

7 May, 2015

Island Sustainability Alliance, Cook Islands (ISACI) and Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Intervention on Effectiveness Evaluation

Given by Imogen Ingram, ISACI, Cook Islands

Thank you Madame Chairperson

I speak for Island Sustainability Alliance (or “ISACI”) and ACAT, which both are participating organisations of IPEN. With regard to effectiveness evaluation, one important measure will be the Global Monitoring Plan or GMP. At this week’s side event, it was noted that large data gaps remain in the regions of Africa, Asia-Pacific, CEE, GRULAC, the Arctic and Antarctica. These gaps need to be addressed promptly in the next steps of the GMP in order to obtain a more complete picture of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention .

· Indigenous Peoples and local communities with fish-eating populations are willing and able to assist with GMP projects if they are provided with the necessary resources for community based monitoring. With their in-depth knowledge of their local conditions, they should participate in the development and eventual use of appropriate indicators that will be established by the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee to measure progress or otherwise of implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Such participation in GMP projects would not only fill gaps in knowledge and data, but also serve to raise awareness and accomplish monitoring in a cost-effective manner.

· We propose that one of the international experts on the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee to be established at this COP should be an Indigenous Peoples representative, based on their already- considerable documentation of the adverse health impacts they continue to experience from POPs and other toxic substances.

· In the future phases of the GMP, newly-listed POPs and chemicals with POPs and endocrine-disrupting properties should be included and sampling of biota should be incorporated. Including chemicals with POPs properties will inform decisions by the POPRC. Sampling media for POPs should include traditional and market food sources as core media, in particular fish, marine mammals, rendered oils, blubber, liver and other organ tissues which are the traditional foods of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and other fish-eating populations. We support the public release of results both nationally and globally through relevant websites to raise awareness.

· To conclude, we believe that the GMP should include a subset of hotspot sites since these contribute to wider long-range transport and POPs contamination, exacerbated by the effects of climate warming which potentially will accelerate releases and transport. Such hotspot sites could include countries that have produced POPs and those requesting exemptions and/or acceptable purposes.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.