PAN Africa has organized an international conference on this theme “**Implementation of multilateral agreements relating to chemicals in French-speaking Africa: obstacles and opportunities**” in Dakar, Senegal. This meeting was intended for the civil society organisations and for governmental representatives of French-speaking African countries. Participants from both government agencies and civil society organizations attended this meeting and they came from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Republic of Central Africa, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo and Tunisia. Facilitators from FAO, PAN UK, Sahelien Committee of Pesticide (CSP) of CILSS (Comité Permanent Inter Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel), UNEP Chemicals and UNITAR attended this meeting. The meeting was funded by the Biodiversity Fund (HIVOS, NOBIB) of Netherlands, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), and IPEN through the IPEP project.

Goals and specific aims of the project

The conference mainly aimed to identify all the factors that hinder the signing, ratification, and implementation of international treaties relating to chemicals and to suggest solutions to facilitate their enforcement in African countries.

The conference specifically aimed to:

- Build participant capacities in the international agreements relating to chemicals
- Evaluate regulatory national and regional systems on chemicals;
- Identify all obstacles and difficulties linked to the ratification and the implementation of these international instruments relating to chemicals in Africa through case studies;
- Identify institutional, legislative needs and materials necessary to implementing the main international treaties (Conventions of Rotterdam, Stockholm, Basel and the FAO code).
- Identify the level of NGO involvement in the Stockholm Convention NIP and other chemical safety policies, the obstacles of their full participation, and the solutions to these obstacles
- To push government representatives to describe how NGOs will be incorporated into development and implementation of the NIP and other chemical safety policies
- To suggest solutions to remove obstacles and difficulties to the ratification and the implementation of the international instruments;
- To give NGOs of the sub-region the opportunity to propose their perspectives about the solution of the obstacles and difficulties in implementing international instruments
- To inform and raise awareness of participants of existing programs of Intergovernmental Organizations (UNEP, UNITAR, FAO) and Civil Society Networks (IPEN, PAN) that might help in national implementation of international agreements.

- To identify elements of action for the implementation of the international agreements in country's participants

Implementation of the project

The main activities scheduled in this project were about:

- Developing and submitting financing propositions
- Developing the presentation and information documents of the conference
- Developing the conference agenda
- Preparing the conference's scientific contents (framework of presentations, TDR of working groups, documents of the conference...)
- Selecting participants
- Organising participants' travel and accommodations as well as the logistics (rooms, materials...)
- Preparing narrative and financial reports of the conference...)

The conference consisted of 4 plenary sessions and 3 group works.

The plenary sessions consisted on of communications and discussions about:

- The situation in participating countries concerning the implementation of international instruments relating to chemicals
- PAN Africa study reports on hazardous pesticides in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal
- The conventions of Rotterdam on PIC, of Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, of Basel and of Bamako
- The FAO Code, the Strategic Approach to the International Chemical Management (SAICM), the Generalized Harmonized System of Chemical Classification and labeling (GHS)
- Some examples of national, regional and sub-regional support programs in implementing instruments relating to chemicals in this case the IOMC/UNITAR program in Senegal; activities of the Pesticide Sahelian Committee (CSP); the AU Inter-African Phytosanitary Committee programs (CPI) ;
- Contribution of international bodies and of the civil society networks (FAO, UNITAR, UNEP, IPEN, PAN) in implementing instruments relating to chemicals

The group dealt with the following subjects:

- solutions to difficulties encountered by countries in implementing instruments relating to chemicals
- prospects of the PAN Africa studies on hazardous pesticides in some African countries
- identifying elements of action to implementing international instruments relating to chemicals

Recommendations

At the end of the conference, the participants made the following recommendations:

1. Carrying out a pesticide inventory and creating a national database in the different countries
2. Training agents involved in the control of chemicals' entry in countries
3. Strengthening infrastructures and building analytical capacities at national and sub-regional level to analyse residues, chemical formulations and their distribution by the countries
4. Carrying out studies on the adoption and dissemination of alternatives to chemicals for their promotion
5. Carrying out studies on toxicovigilance in the countries (pesticide impact on health and on the environment) and an environmental monitoring particularly in case of emergency as it was the case with the locust attack
6. Calling on authorities to enforce the FAO code of conduct and honour their commitment made relating to the Chemical Conventions and Treatments
7. Raising awareness and informing the members of Parliament in particular on the ratification and implementation of Chemical Conventions
8. Developing and implementing communication programs to reach behavioural change (teaching aids, leaflets, posters etc.);
9. Disseminating information relating to sources of financing meant for chemical management
10. Creating a permanent consultation framework between the different stakeholders at national (DNA and focal points, the Civil Society,...) regional (through the existing structures notably CILSS, ECOWAS, UEMOA, UMA, SADEC, EMAC...) and international levels (Secretariat of the Convention)
11. Speeding up the ASP implementation and encouraging other initiatives to eliminate and prevent the build-up of future stockpiles
12. Encouraging civil society participation in any national event relating to chemical management
13. Using jointly existing and appropriate infrastructures involved in waste management in Africa in accordance with provisions of the relevant Conventions
15. Mobilizing regional and sustainable funding meant for chemical management while mandating regional and sub-regional institutions to investigate on collection and management mechanisms
16. Harmonizing the different legislative and regulatory texts at regional level
17. Promoting stewardship programs (the lifecycle of the products)
18. Including and prioritizing chemical management issue in the national development plans
19. Encouraging and facilitating the putting in place of PAN networks in the different African countries

Results of the conference

The results of the conference were:

- an improvement of capacities and knowledge of participants on international chemical agreements dispositions
- a building of their capacities to identify obstacles and difficulties in ratifying and implementing international instruments
- an improvement of their capacities to suggest solutions to difficulties and obstacles in implementing these instruments
- be informed on existing programs relating to these instruments and in which they might participate (IPEP, UNITAR, FAO and UNEP Chemicals programs...)

The outcomes and impacts are that the participants are fully involved and participate in preparation and implementation of NIPs of the conventions in their countries. Also, after the meeting, several NGOs that participated in the conference applied for a IPEP project and succeeded in its implementation

Implementing multilateral agreements relating to chemicals in African French-speaking countries: opportunities and obstacles

International conference

Ngor-Diarama Hotels, Dakar- Senegal

7th-9th December 2004

Agenda

Tuesday December 7th 2004

Hour	Activities
8.00-9.00	Registration
Session 1: Opening	
9.00-10.00	Opening ceremony presided over by the Senegalese Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Nature
10.00-10.30	Break
10.30 –11.00	Presentation of participants
Session 2 : Implementing international instruments relating to chemicals	
11.00-13.00	Presenting the situation in participating countries concerning the implementation of international instruments relating to chemicals Benin (<i>Chabi Séké Morakpaï</i>), Burkina Faso (<i>Désiré Ouédraogo</i>), Cameroon (<i>Blaise Efundene</i>), Cape-Verde (<i>Mrs Luisa Borges</i>), Congo (<i>Mrs Marie Agathe Makelola</i>) ; Ivory Cost (<i>Zadi Raphaël Dacoury</i>), Gambia (<i>Mrs Fatoumata Jallow Ndoye</i>) ; Guinea-Bissau (<i>Pedro Correia Landim</i>), Mali (<i>Pr Gaoussou kanouté</i>), Morocco (<i>Mme Laila El Founti</i>), Mauritania (<i>Hamoud Ould Sid'Ahmed</i>), Niger (<i>Mrs Abdou Alima Douki</i>), Central-African Republic (<i>Victorine Gaza</i>), Senegal (<i>Mrs Rokhaya N. Diop</i>), Togo (<i>Thiyu Kohoga Essobiyou</i>) Tunisia (<i>Walid Dhouibi</i>)
13.00– 14.30	Lunch break
14.30-15.30	Panel : Presentation of study reports on hazardous pesticides in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal (<i>Laurent Glin, Adama TOE, Appolinaire Etono Ngah, Thiémoko S. Sangharé, Ousmane Boye</i>)
Session 3 : International instruments relating to chemicals	
15.30-16.30	Panel : The conventions of Rotterdam on PIC, of Stockholm on Persistent Organic Pollutants, of Basel and of Bamako (<i>Henry René Diouf, Mrs Fatoumata Ouane Keita, Ibrahima Sow</i>)
16.30-17.00	Break
17.00-18.00	Panel : the FAO Code, the Strategic Approach to the International Chemical Management (SAICM), the Generalized Harmonized System of Chemical Classification and labeling (GHS) (<i>James Everts, Ibrahima Sow, Gatta Soulé Ba</i>)

18.00	End of the first day
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Wednesday, 8th December 2004

Hour	Activities
9.00 – 9.30	Presentation of the previous day's report
Session 4 : Opportunities in implementing international instruments relating to chemical management	
9.30 – 10.30	<p>Panel : Some examples of national, regional and sub-regional support programs in implementing instruments relating to chemicals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The IOMC/UNITAR program in Senegal</i> • <i>Activities of the Pesticide Sahelian Committee (CSP)</i> • <i>The AU Inter-African Phytosanitary Committee programs (CPI)</i> (<i>Mrs Rokhaya N. Diop, Demba Farba Mbaye, Benoît Bouato</i>)
10.30–11.00	Break
11.00-13.00	<p>Panel : Contribution of international bodies and of the Civil Society networks in implementing instruments relating to chemicals (FAO, UNITAR, UNEP, IPEN, PAN).</p> <p>(UNITAR : <i>Ibrahima Sow</i>; FAO : <i>James Everts</i>; UNEP : <i>Mme Fatoumata Ouane Keita</i> ; IPEN : <i>Henry René Diouf</i> ; PAN : <i>Barbara Dinham</i>)</p>
13.00-14.30	Lunch break
14.30-16.00	Group works on solutions to difficulties encountered by countries in implementing instruments relating to chemicals
16.00–16.30	Break
16.30-17.15	Presentation of the group works results on solutions to obstacles
17.15-18.00	Group works on prospects of the studies on hazardous pesticides
18.00	End of the second day

Thursday 9th December 2004

Hour	Activities
9.00-9.30	Presentation of the previous day's report
9.30 – 10.15	Continuation of the group works on the prospects of the studies on hazardous pesticides
10.15-10.45	Break
10.45-11.30	Presentation of the group works results on the prospects of the studies on hazardous pesticides

11.30-13.00	Group works on identifying elements of action to implementing international instruments relating to chemicals
13.00-14.30	Lunch break
14.30-15.15	Presentation of the group works results on identifying elements of action to implementing instruments relating to chemicals
15.15-16.15	Presentation of the workshop's global results
16.15-16.30	Break
16.15-17.00	Closing ceremony presided over by the Senegalese Ministry of the Environment and of the Protection of the Nature

Framework for the presentation of the International institutions' programs (UNEP, FAO, UNITAR, Basel Convention, CSP, CPI) to implementing instruments relating to chemicals (15 mn)

- Objectives of the program
- Countries that currently benefit from the program/ how to do to benefit from the program
- The main activities of the program
- State of implementation and constraints
- Links with other existing programs or projects
- Prospects for the program

Framework for the presentation of international agreements relating to chemicals (15 mn per instrument)

- Basic principles and objectives of the convention
- Field of action of the convention
- Presentation of the convention provisions
- The key actors of the convention
- State of implementation (signings, ratifications, projects in the countries)

Framework for the presentation of the countries' situation relating to the implementation of international instruments on chemicals (15 mn per country)

For each instrument (Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel, Bamako Conventions, FAO Code, GHS, IFCS plan of action, present:

- State of the ratification process or of adoption
- State of implementation
- For instance for the Stockholm Convention: POPs presence/production in the country, state of the implementation of the GEF project “Project of capacity building for a rational POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) management and of the development of the Stockholm Convention’s National Implementation Plan”, other activities carried out in the country... awareness-raising activities,
- For instance, for the Rotterdam Convention: presence of PIC products in the country, responses of importing countries, regulatory proceedings accompanying these responses, possible notifications, awareness-raising activities
- NGOs involvement
- Opportunities in implementing instruments existing in the country (regulatory and non-regulatory provisions, projects that can contribute to the POPs management...). For instance, in certain countries, certain POPs are already banned and this ban is a real opportunity to implementing the Stockholm Convention. As well, the existence of programs to combat malaria without using DDT is equally an opportunity to implementing the Convention on POPs.
- Synergy and coordination efforts made by the country to implementing the conventions and other international instruments relating to chemicals
- Difficulties encountered
- Prospects

Framework for the presentation of study results on hazardous pesticide situation in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal

The presentation must be articulated around the main following points:

- State of the hazardous pesticides situation in country’s project;
- Regulations of hazardous pesticides
- Presence and use of hazardous pesticides
- Problems posed by the presence/use of hazardous pesticides and what are actions to be undertaken to find solutions to these problems identified (are there in the country alternatives to these hazardous pesticides?)
- What prospects could we give to these studies (what can you propose as a continuation for these studies?)