



## IPEN Intervention on 2016-2020 Planned Activities & Secretariat Budget

17 December, 2014

Thank you Mr. President.

We would like to make a few points about this topic:

### **1: The secretariat is underfunded**

Information document 2 provides some clear language on this topic that should be part of the meeting report. Paragraph 161 states:

“Maintaining a base level of financing for implementation activities has remained a challenge, particularly due to SAICM’s voluntary nature, and budgets agreed through the ICCM process have not translated into actual contributions. In particular, contributions to support the secretariat have been significantly less than the agreed budget amounts and have steadily decreased over time, despite an increasing workload.”

A strong, well-funded SAICM Secretariat is needed to ensure an effective, efficient and meaningful SAICM process and implementation.

### **2: The secretariat is not multi-sectoral as outlined in the SAICM agreement**

Paragraph 29 of the OPS states:

“UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) will take lead roles in the secretariat in their respective areas of expertise in relation to the Strategic Approach, with UNEP assuming overall administrative responsibility.”

However, since 2012, WHO has not dedicated staff to the SAICM Secretariat. UNEA decision 1/5 “invited the Director-General of the World Health Organization to assume a leading role in the Strategic Approach and to provide appropriate staff and other resources to its secretariat.”



To our knowledge, this situation has still not changed.

**3. The budget item for a planned meeting between ICCM4 and ICCM5 should be preserved**

IPEN believes preparatory meetings will be required before ICCM5, to prepare for the continuation and/or revision of the current SAICM process.

Without a preparatory meeting, the process will be chaotic and doomed to failure. The secretariat's proposed budget for ICCM4 for activities in the 2016-2020 period should reflect a preparatory meeting for this period.

**To summarize:**

The secretariat is underfunded

WHO needs to supply a position in the secretariat

The budget for 2016 – 2020 needs to reflect a preparatory meeting to adequately prepare post 2020 planning

Thank you Mr. President