



16 December, 2014

Thank you Mr. President.

Agreeing on EDCs to be an emerging policy issue is the first step to minimize exposure to EDCs. We now urgently **need concrete actions** to achieve this, since the cost of inaction regarding EDCs are already tremendous. **There is no time to waste.** IPEN and the Endocrine Society just published an EDC guide for public interest organisations and policy makers. You can find copies at the IPEN booth in the hall. We also very much welcome the excellent UNEP/WHO State of the Science report. It should be translated into all UN languages and updated regularly.

The creation of doubt by industry on scientifically sound results showing the negative effects of EDCs on health and environment is just delaying solutions. While this creates more profit for them, people, governments and the society have to pay for it with their health and money.

SAICM implementation work on EDCs should incorporate the expertise of endocrinologists and consider the implications of the following characteristics of EDCs:

- A single hormone will have changing effects at different times and places in the body during development and with different sensitivity. Therefore sensitive endpoints with predictive ability must be prioritized to identify endocrine disruptors
- Hormones act at very low concentrations so the effects of very small amounts of endocrine disruptors need to be taken into account systematically
- Chemical interference with hormone actions during early development can have long-lasting, even permanent, consequences that might manifest years later and endocrine disruptors can set up the body for mis-adaptation

SAICM should invite relevant UN bodies to set up a project on EDCs including the following elements:



a toxics-free future

- a list of EDCs and potential EDCs, and a collection of data on exposure routes
- monitoring studies, especially undertaken in developing and transition countries
- identification of gaps in legislation and policy measures to overcome them
- collection and promotion of best available practices, safer substitutes and non-chemical alternatives
- awareness-raising measures for the public, relevant multipliers and policy makers, especially addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women and children

Synergies with the chemical in products project should be achieved by including EDCs in their case studies. The progress on all actions should be reported at SAICM regional meetings, possible future OEWGs and ICCM5.

133 million children are born every year, it is in your hands to protect them from EDC-related diseases like infertility, learning disabilities, breast-, testicular- and prostate cancer.

As I said, there is no time to waste.