

6 May, 2015

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Intervention on Listing of the New POPs

Given by Eva Krueemel, ICC

Thank you Madame President.

I'm speaking on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), which represents the around 160,000 Inuit living in the circumpolar Arctic.

Thank you for displaying the carving of an Inuit mother with child that was presented by then ICC chair, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, to the then UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer, as you explained very well this morning, Madame President. We hope it will remind us all why we are here and help in achieving the needed progress.

It has already been pointed out by my IPEN and Indigenous colleagues that Arctic Indigenous peoples are struggling with the impacts of POPs on their health and wellbeing. All of the three chemicals that are proposed for addition to Annex A of the Stockholm Convention at this COP have been found in the Arctic.

PCP is particularly worrisome because it is still being used, and PCP concentrations have been increasing in blood of some Canadian Inuit, as stated in the latest AMAP POPs Trends report. A recent US EPA study also found continued PCP exposure of US children, even though most uses of PCP (besides its use in utility poles) has been banned there. The study found significantly higher exposure in children that spent more time outside. The only possible outside exposure in residential areas can be from PCP-treated utility poles.

Given the increasing PCP exposure in Canadian Inuit, and the continued exposure that has been found in US children, we do not believe that the current praxis of PCP use is safe, and ask you to support its listing, along with the listing of the other two compounds, PCNs and HCBd, in Annex A.

Thank you.