

30 September, 2015

International Campaign for Responsible Technology (ICRT) Intervention on Hazardous Substances in the Lifecycle of Electronic and Electrical Products (HSLEEP)

Mr. President, the SAICM bureau and our hosts from Switzerland:
Thank you for organizing this important meeting.

We have been deeply involved in hazards in electronics since the 1970s first ID'd serious problems with electronics, occupational health, ground water pollution - these problems have now spread around the world, including e-waste.

ICRT has been involved since 2011 when we participated in the Vienna workshop, which developed the cross-cutting recommendations on the hazards in the lifecycle of electronic products. These recommendations continue to be the guiding principles globally on hazards in electronics.

We support this important initiative coming from the African region and thank them for their leadership, since it is the most significant global initiative that adopts a full lifecycle approach.

We note that the UNIDO progress report on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products identifies key gaps, including:

- The lack of e-waste legislation;
- The lack of emphasis on the need for green design and minimization of usage of hazardous substances during the production process of electrical and electronic products;
- Lack of transparency and communication; and
- The need to develop green procurement standards.

We further note that more than 200 public interest NGO stakeholders and global trade unions in 40 countries have developed and endorsed 'The Challenge to the Global Electronics Industry' report that addresses transparency on chemicals used and associated hazards; use of safer alternatives; workers protection; guaranteed participation of workers and community members in sound management of chemicals; protection of communities and the environment; and compensation and remediation for harm to people and the environment.

I. Requests that the SAICM secretariat and other stakeholders, particularly, IOMC members, original equipment manufacturers, national governments, donors, and civil society, individually and collectively:

- a) Implement the SAICM Global Plan of Action, Table B, Appendix 2 adopted at ICCM3 2012