

IPEN Intervention on Implementation Activities, given by Bjorn Beeler, IPEN Secretariat

Thank you Mr. President,

IPEN would like to share with the delegates our efforts among our global network of over 700 NGOs in 100 countries to elevate the profile of sound chemicals management and the need for national policy progress and the need to change the reality on the ground of toxic exposure and hazards.

From 2008 through 2010 IPEN conducted a *Global SAICM Outreach Campaign* with international NGOs from the Health, Labor, Women's, Environment and Indigenous Peoples' sectors.

In addition, IPEN produced educational materials including NGO guides on SAICM, POPS, hazardous pesticides & now mercury, available in all UN languages. These guides highlight how NGOs can utilize international chemical agreements and policies to address their local and/or national concerns.

The outcomes from the Outreach Campaign included over 1,000 NGO and CSO groups who endorsed the SAICM Common Statement and committed their organizations to work on SAICM and sound chemicals management.

Thereafter in 2010 IPEN launched the International SAICM implementation Project (ISIP) to provide small grants at the local and national level to implement specific *Global Plan of Action Items* or *Emerging Issues-related activities*.

IPEN ISIP activities related to the *GPA* or *Emerging issues* included:

Pesticides, waste, chemicals in products, contaminated sites, heavy metals, and public participation to promote an enabling environment for the development of national policies that promote SAICM implementation.

To date IPEN has completed 54 projects in 37 countries, and we look forward to working with donor agencies to elevate and expanded these activities.

One example I would like to highlight includes an activity completed in Ethiopia, by an NGO, PAN Ethiopia, who conducted an activity to assess E-waste stockpiles in three cities. The results of the study were presented to the government, which catalyzed a national task force which over the next 2 years, with funding now committed from both national and international sources, will aim to develop a national e-waste policy.

IPEN would like to thank the donors, including the European Commission, Development Aid Agencies, including the Swedish Government, and several private foundations and partners who supported IPEN via the SAICM Quick Start Program framework.

Thank you Mr. President

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.

IPEN Intervention on Reporting- given by Manny Calonzo, IPEN Co-Chair / GAIA, Philippines

Thank you Mr. President

Like others, IPEN believes that reporting is important. We appreciate the use of narrative information in the online tool since this helps provide individual flavor to country efforts at implementation beyond the indicators.

SAICM reporting clearly needs to be increased since we note that only 1/3 of the governments have reported thru the online tool.

The NGO reporting indicators are not quite appropriate for us; but we will continue describing our global efforts at SAICM implementation. As we did in ICCM2, we plan to prepare and present a Citizen's Report at ICCM3 describing public interest and civil society efforts at SAICM implementation.

Thank you for your consideration.

IPEN Intervention on Hazardous Chemicals in Electronics- given by Birhanu Genet, Pesticide Action Nexus Association, Ethiopia

Thank you Mr. President.

I am speaking on behalf of my NGO, PAN Ethiopia, working in Ethiopia, and also on behalf of IPEN and its 700 organizations.

Hazardous chemicals in electronics are an extremely important issue that affects design, production, and the management of the waste generated.

However, I believe that the current *Global Plan of Action (GPA)* does not specifically address this important issue.

ICCM3 should consider the addition of this topic to the *GPA* at ICCM3. We believe that having this item in the *GPA* would be extremely helpful to countries as they prepare their SAICM implementation plans.

For example, in my country, Ethiopia, having electronics in the *GPA* would increase the profile of the issues; assist with the management of second-hand electronics imported, develop a mechanism to save the health of informal recyclers working and, importantly, help to develop the necessary regulatory policies to manage the electronic waste.

In closing, we believe that delegates at ICCM3 should be able to consider adding the electronics issue to the *GPA* and strongly support its consideration and addition.

Thank you.

IPEN Intervention on Nanotechnology- given by David Azoulay, IPEN Nano Working Group / Center for International Environmental Law, Switzerland

Distinguished delegates, my name is David Azoulay from the Center for International Environmental Law, an IPEN participating organization, and I speak on behalf of IPEN.

As an active participant in all of the regional workshops organized since ICCM2, we actively participated in the improvement of the Swiss proposal including with the proposal to include activities to increase the involvement of the health sector in identifying, treating and tracking disease potentially caused by exposure to nanomaterials in occupational settings as well as activities to promote the use of extended producer responsibility in relation to manufactured nanomaterials.

We would like to thank Switzerland for this initiative and for the attention brought to incorporating the comments and proposals put forward by regional meetings. We therefore recommend that ICCM3 adopt the Swiss proposal to include a specific work area in the *GPA* with associated activities in relation to manufactured nanomaterials.

We understand that emerging issues and inclusion into the *GPA* will be discussed in details in a contact group and reserve our comments on specific activities for this discussion.

IPEN Intervention on Finance- given by Joe DiGangi, IPEN Secretariat

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 previously 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.

CIEL Intervention on Finances (resolution II/3 of ICCM2)- given by David Azoulay, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Switzerland

We understand that a number of delegates have expressed concern that discussing the future of SAICM financial arrangements would be in contradiction with the procedure adopted in resolution II/3 of ICCM2.

Our understanding of article 17 of resolution II/3 of ICCM2 differs from what has been expressed so far. This article does request that the QSP executive board report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation and make recommendations in the light of its findings for the consideration of the Conference at its third session.

However, the resolution does not give an exclusive mandate to the QSP executive board and does not impede such a discussion to happen here in the Open-Ended Working Group nor does it prevent the OEWG to make direct recommendations to ICCM3 (and to the executive board of the QSP itself).

Given the importance of the issue for the very future of SAICM and for its capacity to reach the objectives set out in DUBAI in 2006, we recommend that a contact group be established in accordance with the mandate proposed by the African group and GRULAC region.

IPEN Intervention on GEF / SGP Experience- given by Raghda Malass, Syria Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

Thank you Mr President

I would like to note how even small amounts of money can contribute to SAICM implementation.

My society managed to have a project about POPs' harmful effects on human beings & the environment, financed by the GEF Small Grants Programme.

I will briefly describe how much we managed to do with this small grant

- We translated POPs module to Arabic language and put it on the society web site & on GEF web site for all who have Arabic native language
- Did 10 minute film about POPs pesticides
- Three workshops, training the trainees
- Brochures about POPs risk
- Stands
- Street Posters
- Supporting two masters thesis

Since we had limited financial support we used a diversity of funding sources.

As I am speaking on the behalf of NGOs, we look for more technical & financial support from SAICM to the NGOs as we are the bridge between the normal people & the government, to raise more awareness about sound chemical use & management.

Public interest NGOs are an important resource for effective SAICM implementation and an extremely efficient investment.

Thank you.

IPEN Intervention on Lead in Paint- given by Manny Calonzo, IPEN Co-Chair / GAIA, Philippines

Thank you Mr. President.

IPEN and its Participating Organizations have been working on the issue of lead in paint since 2007. In 2008 IPEN and its Participating Organizations tested paints on the market in 10 developing countries and countries with economies in transition and we found that lead paint is still commonly manufactured, sold and used in many countries - especially oil-based (enamel) paints.

IPEN initiated the effort to have lead in paint identified as a SAICM emerging issue; our Participating Organizations have campaigns on this issue in approximately 20 countries, with the most advanced efforts in several Asian countries; and we are a very active participant in the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. The harms caused by childhood lead exposure are very severe and better documented than the harms from virtually any other environmental contaminant. Substitutes are readily available that provide comparable performance and comparable costs.

Therefore, we see efforts to eliminate lead paints as good and practical case examples in national sound chemicals management.

IPEN is pleased with our dialogue, so far, with the international trade association representing the paint manufacturing industry and we hope to further develop it. Most of the recent testing and data collection on lead paints on the market has been done by IPEN and its Participating Organizations. We are thankful to UNEP, WHO and the US Government for the leadership roles they have been playing in the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, but we are disappointed that more governments have not been active. We are also disappointed that resources for the Alliance have been inadequate, and that the pace of work has been too slow.

The EU, through its development cooperation with Asia, has recently approved a significant IPEN-initiated lead paint elimination project with partner NGOs in several Asian countries. We are very thankful for this and take it as a hopeful sign that interest and support for this issue are picking up.

Finally, IPEN considers the lack of market data on lead paints to be a major barrier in developing a strategic global effort to eliminate lead paints. We have tested paints in approximately 25 countries and have found this relatively easy to do, and much less costly than most other testing and sampling programs. We believe it would be very helpful to carry out testing in at least 50 additional countries between now and ICCM3 to provide a good baseline for the decisions the ICCM might take.

IPEN would look forward to cooperating with UNEP and potential donors to develop a plan to carry out such a testing program.

Thank you.

IPEN Intervention on Chemicals in Products- given by Olga Speranskaya, IPEN Co-Chair / Eco-Accord, Russia

Thank you Mr. President

Chemicals in products information systems can provide consumers with the information they are looking for, information which is clear, credible, up-to-date, and comparable, that helps people to make informed decisions about the products that they purchase, use or dispose of.

IPEN believes that an international framework on chemicals in products should be developed to facilitate and guide provision, availability, and access to information on chemicals in products among all stakeholders, prioritising the most vulnerable. However, two things should be secured: first, that the harmonization should not lead to a downgrading of existing standards for human health and the environment, and secondly, that it should stimulate the development of national legislation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Framework elements should be broadened to facilitate public awareness on the issue of chemicals in products to raise the demand for cleaner products including use of the clearinghouse and a broad international consumer campaign to increase understanding and create a driving force for safer products.

So far the situation in developing countries and economies in transition is that consumers are driven by an economic approach rather than by their knowledge and interest in cleaner products. As a result there is a possibility of recalled products being sent to developing countries where there is minimum or no control.

The development of appropriate awareness-raising objectives along with technical requirements for new information exchange methods including best policy practices and best technical practices is needed.

Thank you.

IPEN Intervention on Hazardous Chemicals in the Life Cycle of Electric and Electronic Products- given by Amanda Hawes, Worksafe, U.S.

Thank you Mr. President. I am from Worksafe and speak this morning on behalf of IPEN and its 700 participating organizations.

The issue of hazardous chemicals in electrical and electronic products provides a perfect example of SAICM's commitment to addressing the entire lifecycle of chemicals. The issue provides exciting opportunities to address green design, electronics worker health and safety, and end of life issues.

I had the pleasure of participating in the Vienna workshop on electrical and electronic products. The meeting participants represented countries that produce electronics, countries that receive electronic waste, industry representatives, IGOs, and public interest NGOs.

We would like to make three important points about this topic:

- 1) The Vienna workshop participants agreed on some comprehensive key messages on this topic. We believe that this hard work is useful and should be preserved for discussion at ICCM3 by adding them as an annex to any omnibus decision or resolution on this topic
- 2) Several important recommendations on the topics of both community health and worker health came from the Vienna workshop. These include invitations to ILO and WHO for work in this area. We believe that these represent important contributions to the issue and are consistent with SAICM's multi-sectoral emphasis. We believe that these aspects would also be useful to retain in any omnibus decision or resolution.
- 3) Finally, we believe that some further work in this area is necessary to create an international set of best practices. These could include elements such as green design; safer substitutes; extended producer responsibility, worker health and safety, measures to prevent the shipment of "near-end-of -life" products, and others. We believe that the private sector, governments, workers, civil society and the informal sector would benefit from this work.

Thank you

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.

IPEN/HEAL Intervention on Health Strategy- given by Gohar Khojayan, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment

Thank you Mr. President.

I represent the Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment, NGO SAICM Focal Point in Armenia and a member of the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), and IPEN.

As a contribution to enhance implementation of the health strategy on SAICM, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) would like to propose a case study in one country of the CEE region linking health surveillance and environmental and bio-monitoring activities. This region has significant amounts of obsolete pesticide stockpiles which pose a serious risk to human health and the environment. The proposed study will link hotspots with the health status of people living in the vicinity of hotspots and help to analyse the impact of a certain hotspot on people's health, prepare recommendations to all stakeholders involved and start an awareness-raising campaign with the aim to reduce negative health effects on the communities with the focus on the most vulnerable groups, particularly children and women. Parallel to this, a desk study based on project results from different countries will be conducted to identify problems and obstacles and make recommendations on future actions.

Thank you for consideration.

IPEN Intervention on Rio + 20- given by Joe DiGangi, IPEN Secretariat

Thank you Mr. President.

Rio + 20 is especially important to all of us that work on chemical safety since the original Rio Earth Summit adopted Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, launching the global chemicals agenda. Ten years later, heads of state called for SAICM. Now we find ourselves in a situation where climate and biodiversity have grabbed global attention and most of the financing... and chemical safety finds itself marginalized.

We believe that chemical safety and chemical policy reform should occupy a place at the core of the economic and development policy agenda. IPEN plans to elevate this topic at Rio + 20. Since

the topic of chemicals is likely to get only a very small part of the final text at Rio + 20, we will have to be selective in choosing a small number of key ideas or messages to come from the meeting. We have a proposal that addresses both sustainability and the desperate need for finances. In fact, it is the realization of a key Rio Principle:

Rio+20 should call for establishment of a global cost recovery system so that the chemical industry becomes truly sustainable and pays the true cost of its products. This includes paying to establish and maintain the infrastructure necessary to safely manage its products. We are calling for the realization of Rio Principle 16; the polluter pays principle. Anything less is market distortion.

Here is a little quick math: the global turnover of the chemical industry is more than three trillion US dollars (3,000,000,000,000). That is a 3 followed by 12 zeros. To give you an idea of how big that is: Three trillion seconds is more than 90,000 years. If the global industry paid a 0.1% tax each year, then more than \$3,000.000.000 (billion) would be available for financing the global chemicals agenda annually.

We are proposing this global cost recovery system as a key message from Rio+20 for three reasons:

1. Developed countries will **never** be able to meet all the financial needs for building and maintaining sustainable national chemicals management programs
2. The money needed to assure that chemicals are safely managed is, ultimately, the responsibility of chemical producing industries. When chemicals are produced or used in a country, it is an obligation of the government to ensure that the public's health and the environment are not harmed as a result of chemical exposure or chemical accidents. The costs governments incur in fulfilling this obligation are economic externalities that arise as a result of economic decisions by industry to manufacture and to use chemicals... such external costs should not be borne by the general taxpayer, by the general national treasury, or by any other third party. Rather, appropriate economic instruments should be developed that effectively internalize such costs within the relevant industries
3. A global cost recovery system is needed...also take forms such as sub-regional and regional... Given the trans-national nature of the chemicals industry and its markets, purely national approaches to cost-recovery could be very difficult, even for large, highly industrialized countries. For most developing and EIT countries, the burden of establishing a unique national approach could be overwhelming. A purely national approach could also face economic retaliation and/or the country may suffer economically from subsequent distortions in international trade and investment. In addition, the chemical may be widely present in imported products, and may be subsequently released from the product into the environment causing harm. These chemicals may be of substantial volume, and measures to assure they do not harm health and the environment may be costly. But a purely national cost recovery system would likely be unable to recover them. Finally, some Least Developed Countries (LDCs) may have great needs, but national cost-recovery could not be reasonably expected to generate sufficient revenues. For these and other reasons, a global approach would be preferred.

We believe that the time has come for the industry to pay its fair share. Rio+20 is the opportunity to add a financial component to what a sustainable chemical industry really means.

Thank you for your consideration.