

30 September, 2015

Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)- IPEN Intervention on Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology

Thank you Mr. President. I speak on behalf of the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), a member organization of IPEN, co-sponsor of CRP 11.

As mentioned by previous speakers, the nomination of nanomaterials and nanotechnologies as an emerging policy issue under SAICM, has allowed a number of cooperative actions to take place at national, regional and global levels. These actions led to a better understanding and awareness of nano-related issues globally, to identifying and highlighting the particular challenges facing developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and helped fostering a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to address this emerging issue in a number of countries.

However, the last 6 years have also demonstrated the large gap that continues to exist between developed and developing countries; between regions as well as within regions; and the severe lack of funding available to implement the activities from the Global Plan of Action. More than anything, the past years have demonstrated the need to enlarge and scale up the existing SAICM activities from national to regional to global initiatives as the only way to ensure that nanotechnologies are developed in a safe and sustainable way, supporting social progress while avoiding the creation of a severe health and environmental legacy issue our communities are too familiar with.

The CRP 11 put forward by representatives of each UN region and public interest organizations, proposes practical ways to scale up activities by building on the recent regional initiatives by lead agencies; partially address the funding shortage by inviting GEF to extend its SAICM-dedicated funding to include the issue of nanomaterials; and a road map to increase efforts to provide true guidance to all SAICM stakeholders on technical and legal approaches to ensure the safe and sustainable development of nanotechnologies while enduring scientific gaps are slowly being filled.

CIEL and IPEN have been very active in supporting the reaching of 2020 goal in relation to nanomaterial by actively participating in UNITAR and OECD-led activities as well as by releasing regional leaflets on the social and environmental impact of the development of nanotechnologies for the GRULAC, Africa and Asia Pacific region (available on the IPEN booth and website).

We look forward to continue working with all stakeholders, in the contact group and during the intersessional period, to support reaching the 2020 goal in relation to the development of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.