



**a toxics-free future**

3 April, 2019

**IPEN Intervention on Lead in Paint**

Given by Dr. Sara Brosché, IPEN, Sweden

Thank you, Madam President.

We thank UNEP and WHO for their update and would like to provide some additional information on the significant activities undertaken on the ground by IPEN together with its Participating Organizations.

There is no safe level of lead exposure for children. Still, lead paint is widely available in developing countries and countries in transition. We shared this information at ICCM2 ten years ago, leading to lead paint being identified as an emerging policy issue at ICCM2 and the formation of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

Through IPEN's global campaign to eliminate lead paint, we have since conducted studies of lead in paint in more than 55 countries. The results are publicly available through IPEN's website and the message is clear: lead paint will be widely available on the market unless strict regulatory controls on lead paint is in place and enforced.

In most of these countries we have also conducted additional activities, including awareness raising with a wide variety of stakeholders, working with paint manufacturers to facilitate their phase out of lead paint, dialogue with policy makers to encourage adoption of lead paint laws, and testing products on the market to see that regulations are followed. We have also started the world's first voluntary third-party certification program for lead-safe paint. All these activities have significantly contributed to the progress we see today.

However, while 71 countries have reported to have legally binding controls on lead paint, only a third of these have been adopted since lead paint became an emerging policy issue in 2009. Also, several of these regulations are either not protective or not enforced. In addition, no regulations at all are in place in 122 countries. It is clear that urgent action is needed.

There is still time to make significant additional progress towards eliminating lead paint until ICCM5 with the right commitment from governments, industry and civil society. We know from our work that this commitment from all stakeholders is in place. We would therefore like to encourage government representatives participating in this meeting to state their intention to accelerate the establishment and enforcement of legally binding controls on lead in paint in all countries.

-Thank you-