



a toxics-free future

25 April, 2017

IPEN Intervention on PFOS

Given by Mariann Lloyd-Smith

Thank you Mr. President,

IPEN considers the removal of specific exemptions and acceptable purposes for PFOS as both urgent and well overdue. While we welcomed the deletion of a number of exemptions at the last COP, there remains far too many uses, including open application which represent direct releases of PFOS to the environment. This has resulted in serious ongoing contamination, occurring 7 years after PFOS was first listed on the Convention and many years after good alternatives became available.

PFOS is a very toxic endocrine disrupting chemical that never breaks down. It already contaminates all living things including our children and grandchildren. If this Convention is to be effective in protecting human health and the environment and have validity in the eyes of the wider community, countries must act to stop the use of PFOS and end its specific exemptions and acceptable purposes. We strongly support Norway's recommendation to move all acceptable purposes into time limited exemptions. We also remind parties that Article 3 of the Convention clearly forbids the substitution of PFOS with other substances that have POPs characteristics, such as PFOA now being assessed as a POP, as well as other toxic, persistent perfluorinated substances.

We urge the COP to fully support the Secretariat's assessment of PFOS for COP9, in the hope this will facilitate the final deletion of all exemptions and acceptable purposes of PFOS. We also ask Parties to consider nominating two alternatives to PFOS identified by the POPRC as meeting or possibly meeting Annex D criteria: octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4) and the highly toxic pesticide, chlorpyrifos.