

IPEN Opening Statement-given by Olga Speranskaya, IPEN Co-Chair / Eco-Accord, Russia

Thank you Mr. Chair,

As we formally start the meeting of this OEWG, IPEN and its Participating Organizations express our hope that this meeting will come up with essential recommendations to enable the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management next year to make strategic decisions such as those pertaining to the financing of SAICM's implementation and actions on emerging policy issues.

Decisions reached by the OEWG will eventually influence, if not define, the success of ICCM3. We therefore urge delegates to act with resolve and use this meeting as an occasion to re-commit ourselves to completing the unfinished business of achieving SAICM's 2020 goal where chemical exposure is no longer a significant source of harm to human health and our fragile ecosystems.

Specifically, IPEN earnestly requests all delegates to agree to re-energizing the Quick Start Programme (QSP), ensuring that it is adequately funded and its service extended until a more permanent financing mechanism is established for supporting and advancing the sound management of chemicals and the transition to cleaner processes, technologies and industries, especially in developing countries, transition economies, least developed countries and small-island developing states.

The QSP information session we had last night, which showcased the paramount relevance of various QSP-assisted projects in catalyzing multi-stakeholder national, as well as regional, collaboration and action toward chemical safety should, we believe, inspire and prompt donor governments to pledge increased financial contributions to the QSP. We very much welcome those projects which helped to build an enabling environment in many countries. These projects will help countries start practical activities on sound chemicals management so to achieve a sustainable change on the ground.

As the QSP is energized and extended, IPEN would like to emphasize the apparent need to continue exploring a more long-term, global financial mechanism to ensure the availability of sufficient and predictable funding for chemical safety and chemicals policy reforms toward a sustainable, toxic-free future for all. This and other issues would benefit from a discussion in a contact group to produce some tangible outcomes for consideration at ICCM3.

Thank you.