

**IPEN / WECF / CIEL Intervention on Endocrine Disruptors- given by Alexandra Caterbow, WECF, Germany**

Thank you Mr. President. I speak on behalf of IPEN; CIEL, and WECF. We welcome the UNEP-WHO proposal on endocrine disrupting chemicals. One of the most tragic aspects of EDCs is the vulnerability of young children, particularly unborn and newborn infants. The adverse effects that have been linked with exposure to chemicals with endocrine disrupting properties include: reproductive effects, neurological effects, cardiovascular effects, obesity, diabetes, deformities, cancers, and immune system impairments. The need to protect the most vulnerable is emphasized throughout the core documents of SAICM, such as paragraph 14(b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

Countries, well before the WSSD in 2002, have noted the need for a strategic approach to the global problem of EDCs. However, international processes are still inadequate to address the global challenge of endocrine disruption, as Monday's technical briefing made clear. A global initiative under SAICM, consistent with SAICM's inclusive and participatory nature, is required to meet the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy with respect to endocrine disrupting chemicals, namely: risk reduction, access to knowledge and information, capacity building and technical cooperation. We thank UNEP and WHO for their proposal, and fully support the nomination of endocrine disrupting chemicals as an emerging policy issue. We understand that specific details of the proposal would be discussed in a contact group and look forward to further discussions on the proposal then.