

13 March, 2017

## **PAN-Ethiopia Intervention on Vision of the SAICM Beyond 2020 Process**

Given by Tadesse Amera PhD (PAN-Ethiopia)

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair.

I present this intervention on Vision of the SAICM Beyond 2020 Process on behalf of PAN-Ethiopia, a Participating Organization of IPEN.

Chemical pollution is a growing global problem. More than 140,000 chemicals have been synthesised since 1950; and 5,000 of them are produced in large volumes and have become widely dispersed in the environment resulting in human exposure. Hence sound management of chemicals and waste is prerequisite to prevent the impacts of hazards from chemicals and waste and achieve the sustainable development goals.

IPEN believes that SAICM's broad scope should be preserved, since it is the most competent, multistakeholder forum at present that discusses the vast majority of the world's most pressing chemical safety concerns. Without SAICM there would be no international forum or framework to address the challenges of chemicals and waste the world is grappling with day by day.

In line with this, SDG12.4 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. Moreover, UNEA1/5 also provides useful language for a vision. Therefore, IPEN proposes an updated SAICM beyond 2020 goal that combines the original goal and these other widely agreed goals, which is read as: **"Achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their lifecycle in ways that prevent or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment."**

Finally, we encourage delegates and all stakeholders in this Intersessional Meeting to move forward based on all the outcomes which already have been formulated in the previous meetings to build up a strong framework for a future sound management of chemicals and waste to be achieved that leads towards a toxics-free future for everyone.

Thank you Mr. Co-chair.