

SDGs and chemicals

Slide 1

As a network of more than 700 organisations working on chemical safety, IPEN welcomes the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and shares the approach, highlighted in the number of Goals and associated targets, that international efforts to establish proper controls on chemicals and wastes should continue beyond 2020, with substantial, real progress demonstrated on the ground by 2020.

Slide 2

We believe IPEN activities in developing countries and countries in transition have contributed to the achievement of a number of Post-2015 Development Goals, in particular: Goals 1, 2, 3,6, 12,14. We also believe this work can serve as a model for demonstrating the link between sound chemicals management and sustainable development. I will give you a few examples.

Slide 3

Goal number 1 targets poverty in all its forms everywhere. There is a strong and indisputable connection between poverty reduction and sound chemicals management. Toxic chemical exposure is a burden that disproportionately impacts low and middle-income countries; and can have a significant negative impact on sustainable economic growth.

Slide 4

IPEN contributes to Goal 1 by focusing on the sound use of chemicals. We prioritize ecosystem based approaches in agriculture, non-toxic production processes, green product design, and safe end of life disposal. We are very much focused on ensuring community right to know on toxic chemicals released into the environment or contained in products.

Slide 5

“Promote sustainable agriculture” is part of Goal 2 and includes a target to “ensure sustainable food production systems...that help maintain ecosystems.” The phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides which IPEN and PAN International strongly promote, is closely linked to achieving this goal. Pesticides used in many developing and transition countries are often a source of significant harm to farmers’ health and ecosystems. Nevertheless, preliminary data collected by IPEN demonstrates that highly hazardous pesticides are widely used in some Eastern European countries: Belarus, 10 highly hazardous pesticides; in Moldova 15 HHPs are currently in use; in Russia 29 HHPs are allowed for use. The Pesticide Action Network International and IPEN call for substituting highly hazardous pesticides with an ecosystem-based approach and support the call of the FAO Council for a progressive ban on HHPs. We also support the establishment of a Global Alliance to Phase-out Highly Hazardous Pesticides to implement this call.

Slide 6

Goal 3 is aimed at “Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages”. Its paragraph 9 requires that the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals ...be substantially reduced by 2030. IPEN’s Global Lead Paint Elimination Campaign seeks the elimination of paints used for household and school use by 2020. WHO has identified lead in paint as the most widespread source of lead exposure for children, especially in developing countries. To achieve its goal, IPEN works with governments to develop mandatory standards and regulatory controls on the manufacture, import, export, sale and use of lead paints and products coated with lead paints. At the same time, it works with paint industry representatives to phase out lead in paint even before those regulatory controls are in place and it educates the consumer on the hazards of lead in paint. These efforts have already resulted in elimination

SDGs and chemicals

of lead in paint by market leaders in several Asian countries, minimizing the impact of lead exposure on the health of children in those countries,

Slide 7

One more example is IPEN ongoing Mercury Free campaign that is focused on identifying mercury pollution sources, mercury contamination of the environment, food chain and humans. Besides contributing to Goal 3, it provides input to the implementation of Goal 6, paragraph 6.3 which states that [B]y 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution... and Goal 14, paragraph 14.1, which states that by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds ...

IPEN's global study of mercury hot spots revealed that mercury contamination regularly exceeds health advisory levels in humans and fish worldwide. The report was the first to identify ten global biological mercury hotspots of particular concern to human populations and the ecosystems on which they depend. One of the hotspots identified the world's oceans as reservoirs for mercury. IPEN's Mercury Free campaign highlights the global scale of mercury contamination and supports efforts by governments to rapidly implement the global Minamata mercury treaty.

Slide 8

The Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals are an instrument that supports the implementation of international regimes on chemical safety and sets up priorities for achieving sound chemicals management. IPEN will continue working with governments, civil society organisations, worker associations, and community groups to ensure that chemical safety issues are part of national targets, national development agendas and poverty eradication strategies. We also commit to continued work with the SAICM Secretariat on the development of indicators for the sustainable development goals, taking into consideration the experience that we have in developing countries and regions.

And here at ICCM4 we encourage delegates to agree upon an intersessional preparatory process with a mandate to develop proposals for post-2020 arrangements for consideration and possible adoption at ICCM5. These arrangements will ensure that sound chemicals management will remain an essential part of Post-2015 development goals and contribute to their implementation.