

4 May, 2015

Island Sustainability Alliance, Cook Islands (ISACI) Intervention on Basel & Stockholm Regional Centres

Given by Imogen Ingram, ISACI

Thank you Mr Chairman.

I am Imogen Ingram from Island Sustainability Alliance CIS Inc. (ISACI), a participating organization of IPEN. We agree with earlier speakers about the need to provide sufficient funding that enables Regional Centres to function effectively, but there should also be operational policy consistency for Regional Centres. For instance, where there is an inconsistency between BAT-BEP (Best Available Technology - Best Environmental Practice) standards between two Conventions, then the more stringent standard should be adopted. One example in our region is that in 2014, the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for the Pacific subregion decided to proceed with a project that would result in 28 new healthcare waste incinerators in the Pacific SIDS. IPEN experts reviewed the specifications for the proposed incinerators and found that they were too small to have pollution controls, and they would most likely produce emissions of dioxins and other unintentional POPs. To our knowledge, this project will go ahead, resulting in avoidable air emissions that add to pollution, despite our suggestions for more environmentally sound disposal. We echo the comments of Argentina and others about the need for quality of delivery and believe that these Basel and Stockholm Regional Centres should lead by example. We also support Switzerland's statement that ALL relevant stakeholders should be actively engaged. This is particularly important in SIDS where uncontaminated ecosystems are important to ensure continuing good health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.