

30 September, 2015

IPEN Intervention on Lead Paint

Thank you Mr. President

IPEN and its participating organizations actively support the implementation of ICCM3 resolution encouraging all stakeholders to contribute to the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, which seeks “to promote a phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and to eventually eliminate the risks that such paints pose.”

IPEN-affiliated NGOs and others have sampled and analyzed paints on the market in approximately 40 low- and middle income countries. The activities were implemented through the 7-country Asia project with support from the European Union, 4-country Africa project with support from GEF and in collaboration with UNEP, a 9-country lead paint study in collaboration with UNEP, and several national activities. The studies conducted so far show that in countries where no enforced regulation is in place to restrict the use of lead in paint, majority of the enamel paints on the market will contain high levels of lead.

IPEN members on the ground are participating in multi-stakeholders’ processes towards the establishment of legally binding controls on lead paint. As a result of these collaborative efforts, national regulations restricting the use of lead in paint have been enacted, drafted or promised in several countries. For example, the governments of Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Philippines have recently adopted their national policies to eliminate lead paint.

Here at ICCM4, IPEN invites all stakeholders to support the elimination of lead paint as a concrete SAICM risk reduction goal. This can be achieved by putting in place legal control instruments banning the manufacture, import, marketing, and use of lead paints in all countries by 2020 or earlier.

IPEN and its members specifically request SAICM National Focal Points, especially from developing and transition countries, to promote the elimination of lead paint by promoting and/or initiating national discussions involving relevant government officials, paint industry representatives, representatives of the national health sector, and other relevant stakeholders. The formation of national working groups with participants from all stakeholders will help address the hazards associated with lead paint and the adoption of national control measures.

IPEN commits itself to continuing its constructive and facilitative role to promote activities on the ground that will catalyze the elimination of lead paint and promote a healthy and safe environment for all, especially for children, pregnant women, workers and other vulnerable groups.

Thank you Mr. President