



**International Indian Treaty Council**

*Working for the Rights and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples*

**Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios**

*Trabajando por el reconocimiento y los derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas*

25 April 2017

IITC Intervention on exemption on Effectiveness Evaluation

Given by Rochelle Diver

I am making this statement on agenda item 5(i), Effectiveness Evaluation, on behalf of the International Indian Treaty Council, an organization that represents Indigenous Peoples in North, Central, South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

I would like to begin by thanking David Ogden from the secretariat, who brought the missing Inuit statue to the attention of this convention. I would like to acknowledge that this statue was presented to the Stockholm Convention in 1998 at INC1 by Sheila Cloutier, an Arctic Inuit leader. This soapstone sculpture of a mother with a baby in her arms reminds participants of the health effects of POPs and the human impacts of their decision, particularly in the Arctic, as acknowledged in the preamble of this convention. Both in 2015 and in this session, the Convention had to be reminded to display this symbol. Now more than ever, we need this Arctic Indigenous symbol to focus our efforts in the right direction.

Due to the vast production and the use and release of POPs, the health of Arctic Indigenous Peoples has been disproportionately

harmed. Stringent and swift actions by States are urgently needed to protect the health and well-being, and lands and territories of all peoples globally. Indigenous peoples, as holders of traditional ecological knowledge, should be given the opportunity to fully participate as members of the expert committees of the Stockholm Convention and to provide input on the global monitoring plan and effectiveness evaluation.

Additionally, effectiveness should include whether national stakeholders participated in the National Implementation Plans, including consultation with women's groups and groups involved in the health of children. They should include listing of new POPs and the resulting need to update the NIPs in indicator 3 and should include some qualitative information on how effectively the NIP has been implemented.

The indicator should also include the number Parties who exchanged information on alternatives to POPs as well as the number of parties who have participated in the clearinghouse mechanism. The indicators should be modified to fully consider obligations to promote and facilitate public input to Convention implementation and for educational programs for women, children and the least educated. The effectiveness evaluation should also measure the extent to which Parties have implemented publicly available PRTR systems.

Lastly, it is crucial that an indicator for the number of parties that make data and information from research, development, management and monitoring activities is publicly accessible is included.

Chi Miigwech, Mr. Chair.