



a toxics-free future

13 March, 2017

IPEN Intervention on the Co-Chairs' Paper

Given by Dr. Olga Speranskaya, IPEN Co-Chair

IPEN had an opportunity to provide detailed comments to the Co-Chair's paper. I would like to focus on some of them.

IPEN agrees with the Co-Chairs' paper that regardless of the form of the Beyond 2020 process, measurable objectives will be needed. Though the vision of the Beyond 2020 process may be not limited to 2030, the recommendations for measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda requested by ICCM4 should be developed and provide clear connections to minimizing harms associated with chemicals and wastes.

IPEN has produced a detailed paper that explains how chemical safety can make contributions to achieving SDGs with clearly measurable objectives.

The paper also links the implementation of the SDGs with the implementation of emerging policy issues and issues of concern. In addition, we believe that 5 new initiatives should be combined with current emerging policy issues/issues of concern to make 12 initiatives that contribute measurable objectives in support of Agenda 2030. These additional initiatives include zero waste, workplace right to know, agroecology, plastics, and women and chemical safety. They all are linked to concrete SDGs and associated targets. For example, zero waste is relevant for SDG 11 that calls on countries to address municipal and other waste management to make cities sustainable.

Regarding Work place right to know, SAICM Beyond 2020 can do much more than has been done in the past to support initiatives aimed at promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers. In some cases, these might be the promotion of workplace-focused activities that are related to already-identified Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Global Concern such as: highly hazardous pesticides; hazardous substances in electronics; and chemicals in products.

At the moment I would like to highlight the importance of the Gender Paper prepared by the Secretariat and to support the position of the Asia Pacific region that noted the importance of focusing on the issue of women and chemicals. We believe that there is a clear link between women and chemical safety in all SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern. IPEN and PAN publications on women and chemical safety prepared for the first intersessional meeting clearly indicate the need for SAICM to look closely at this aspect in order to implement SDG 5 on "Achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls".

In our paper on Beyond 2020 process and Agenda 2030, concrete measurable objectives are suggested to make substantial progress in addressing issues of women and chemicals. For example, we suggest to develop gender guidelines for sound chemicals, waste management, and agriculture in all IOMC and national projects by 2024. Existing gender guidelines could serve as the baseline, but currently do not address specific aspects of chemicals and wastes and the differences of their implications in women and men, and thus need to be expounded upon.

Thank you.

IPEN

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