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Abstract of the presentation :

The Legal Framework and Beyond

At the end of the last century Basel Convention became the centrepiece of an environmental international legal regime. It was born as global legal instrument addressing transboundary movements and environmentally sound waste management. The overarching objective of the Convention was to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes and some of its principles [i. e. proximity of disposal of wastes and prior informed consent] have contributed to the development of *international law* in the field and over the years have been refined and incorporated in a number of *regional treaties*.

The principal provisions of the Convention could be summarized around the following aims: (i) the reduction of hazardous waste generation and the promotion of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, wherever the place of disposal; (ii) the restriction of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes except where it is perceived to be in accordance with the principles of environmentally sound management; and (iii) a *regulatory system* applying to cases where transboundary movements are permissible.

One of the contributions of the Convention is the elaboration of a number of policy instruments with non-binding character. This soft law has been designed not only for Governments but also for “stakeholders” especially to facilitate the management of the relevant waste streams. Following this path has been established an experimental public-private partnership program with business and industry. Under this program partnerships have been successfully launched with the objective of developing specific technical guidelines and initiating relevant pilot projects at *country level*, including in companies.

Concrete projects could be planned to implement the participation of key actors in the environmental landscape sharing their experience and knowledge.