

8 February, 2017

CEHF Intervention on Partnerships

Given by Michael Musenga

I am representing Children's Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF), ZAMBIA and take this opportunity to recognize the important role the Government of Brazil has played in hosting this important meeting. I also recognize and congratulate the two co-Chairs from Brazil and Canada.

I will simply make statement on Partnerships following the presentation from World Health Organization on this topic. Partnerships are not a substitute for a functioning financial mechanism or the need to internalize costs within the chemicals producing industry.

Partnerships should serve the implementation of internationally agreed goals, be coherent with national law, development plans and strategies, respect international law and be in line with agreed principles and values, be transparent and accountable, provide an added value rather than substitute commitments made by Governments, have a secure funding base, and be multi – stakeholder driven with clear roles outlined for the different partners.

According to the UN Secretary General's principles, cooperation with the business sector must be transparent. Information on the nature and scope of major cooperative arrangements should be

available within the concerned United Nations entities and to the public at large.

Partnerships should only be operating with business that are consistent with UN guidelines including UN Global compact and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights. These include relevant chemical safety principles as, “Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges. And “Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining”. Partnerships should not redesign public policies according to private interests rather than public needs.

The National level partnerships that have implemented the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint (GAELP), and is a good model for partnerships within SAICM. This support has an impact in my country by creating awareness in communities and with Very Important People (VIP) on the dangers of Lead exposure on public health, especially affecting children; this has supported our advocacy on the enactment of the national law for phasing out lead in paint in order to protect the present and the future generation.

Thank You