



2 April, 2019

## **IPEN Intervention on Chemicals in Products**

Given by Olga Speranskaya, EcoAccord, Russia

Dear Madame President,

IPEN has been a member of the UNEP Chemicals in Products Steering group since the very beginning. IPEN Participating Organizations work on collecting new data on chemicals in consumer products, increasing awareness and advocating for policy development and changes for reducing health and environmental risks from chemicals in products.

Overall, IPEN's goal is for health and safety information and the identity of hazardous chemicals in individual products to be publicly available throughout the entire product life-cycle, including during product manufacture, use, recycling and/or disposal. However the biggest challenge we face is that the private sector does not publicly disclose comprehensive information on chemicals of concern in products, chemicals which have adverse effects such as mutagenicity and carcinogenicity and adverse effects on the reproductive, developmental, endocrine, immune and nervous systems. The lack of information applies to a variety of products including children's products and personal care products. Information on consumer product labels does not contain proper information about hazardous chemicals that are present. The industry does not typically provide comprehensive information on health effects and measures to reduce exposure.

Since access to information on chemicals in products is limited, progress has been slow in fulfilling the CiP Programme Objectives. As I have noted, the lack of information applies to all categories of products. This is an area that requires greater industry responsibility and forward progress. The discrepancy and non-harmonized rules of information exchange on chemicals in products in various countries and regions justifies the need for disclosure of full health and safety information and the complete identity of toxic chemicals in individual constituent components of products prioritizing chemicals identified according to SAICM criteria. This information should be publicly available throughout the entire product life-cycle, including during product manufacture, use, recycling and disposal.

There are clear challenges faced in the implementation of the CiP Programme, including:

- Lack of a comprehensive, unified, open access, regularly updated on-line database to provide consumers with information about chemicals in products.
- The credibility of the CiP Programme is under threat as the private sector participants in the CiP Steering Group have not yet publicly endorse the CiP

Programme and have not yet become members. To meet this challenge and to maintain the credibility of the Programme, this should happen before 2020.

- The work with product manufacturers has not been that active noting that often consumer products do not contain proper labels with information about product manufacturers, and manufacturers are not willing to disclose information about the chemicals they use. To meet this challenge it is important that more stakeholders inside and outside the supply chain join the CiP Programme and ensure its implementation.

To further meet these and other challenges IPEN continues raising public awareness on the hazards of chemicals, products and wastes and to promote precautionary action and informed choice. IPEN continues monitoring chemicals of concern in consumer products in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and make the results publicly available. We will campaign for the full implementation of the Chemicals in Products Programme with actions on timely toxic alerts covering hazards in certain chemicals and products to meet consumer demands for information, to enable decision-making, as well as induce governments and industry to take action.

Thank you.