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Science to Action Statement

Given by Pamela Miller, IPEN Co-Chair

This past week, in conjunction with Earth Day, tens of thousands of people marched for science. They marched to ensure that the integrity of science is not compromised or silenced by political or corporate interests. They marched to ensure that science supports public health and the environment. This is a good reminder of why we need a roadmap for science to action.

It is important to urgently address the gap between science and public policy that is necessary to protect health and the environment. There has been a revolution in science over the past two decades—in our understanding of the low-dose effects of EDCs, in the field of epigenetics. Scientific societies such as the Endocrine Society, with thousands of scientists and medical professionals specializing in understanding and treating the endocrine system, have created consensus statements addressing the urgency of enacting protective policies that account for the profound effects of EDCs on our health. And that exposures of a developing child to EDCs at exquisitely low levels can have transgenerational effects. The Endocrine

Society highlights the importance of the precautionary principle, as does the Stockholm Convention, in informing decisions about exposure and health effects. Other important scientific consensus statements include:

1. Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists on the reproductive health consequences of chemical exposures and multi-generational effects
2. The Targeting Environmental Neurodevelopmental Risks
3. Vallebrosa Statement
4. Madrid Statement
5. San Antonio Statement

These scientific consensus statements must be accessible to and inform the expert groups and decision-makers.

- It is important to democratize science, shift the balance of power by ensuring access to peer-reviewed literature that is often inaccessible to civil society, scientists, and decision-makers, particularly in developing countries.
- Important also to recognize the value of traditional ecological and health-based knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and place this on equal par with academic science. Because traditional knowledge represents science, the long understanding and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples. It is important to include Indigenous experts on expert scientific bodies.

- In designing and implementing the Road Map, recognize that industry has much greater resources to participate. Provide mechanisms for equity in participation of NGOs and other members of civil society, including medical professionals and independent academic scientists.
- The Road Map must ensure the integrity of science that is free of conflicts of interest and that must carry through to policies and actions.
- We have a sense of urgency to close the gap in our understanding of science and to take policy actions that truly protect the health of those most vulnerable.