Thank you Mr. President.

It seems we are commenting on both the QSP and the larger issue of financing so I will include both topics in my comments.

On the specific issue of the QSP, IPEN supports continued financial commitments until November 2013 and the disbursement of funds until all activities in the portfolio are completed. We also believe it would be appropriate for the Open-ended Working Group to invite additional contributions to the Trust Fund – especially from those donors that have not previous contributed to the QSP.

Financing may be the most important topic of this meeting.

IPEN would like to make three points:

1) To date, the Secretariat has been severely under-resourced and this has impeded effective SAICM implementation; a fully resourced Secretariat is essential and this situation must be resolved as soon as possible

2) The QSP should be sufficiently financed and extended until a more permanent long-term mechanism is established

3) Discussions need to begin immediately on what kind of financial mechanism will replace the QSP

This OEWG represents an opportunity to begin a serious discussion of these topics with the goal of achieving a draft text for consideration by ICCM3 and/or a framework for intercessional conversations on this important topic in advance of ICCM3.

IPEN believes that an initial focus on the QSP in the contact group would be most helpful in generating draft proposals for consideration at ICCM3. We also propose initial discussions on the possibility of a greatly expanded GEF6 Sound Chemicals Management Focal Area and on other possible approaches to securing adequate and predictable funding including those examined by the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes.

Thank you for your consideration.