



inWent

Internationale Weiterbildung
und Entwicklung gGmbH

Capacity Building
International, Germany



ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND CLEANER PRODUCTION

Questions and Answers

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



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Frequently Asked Questions:

Applying Cleaner Production to Facilitate the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements



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United Nations Environment Programme
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
In co-operation with InWent

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Cleaner Production

Cleaner Production (CP) is the continuous application of an integrated preventive environmental strategy to processes, products, and services to increase overall efficiency, and reduce risks to humans and the environment. Cleaner Production can be applied to the processes used in any industry, to products themselves and to various services provided in society. It is a broad term that encompasses terms such as eco-efficiency, pollution prevention and green productivity. In essence, applying Cleaner Production protects the environment, the consumer and the worker while improving industrial efficiency, profitability and competitiveness.

Cleaner Production Centres (CPCs)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have joined forces with United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to help introduce CP in developing countries and countries in transition. The UNIDO/UNEP Programme for National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) is a unique programme of capacity development to help achieve adoption and further development of the Cleaner Production concept at the national level. In addition to 25 NCPCs currently in operation, other institutions have established centres to provide Cleaner Production expertise to industry and government. Over 100 centres of various types are currently operating.

Cleaner Production centres (CPCs) have become a major source of expertise on preventive environmental strategies in their respective countries. The centres have conventionally promoted Cleaner Production through a mix of awareness raising, training, demonstration projects and technical advisory services. As such, CPCs are expected to play an important role in promoting the application of preventive environmental strategies by governments and industries in emerging countries.

CPC capacity building programme

To be effective and sustainable, it is important that CPCs continuously expand their service package and include other related environmental issues such as energy efficiency, chemicals and waste management, and adoption of environmentally sound technology. CPCs also need to be aware of the shifting global emphasis on expanding beyond the boundaries of Cleaner Production and incorporating sustainable consumption.

In this context, UNEP/DTIE together with InWEnt (Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gemeinnützige GmbH) have initiated a capacity building training programme for CPCs. One of the modules developed under this programme includes "Using Cleaner Production to Facilitate the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (CP & MEAs)". This was designed to provide an overview of MEAs, and the CP relevant elements of the Basel Convention, Climate Change Convention and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

This booklet summarises some of the issues covered during the Cleaner Production & MEA training sessions using a "Question & Answer" format. It also focuses on the Kyoto Protocol and its Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), a topic in which CPCs expressed interest. The booklet also introduces selected country case studies undertaken by the centres that highlight the interface between Cleaner Production and MEAs. Some of the resources used in the preparation of this booklet are listed in section "Where to go for more information".

FAQs on MEAs for CP Practitioners



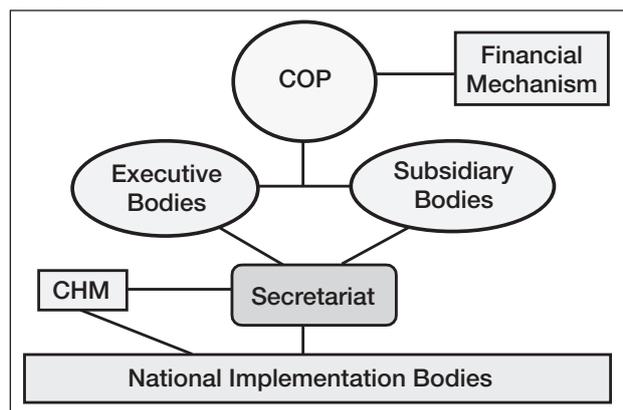
Q1. What are Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA's)?

Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) are agreements between states which may take the form of “soft-law”, setting out non-legally binding principles which parties will respect when considering actions which affect a particular environmental issue, or “hard-law” which specify legally-binding actions to be taken to work toward an environmental objective.

Q2. What are the institutional elements of MEAs?

The institutional elements of MEAs adopted after 1972 include the following main common elements: Conference of Parties, a Secretariat, executive and subsidiary bodies, a clearinghouse mechanism, and a financial mechanism.

Conference of the Parties (COP) or Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP). The ultimate decision-making body on the overall implementation and development of their respective MEAs, including the work programme, budget, and adoption of protocols and annexes.



Secretariat. The Secretariats perform a number of varied functions depending on the mandate of the MEA. There are two types of Secretariats: those that prepare and service the meetings of the Parties and co-ordinate with other international organisations (e.g., the Montreal Protocol, Convention on Biological Diversity, Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention); and Secretariats that in addition to the functions of the first type perform scientific research, and/or are also involved in implementing programmes or projects at the regional and country levels (e.g., Basel Convention, Global Program of Actions on

Land-Based Sources of Pollution).

Executive and subsidiary bodies. Some MEAs establish standing committees or hold inter-sessional meetings that represent their COP/MOP, to review and advise their Secretariats on implementation. Subsidiary bodies, which are generally advisory in nature, reporting to COPs/MOPs on scientific, technical, or financial matters or on progress in implementation, may be internal or external, and be

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