



IPEN Intervention on HBCD
Given by Pam Miller

8 May, 2019

Thank you, Mr. President,

IPEN appreciates the work of the Chemical Review Committee and its recommendations. We emphasize that the Rotterdam Convention is about allowing countries to have prior informed consent to accept or refuse chemicals of concern; it is not about banning of a chemical from the international trade. The Prior Informed Consent provides the right for governments to control their borders. We believe governments should have that right. IPEN therefore supports the statement given by the Africa Region, other countries and observers to list all seven chemicals under Annex III of the Convention.

We note particular support of the recommendation of the CRC to list HBCD in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention. It meets all Annex II criteria. HBCD is highly persistent and bioaccumulates. HBCD presents a serious hazard to global public health and the environment. It affects the ability of our children to learn and grow because it inhibits thyroid function and neurodevelopment—with transgenerational harm. HBCD is found in mother's breast milk and thus passed to the most vulnerable of us, our children.

There is a need to protect workers and other vulnerable populations. Therefore, it is important for countries to have the prior informed consent procedure in place and to allow for informed decisions about this highly hazardous industrial chemical.

Thank you for your careful consideration.