

## CEPHED Intervention on Information Exchange

**Thank you Chair,  
I am speaking on behalf of our organization CEPHED, Nepal  
Participating organization of IPEN.**

NGOs can be very effective in awareness raising, but we are also very capable of research and investigation, particularly in the areas of chemical safety, public health and the environment. This NGO ability is widely documented and referenced. For example, in Nepal where I come from, NGOs have carried out much of the scientific research in the area of chemicals, environment and health, because NGOs are often more equipped in terms of human resources and infrastructure such as scientific laboratories than governments. This strength of NGO has been often and heavily used by our focal Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MOEST) and Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP).

Other examples of NGO involvement beyond mere awareness raising include the several successful pilot project and partnership, that clearly included into the citizen report of IPEN covering the numbers of activities in line with the GPA .

With those references, I sincerely would like to offer this imminent body our commitment to playing a role not only in generating data on chemicals, its impacts, raising awareness, but in continuing contribute to the research and exchange of scientific and technical information with governments. We will also continue to communicate **with affected or potentially affected people in a timely manner and in the language they understand in the area of chemicals, environment and public health**. To accomplish this, NGOs will also need to be aware as well as capacitated with appropriate information and technical knowhow. We need to have a clear, accurate, updated information exchange regarding domestic treaty related activities and progress towards reducing or eliminating impacts of different chemicals of health and environment concern. We believe each government should also proactively reach out with the relevant **information in timely manner and understandable format and language to all** and especially to the vulnerable population including women, children and indigenous people.

The clearing house mechanisms for chemicals need to be established and NGOs should be considered a valuable information source and a liaison with affected communities. While doing so also comply the obligation under Rio Principle 10 asking for making information available including that on hazardous chemicals. We recommend that these languages to be added to the text in appropriate places to ensure all of these things happen.

I am happy to inform that our organization Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), Nepal has been already engaged in the research, data generation on chemicals, its impacts, awareness raising and capacity building of all concerned stakeholders for different chemicals and also piloted several successful mercury free health care service and PCBs free metal fabricating in Nepal.

Thank you.

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