



15 December, 2014

Thank you Mr. President,

IPEN's global network of over 700 NGOs in 116 countries has been active in the SAICM process since its beginning.

As reported in 2012, IPEN inventoried over 300 NGO activities in 50 countries where NGOs utilized the SAICM framework to advance their local and national priorities to minimize the adverse impacts from toxic chemicals.

Over the last 2 years, IPEN has been able to utilize the Lead Paint Framework to create activities across the globe to test lead in paint and raise awareness about its harm. Concrete projects on elimination of lead in paint were implemented in 33 countries. In Asia, 2 countries have created national regulations to prohibit lead paint and 4 more are close to accomplishing this important goal. However, the majority of developing and transition countries are still producing lead paint.

To advance work on Knowledge and Information, IPEN, together with the Endocrine Society, recently produced a guide to endocrine disrupting chemicals. In addition, IPEN prepared *An Introduction to Mercury Pollution and the Minamata Convention*. These and other guiding materials produced by IPEN help to raise the capacity of stakeholders and can be used as the base for decision-making processes at different levels.

Over the past years SAICM has been successful in creating policy frameworks, generating a pathway forward towards the 2020 Goal. Significant achievements have been reached in implementing the emerging policy issues. However, we have to say that there is much more work to be done to address the existing issues as well as new issues coming up.

The 2020 goal is an output goal – it says that we will minimize adverse effects on human health and the environment. However, there are significant



a toxics-free future

adverse effects that SAICM has not yet effectively tackled... for example, the phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). These chemicals represent the large chemical exposures in developing countries -and for that reason we would like to join the call for action for an integrated effort under SAICM to phase-out highly hazardous pesticides. We are looking forward to active cooperation with all countries and stakeholders concerned with the issue.

We believe that SAICM has managed to create some meaningful policy frameworks with very little money. Now we need to translate these frameworks into actually reducing harm on the ground up to and beyond 2020.

Thank you Mr. President.