



Reference: R134-0089

Submission of Switzerland on the report analysing the legal and operational implications of priority actions to enhance the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention

29 March 2018

Switzerland would like to thank the secretariat for having prepared a report analysing the legal and operational implications of the priority actions proposed by countries in relation to decision RC-8/8 to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention.

Switzerland welcomes the many comments provided upon the secretariat's request including from countries that were not involved in the discussion at the last COP. This interest and participation shows the shared frustration and the willingness increase the effectiveness of the Convention.

To identify a set of prioritized recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention and to identify further steps for consideration by the conference of the parties we would like to suggest to **focus on actions to amend the decision-making process for listing chemicals** as this is the core effectiveness problem of the Convention. Those actions should be highlighted in the report and should be discussed first at the upcoming intersessional meeting in June 2018 in Riga. With regard to the actions to improve Parties' enactment of legislation implementing the convention and actions to strengthen Parties' institutions for national implementation we suggest to add the action of **facilitating national legislation on those substances that are recommended for listing in annex III by the CRC but are not yet listed**.

The issues other than the decision-making process for listing chemicals are not the priority in moving forward regarding the effectiveness of the Convention but they are also important. As a pragmatic approach we suggest to tackle as many issues as possible with a synergies approach including the different chemicals and waste conventions (e.g. action C9). We thus suggest to discuss at the Riga meeting, after the discussion on the decision-making process for listing chemicals, proposed **actions can be approached in a synergistic way** and make a recommendation to the COP to address those.