

28 September, 2015

IPEN Intervention on SAICM Implementation

Dear Mr. President,

IPEN is a network of more than 700 highly motivated public interest NGOs and civil society organizations working diligently to support and promote SAICM's objectives in all parts of the world.

Over the past 3 years, since ICCM3 in 2012, Participating Organizations in IPEN developed and executed more than 500 activities to promote effective SAICM implementation in developing and transition countries. This includes work on 228 of the 299 items (76%) in the SAICM Global Plan of Action (GPA), including many of the recently added items related to nanomaterials, chemicals in products and electronics. The work includes all five principal Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) Objectives: risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity building, and illegal traffic. IPEN's 2015 Citizens' Report (Information document 33), provides detailed information about the activities and work NGOs and communities across the globe have done and are doing to promote chemical safety and SAICM implementation on the ground.

These NGO SAICM implementation activities cover a wide variety of issues including monitoring products, food, paint, and humans for toxic metals and chemicals; promoting substitution with safer alternatives; implementing ecological agriculture; addressing toxic chemicals in manufacturing and wastes; public awareness-raising for vulnerable groups; characterization of hotspots; and work to eliminate illegal traffic of chemicals and wastes.

With support provided by the European Union, Global Environment Facility, UNEP and others, IPEN's Lead Paint Elimination Campaign has resulted in concrete outcomes and progress to remove lead paint off the market in Asia and Africa. For example, national policies to eliminate lead paint in the Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Philippines have been adopted. Moreover, in the Philippines the private sector - representing over 80% of the market - now have eliminated lead paint.

With regards to mercury and the Minamata Convention, IPEN's Mercury-Free Campaign conducted global mercury monitoring of fish and human hair, promoted the adoption of a strong mercury treaty, and worked to raise awareness about mercury exposure and safer alternatives. Since the Mercury Treaty was adopted, with support from the governments of Germany, Sweden and Switzerland among other donors, IPEN launched the International Mercury Treaty Enabling Activities Program, to promote rapid ratification and early implementation of the treaty. Currently, IPEN is advancing these Program objectives in 29 countries.

Significant work of Pesticide Action Network International and IPEN has elevated the issue of highly hazardous pesticides within the SAICM process, as well as within countries and communities. Both global networks have been involved in the activities focusing on the reduction and elimination of highly hazardous pesticides and in the promotion of safer alternatives and agroecology. We are engaged with local communities, governments and various

stakeholders to identify HHPs, document the impacts of HHPs, raise awareness, build capacity and share information as well as to advance the rights of marginalized groups spanning the globe.

The Citizens' Report on the Implementation of SAICM prepared by PAN Asia Pacific and IPEN's Global Citizens' Report are available at our joint booth.

IPEN and our global partners will continue to encourage NGO implementation of SAICM by linking efforts of Participating Organizations around the world, providing expertise and resources, and conducting actions which build capacity among national- or community-based NGOs. Predictable, accessible and additional resources to continue and expand these joint programs on SAICM outreach and implementation will build NGO capacity, increase NGO-government dialogue, and greatly advance the common SAICM 2020 goal.

To conclude, with the limited resources available, NGOs have been effective actors to promote concrete change on the ground to move us closer to the SAICM 2020 Goal. As we look ahead, we have concerns about available resources to build on this momentum. We are pleased that ICCM4 is beginning to plan for Beyond 2020, as SAICM is off-track and needs to re-adjust to secure sustainable and sufficient funds to implement SAICM in the future.

Thank you Mr. Chair