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ISACI Intervention on household waste partnership

Given by Imogen Ingram

I speak for Island Sustainability Alliance CIS Inc. (“ISACI”), a participating organization of IPEN. We have signed up to join the Household Waste Partnership last week, and look forward to successful implementation of any decision taken under Basel Convention. The focus for SIDS is on environmentally sound disposal because we need to safeguard the fragile ecosystems upon which we depend. It has become difficult for us to successfully separate organic waste and articles that cannot be safely recycled. We do not have the facilities to test whether plastics may be recycled in an environmentally sound manner, and we have no influence upon the way in which items that become household waste are manufactured so that they do not contain toxic substances. Last week, I was very sad to hear the informal suggestion of an incineration ship that could travel around the Pacific burning plastic waste because it is unlikely that an incinerator small enough to fit on a ship would have proper pollution controls, resulting in emissions of dioxins and other u-POPs in contravention of the Stockholm Convention. It would be more practical to leave out additives which make it impossible to reuse plastics in an environmentally sound manner. With so many exemptions pending for BDE, SCCP and decaBDE, we think it is only fair that plastic products are labelled so that as consumers in SIDS we can protect ourselves by not buying those containing toxic substances.

Thank you Mr President