

IPEN Intervention on the Dioxin Toolkit

27 April, 2011

Thank you Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of Dioxin, PCBs and Waste Working Group of IPEN.

Since COP4, notable progress has been made in revising and updating of the Dioxin Toolkit, as reported in UNEP/POPS/COP.5/11 and further detailed in UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/6. However, more must be achieved if the goals of the Stockholm Convention are to be met.

Among the Toolkit's ten source groups, Source Group 7 - Production and Use of Chemicals and Consumer Goods – has perhaps the greatest need for more detailed, thorough development.

Many dioxin sources have been identified elsewhere but are not yet listed or otherwise specifically addressed in the Toolkit. If these as-yet unlisted sources are included in the Toolkit, it can be expected that most will be placed in Source Group 7.

Among the dioxin sources not yet listed or discussed in the Toolkit are for example production processes of following chemicals: caprolactam, monochlorobenzene, chloroprene rubber (neoprene), epichlorohydrin. On that list is also production of triclosan, an anti-microbial used in soaps, toothpaste and other consumer products. In a recent study in Australia, dioxins were present at quantifiable levels in all pesticides that were analyzed – 23 pesticides in current use and 4 obsolete pesticides. More complete list can be found in IPEN's factsheet under other documents – submissions sector of COP5 intranet webpage.

Let me conclude with the suggestion that Parties should consider requesting the Toolkit Expert Group to address these newly found sources of dioxin releases in products, wastes and potentially other environment compartments covered by the Stockholm Convention.

Thank you Mr. President