

2 October, 2015

IPEN Closing Statement

Dear Mr. President,

IPEN thanks the SAICM Secretariat, you personally and delegates and participants of the ICCM4 for all your work during this week. We appreciate the decisions taken at this important political conference, which are intended to reduce the risk of toxic chemical exposure on humans. Communities and individuals, those impacted the most, are waiting for these decisions to become a reality.

At ICCM4 we saw a political will to pick up the pace towards 2020 and beyond, which we advocated for at the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) less than a year ago.

A key outcome at ICCM4 was a strategy to tackle the world's worst pesticides – those that are highly hazardous and linked to a rising incidence of cancer and developmental disorders. The decision made at this conference represents the first time that these substances will be addressed in a comprehensive way in a UN agreement.

However, a five year funding gap will make it extremely difficult to implement these and other risk reduction activities we agree on. Goodwill alone will not minimize adverse effects on the people most impacted by chemical exposure – women, children, workers and impoverished communities. Increased and sustainable funding and technical resources and a sense of urgency are needed if we are going to make progress against the occupational diseases, cancers, and compromised quality of life that millions of people around the world experience now, as we speak. We call on everyone involved – governments, international agencies, industry, and civil society – to make sound chemical management a priority.

Thank you Mr. President.