



a toxics-free future

13 March, 2017

## **IPEN Opening Statement**

Given by Dr. Olga Speranskaya, IPEN Co-Chair

Thank you Madame Co-Chair. I am speaking on behalf of IPEN, which is a network of more than 500 civil society organisations from more than 100 countries. We have been part of SAICM negotiations and implementation since the very beginning and have as a network adopted “Toxics-free Future” as our vision for accomplishing SAICM’s goals. This is well understood by the public, and it will be essential to enhance political awareness, commitment and effective implementation at all levels, including the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.

In adopting SAICM, governments agreed that advancing chemical safety should be viewed as a necessary component of the sustainable development agenda. Actions related to chemical safety and toxic chemicals are either referenced or implied in many, if not all, of the SDGs.

As chemical use and production continues to expand, SAICM should be upgraded to match the growing challenge of health, environmental, and economic injuries associated with the production, use, and disposal of toxic chemicals and wastes. Recognition that Agenda 2030 goals and targets cannot be reached without sound management of chemicals and wastes is key in that respect.

The Beyond 2020 process has to “develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda.”

These recommendations should be concrete and provide clear connections to minimizing harms associated with chemicals and wastes.

IPEN is ready to discuss our ideas for such measurable objectives, which, if met, would make a substantial step forward towards risk reduction from exposure to toxic chemicals.

We hope that during these three days we will have time to discuss financial mechanisms that guarantee a sufficient and sustainable funding for the implementation of SAICM emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, and national implementation plans with agreed-upon measurable actions that contribute to implementation of Agenda 2030. We strongly believe that the key to securing sustainable funding for chemical safety is the internalization of costs within relevant producer industries.

The evaluation report that was presented today shows that the impact of the work of the civil society groups within SAICM framework cannot be underestimated. In December last year during UNEA 3, IPEN and UN Environment signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work on gender and chemicals, with the focus on

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women and children, to raise awareness of the impact of chemicals on women and children as the most vulnerable population; to promote women's leadership and engagement into decision making on sound chemicals and waste management; and to implement and contribute to the implementation of SAICM emerging policy issues and other issues of concern as well as sustainable development goals.

Madame Co-Chair, in closing I would like to assure you that IPEN, as a global network of civil society groups, is committed to do everything possible to make the Beyond 2020 process a success.