

Intervention on Exemptions—April 27, 2011
Presented by Pamela Miller, Alaska Community Action on Toxics (USA), a
Participating Organization in IPEN

Thank you Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates for providing an opportunity to present our views on this important issue.

We urge the Conference of Parties to establish a rigorous process to register exemptions and acceptable uses. We recommend that the COP request the Secretariat to amend the forms required for notification and acceptable uses to include detailed information about why the exemption is technically or scientifically necessary and why alternatives are not technically or scientifically viable. A substitution plan should be required which includes:

- thorough research about safe and non-chemical alternatives;
- steps and timelines to substitute safe alternatives;
- a process to incorporate information from credible research institutions, civil society and NGOs, as well as Indigenous groups with traditional knowledge that may provide alternative solutions.

We urge that the COP should request the Secretariat and POPRC to enable the COP to evaluate Parties' progress in eliminating listed bromodiphenyl ethers contained in articles and review the continued need for specific exemptions for those chemicals as constituents of articles manufactured or already in use.

We further urge the COP to request the Secretariat and POPRC to develop a process and format to enable the COP to evaluate the continued need for PFOS, its salts, and PFOSF for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, and taking into account the recommendations of the climate change and POPs report, and to report on progress in that regard at COP6.

We offer our commitment and knowledge to find solutions and implement safe alternatives that lead to the protection of the health and environment of our global community.

Thank you.