



IPEN Intervention on Regional Centres  
Given by Dr. Mariann Lloyd-Smith

29 April, 2019

Thank you Chair.

My name Mariann Lloyd-Smith.  
I speak on behalf of IPEN and its 500 public interest member groups.

We welcome this valuable report on the Technical Assistance and Regional Centres and we would like to make some short comments.

As we are all aware there are many large stockpiles of PCBs, DDT and other POPS that need to be destroyed and we believe Parties would benefit if Regional Centres conducted trainings on non-combustion methods of destruction that meet Convention requirements as a high priority. Mr. President, there are new exciting and cost effective non-combustion destruction technologies that could be used to effectively destroy these stockpiles.

Secondly, we commend the report of the marine litter topic group, “Plastic and toxic additives, and the circular economy: the role of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.” The report makes a range of sensible, practical ways of addressing this issue.

Microplastics and their toxic chemical additives are now evident in the remotest parts of our oceans. And data now exists that shows the link between exposure to marine plastics and organisms contamination with toxic additives, *eg* higher levels of PBDEs in fish with greater plastic densities and PAHs in mussels exposed to PAH-contaminated microplastics.

Finally, we believe that Regional Centres would benefit from an increase the involvement of public interest NGOs and civil society in their work through direct participation in the design and implementation of projects.

Thank you for listening.