

15 December, 2014

Thank you Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the Center for International Environmental Law, a participating organization of IPEN.

I would like to commend the work of the SAICM community in trying to prioritize possible issues and activities with the OOG, to make the most of the remaining time between now and 2020.

It is the nature of the prioritization process to move from a large number of issues and activities to a smaller subset of issues and activities. This prioritization process is based on assessing the opportunities and developing a stepwise approach that necessarily leaves a number of issues outside the scope of the discussion that will happen between now and 2020. It does not mean that these issues are not relevant, or are not worth pursuing, it only means that we recognize that we will not have the space to address these issues in the remaining 6 years of this process. It is essential that all issues that have not been prioritized for action in the next 6 years remain on the agenda of the chemical community and be considered in a larger time frame. We have learned from the first years that addressing these issues takes time, in particular since we need to consider the different situations of countries. We therefore support the inclusion of the post 2020 discussion on the ICCM4 agenda to give us, as a community, enough time to discuss these issues and ensure that they are not forgotten.