



a toxics-free future

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IPEN intervention on SAICM scope and vision

Given by Dr. Olga Speranskaya, IPEN Co-Chair

Thank you Mr. Chair.

IPEN believes that SAICM's broad scope covers virtually all sources of toxic chemical exposure not covered by current chemicals conventions – and in many cases the harms caused by these other sources disproportionately affect developing and transition countries and can be just as serious as POPs, ozone depleting substances, or mercury. In many cases, however, the governments of developing and transition economies lack information about these sources of toxic exposure and also often lack information about the kinds of relevant policies and programs that can be put in place to adequately address them. SAICM provides a unique platform for sharing information, good practice and policy examples of sound chemicals and waste management among countries, regions, sectors and stakeholders.

SAICM's broad scope should be preserved and expanded since in its absence no international framework would exist for addressing the majority of the world's most pressing, chemical safety concerns.

We would like to repeat our intervention made yesterday and say that it would be important to prepare an option paper on governance.

Key features of SAICM's importance include its high level of political endorsement and the many ways it links chemical safety to: financing; regulatory infrastructure; enforcement; coherency in coordination across ministries and stakeholders; and key chemical safety principles including right to know, substitution, polluter pays, no data no market and others. These aspects of our vision and mission are accurately reflected in the original SAICM document from 2006 and reinforced by the UNEA resolution. We should therefore keep these documents as the essential mission and objective statements for our work beyond 2020 and focus on the best way to operationalize this vision including by articulating it with the 2030 Agenda.

SAICM is an important driver for action on chemical safety and its links to sustainable development. SDG12.4 is a paraphrase of the SAICM objective and it has a 2020 date, but it also provides a solid vision for Beyond 2020 objectives, consistent with the inherent link between chemical safety and sustainable development.