



**a toxics-free future**

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**AGENDA / IPEN Intervention on Hazardous Chemicals in Electronics**

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Thank you, Madam President.

The Vienna Conference on electronics in 2011, which was fully adopted by ICCM3, set a clear approach on how to solve the Hazardous Substances in the Lifecycle of Electrical and Electronic Products, also called HSLEEP. The conference recommended three approaches to look at:

1. **Upstream:** which deals with the green design that assists the use of non-hazardous / less hazardous substances that replace hazardous ones;
2. **Midstream:** which deals with occupational safety and health and the communities in the production area; and
3. **Downstream:** which deals with the end of life issue on e-waste.

Moreover, when we look at the details of electronics production, it is highly relevant to the relationship between women and chemical safety as women often make up the majority of the workforce.

With the technology advancement, millions of electronic equipment and devices are manufactured and circulated daily worldwide. This depicts the level of electronic waste going to the waste stream daily as well. Public interest NGOs in key production countries such as South Korea and Vietnam have revealed serious health impacts in electronics production workers, especially in women. Many more are also affected in the end users side, particularly impacting vulnerable populations, including children.

This, therefore, calls for the need of a more strict global approach and action to address electronics within its life-cycle, with special emphasis at the upstream level so as to avoid/reduce the hazards at the midstream and downstream level. Finally, extended producer responsibility (EPR) can be adopted to address the downstream component.

Thank you, Madam President.