



a toxics-free future

9 February, 2017

IPEN Intervention on SDGs

Given by Joe DiGangi

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair-

As this group knows, the ICCM4 resolution on Beyond 2020 mandated that this process must develop measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To work backwards, first we need know how chemical safety relates to the SDGs.

Table 3 of INF3 provides a start on this process by explaining some links between SDGs and related indicators. However, it is not comprehensive and misses a good opportunity to raise SAICM's political priority which is badly needed. For example, INF3 is missing relevant SDGs – for example SDG5 on **gender equality**. This SDG includes participation in decision-making – which is clearly stated in the SAICM Dubai Declaration. Rio Principle 20 states, “Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development. INF3 also does not fully explain why chemical safety is relevant to a particular SDG.

In order to provide a solid basis for developing objectives it would be helpful for Secretariat INF3 document to be more comprehensive and include more information so that the discussion on this mandated topic can move forward at the next meeting.

A few points for suggestions

Cover all relevant SDGs: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Explain which targets under each SDG are relevant: Explain how these targets cannot be achieved without chemical safety.

Explain how SAICM elements justify the link to this SDG. For example, SDG8.8 deals with secure working environments for all workers, The SAICM Dubai Declaration notes that one of the reasons to take concerted action on toxic chemicals is, “exposure of workers to harmful chemicals and concern about the long-term effects of chemicals on both human health and the environment

Include other relevant chemical safety decisions and reports, relevant to this SDG: For example, SDG14.1 about marine pollution, UN Environment has identified plastic marine pollution (and particularly microplastics) as a major global environmental threat

A comprehensive paper on the links between chemical safety and SDGs ensures that concerns of all relevant stakeholders are

included. Then, priorities can be established for work within SAICM that provides measurable objectives to reach certain SDGs.

Raising the political priority of chemical safety is a key challenge that we simply have to address. If we as the chemical safety does not address this issue, no one else will do not for us. We have to do it. A comprehensive secretariat paper on links to the SDGs is an essential ingredient for this – especially in these times where Agenda 2030 has a high political priority.

IPEN and PAN have a paper on this subject in the References part of the documents for this meeting that might serve as a useful resource. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for consideration of our views.