



a toxics-free future

8 February, 2017

IPEN and CEJ Intervention on financing

Given by Hemantha Withanage

Thank you Co-chairs,

I am Hemantha Withanage from Centre for Environmental Justice based in Sri Lanka, a member of IPEN.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak in this intersessional meeting looking forward to the future of sound chemical management.

Here I would like to point out that an important aspect, which is crucial to take the SAICM action forward, is the financing. If we look back, lack of financing is one of the major bottlenecks for SAICM actions in the developing nations.

Though a little fund was available in Quick Start Programme and was very useful for all stakeholders to initiate capacity building activities, it was not enough to address the problems from chemicals and waste.

This doesn't mean that there is no money available. If you look at

the figures, the chemical industry is one of the most profitable industries in the world.

I propose that this meeting should propose to produce a paper on the possible sources and mechanism of financing tools to address the emerging challenges in 2020 and beyond 2020.

Important aspects to be addressed by this paper include:

1. To increase the donor government's development assistance for chemical safety and dealing with environmental, social and health problems that have been created by the chemical industry.
2. To bring the multilateral banks to sound chemical management and involve in member country financing pipelines.
3. Understand the linkages with SDGs so that we could mobilize money available for the SDGs to further SAICM objectives.
4. To support the increased use of cost recovery instruments, in particular in developing countries, so that adequate funds can be raised for covering the costs of managing chemicals in agreement with principle 13 of the Rio Declaration.
5. To ensure achievement of SAICM objectives, funding should be available for all relevant stakeholders.

We would like to note that many of these aspects are existing sources of funding – but not currently adequately applied to SAICM implementation.

Thank you Co-chairs.