

Strategies Policies and Activities of the League of Arab States Related to 3Rs

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OUTLINE

Strategies, policies and activities of League of Arab States Related to 3Rs

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1. 3Rs Policy and Strategy Update

- The League of Arab States (LAS) is the Technical Secretariat of The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for The Environment (CAMRE), the regional mechanism set up to maintain coordination and cooperation among the Arab countries in all matters related to environment and sustainable development.

1. 3Rs Policy and Strategy Update (continued)

- LAS reported to the Arab Countries and to the Arab technical bodies and subsequently to CAMRE in its 17th session the outcome of the ministerial conference on the 3Rs (April 2005). CAMRE issued its decision no. 234 dated 21/12/2005 stating:
 - *First; encourages the implementation of the 3Rs Initiative to manage generated hazardous and non-hazardous waste at the national level.*
 - *Second; calls upon the Arab countries to benefit from the support available from the developed countries and donors for the transfer of technologies and capacity building for the implementation of the 3Rs Initiative at the national level "*

1. 3Rs Policy and Strategy Update (continued)

- LAS/CAMRE views concerning the 3Rs Initiative is that it should endeavor to minimize waste, basically through the rational use of resources, the promotion of the concept of cleaner production and the environmentally sound management of waste.
- Strengthening Arab capacities in this area is a major component of the Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development and its plan of implementation endorsed by the Arab Summit.
- Strengthening capacities is carried out in close cooperation with different stakeholders and is achieved through various regional activities including; organizing workshops, training courses, conducting studies, preparing manuals, and exchanging experiences, knowledge and success stories.

2. Good practices

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs in the Arab Region

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs in the Arab Region

■ Sustainable Consumption Patterns

- ❖ Promoting the consumption pattern of our forefathers which is similar to the spirit of "Motainai". It allowed nothing that could be used to be wasted. A good example is the water melon; the red part was eaten, the white part was used for making jam, the external peel was used as food for animals and the black seeds were roasted as snacks.
- ❖ Also numerous delicious dishes popular all over the world are originally Arab dishes. These Dishes basically use the remains of food, such as the 'Paella' which is an Arabic word meaning the 'remains', and the Pizza, originally an Arab dish, which the Romans carried with them from Levant Countries.

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs in the Arab Region (cont.)

- **Trade in Second Hand & Remanufactured Goods:**
 - ❖ It is a common practice in all Arab countries and covers a wide range of goods from electric household appliances, mobiles, computers, tractors, vehicles to almost anything. It is supported by a well established small size repair service business and a flourishing trade in scrap.

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs in the Arab Region (cont.)

■ **Utilization of Agricultural Waste**

- ❖ In some cases agricultural waste is even more profitable than the product itself. For example in Egypt sugar cane waste is used in the production of fodder, paper and furniture. Its profit covers the drop in the profitability of the sugar industry.

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs in the Arab Region (cont.)

- **Management of Industrial and Hazardous Waste**
 - ❖ Establishment of cleaner production centers and exchange of experience; Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon
 - ❖ In the free zone area in Jabal Ali in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, the application of cleaner production technologies as well as international techniques and standards has rendered industrial development, the protection of the environment and a clean safe and healthy industrial environment a reality.

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs in the Arab Region (cont.)

- **Management of Industrial and Hazardous Waste (Cont.)**
 - ❖ Hafira Landfill Site in Bahrain has been established as a landfill for hazardous and quasi hazardous industrial waste resulting from the aluminum industry and asbestos; in addition to the amounts of such waste that has been accumulating over the years in industrial establishments or at the municipality. Hafira Landfill was opened in 2001 and its expected life span is 12 years.
 - ❖ Projects to control and reduce industrial pollution in several Arab countries.

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs in the Arab Region (cont.)

- **Management of Solid Municipal Waste.**
 - ❖ The experience of Tunisia in this respect is exceptional for the Region :
 - Municipal waste has been sorted at the source for ten years now and the area covered is continually increasing.
 - The collection and recycling of plastic bottles is done by unemployed youth a fact which helped them have their own small outlets to collect plastic and transfer it to recycling plants.
 - ❖ The number of plants producing organic compost fertilizers is continually increasing in many countries of the Region.

2.2 3Rs and Governance

- 3Rs Initiative is a permanent item on the agenda of CAMRE and its affiliated technical bodies namely JCEDAR (the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region). It is a regional forum that includes all stakeholders and proved to be highly effective for exchanging experiences on best practices, setting policies and activities, and defining roles of different stakeholders.

2.3 3Rs and environmentally sound management of industrial waste

- The role of LAS/CAMRE in this respect is to enhance Arab capacities through joint action involving all stakeholders particularly through:
 - ❖ Organizing training workshops on environmental management systems in industry, on cleaner production and on environmental sound management of industrial waste, (2 in 2005 and, 2 in 2006 two workshops).
 - ❖ Preparing manuals. By December 2005, eleven manuals were completed on self monitoring covering specific manufacturing industries, in addition to guidelines on environmental management in industrial areas and environmental impact assessment in industry.
 - ❖ By December 2006 eleven manuals on environmental auditing are expected to be finalized.

3. International 3 R policy and strategy.

There are deep concerns regarding the concept of international flow of “Recyclable resources and remanufactured goods”

3. International 3 R policy and strategy (cont.)

- The concept could mean anything and everything. Agreement on definitions and classifications is an imperative prerequisite to any action.

3. International 3 R policy and strategy (cont.)

- There should be a common understanding of the scope of "international flow" Are we talking of "free trade" or "liberalization of trade"? And is it one way international flow?

3. International 3 R policy and strategy (cont.)

- It is not evident that it would not have an adverse impact on health and environment in the recipient country. A vivid example is the roaming battleship 'Clemenceau'.

3. International 3 R policy and strategy (cont.)

- It may also have an adverse impact on economic development and job creation. Imported low-priced remanufactured goods, will definitely compete with similar domestically manufactured products in the recipient country and result in the closing of ventures and raising the unemployment levels. It could also have an adverse impact on export opportunities of developing countries.

3. International 3 R policy and strategy (cont.)

- The recipient countries are most probably developing countries and there is no evidence that they possess the safe and appropriate technologies for the environmentally sound management of imported “recyclable resources”. There is a need for a transparent independent international mechanism to determine whether the recipient country is eligible for such international flow. An issue of relevance in this context is how far should the extended producer (and/or exporter) legal responsibility in the country of origin be applied. The same would also apply to the need to ensure the safe and appropriate use of “remanufactured goods” in the recipient country

3. International 3 R policy and strategy (cont.)

- There is also a possible effect on the implementation of the relevant MEAs, in particular, the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions. Therefore the impact of "the international flow of the 3Rs" should be carefully studied in depth to determine the repercussions on the implementation of these MEAs.

4. Others

- The senior officials meeting should also discuss ways and means to build and enhance, as appropriate, capacities of developing countries for the implementation of the 3Rs Initiative and the environmentally sound management of waste particularly as regard to technology transfer, training and experience sharing.

4. Others (cont.)

- Moreover the meeting should look into modalities and means to make the process of decision making concerning the 3Rs Initiative be more transparent and participatory through the involvement of representatives from all countries especially the developing countries in the process. The aim is to avoid presenting the 3Rs Initiative as a faites accomplis.

4. Others (cont.)

- The role of multinational companies in the international trade of 3R-related goods, materials and products is a matter of concern since the end aim of all multinational companies is profit. This issue needs thorough consideration in order to guarantee transparency and the preservation of the interests of the developing countries. It is also necessary to implement the principle of the extended legal responsibility of the multinational company working in the 3R-related goods, materials and products.

Thank YOU