

Asante sana, Madam President, jambo, delegates and friends,

IPEN, a global civil society network committed to a toxics-free future, thanks the SAICM Secretariat and the people and Government of Kenya for their efforts in convening ICCM3.

At Rio+20, over 1,000 public interest NGOs made a stand for the future we want: a toxics-free future where the people's rights to healthy and sustainable environments and livelihoods are protected and upheld.

IPEN and the impacted sectors and grassroots communities, with whom we work in solidarity, see SAICM as a critical political framework and program of action to attain a toxics-free future.

As the ICCM3 takes stock of the progress in implementing SAICM, we find the steps taken since the Strategic Approach was adopted in 2006 as deficient and slow.

Right now, SAICM is off-track to achieve the 2020 goal as agreed upon by governments at the World Summit in 2002, especially with the massive expansion of the chemical industry and the intensification of chemical production and use in the developing world.

Our hope for ICCM3 is that we can get SAICM back on track. To accomplish this, more political will is needed to make the sound management of chemicals as a priority at the highest levels of government and fully integrated into the national public health, labor, environmental and sustainable development programs, complete with budgetary allocations to support chemicals policy reforms, regulatory systems and enforcement actions.

For SAICM to get on track, the chemical industry, with annual global sales of over \$4 trillion dollars, has to assume proportionate responsibility and pay the mounting costs of managing the chemicals they produce throughout their life cycle, which are presently being subsidized by public funds. Related to this, chemicals companies and industry associations, globally and nationally, should support meaningful protective chemicals reforms and not obstruct them.

For SAICM to get on track, we need emphasis on prevention-oriented strategies to avoid, reduce and mitigate chemicals exposure and pollution, including the elimination of chemicals of highest concern such as highly hazardous pesticides, lead in paints and hazardous chemicals in products and their substitution with safer alternatives.

Finally, for SAICM to get on track, we call upon the ICCM3 to re-commit to the open, inclusive and multi-stakeholders approach of achieving chemicals policy reforms towards the toxics-free future that we want.

Thank you Madam President and congratulations from the public interest NGO community.

Manny C. Calonzo
Co-Chair, IPEN