



4 April, 2019

IPEN Closing Statement

Given by Dr. Tadesse Amera, IPEN Co-Chair

Thank you Madam President.

IPEN would like to thank you and the Co-Chairs and Co-Facilitators for leading this meeting and arranging for an open discussion between stakeholders.

Today, we have a severe challenge in the health, environmental, and economic injuries associated with the production, use, and disposal of toxic chemicals and wastes, and it is growing rapidly. The outcome of the Beyond 2020 process must be very ambitious in response to this challenge, with strong commitment at the highest levels.

During this meeting, we have heard many ideas and interventions that would move us along this ambitious path, such as:

- Implementing the polluters pay principle through internalization of costs by the industry;
- Strong measures that include the full life-cycle of chemicals and all waste, including an enabling framework whose elements are endorsed by a ministerial declaration at ICCM5 and subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly; and
- Time bound goals and measurable targets for issues of concern together with clear criteria defined for how to move the issues ahead if they have not progressed as expected.

But while we have come some way during these three days, we are not even close to producing the ambitious plan for Beyond 2020 that is needed. Therefore, the importance of making effective use of the remaining time until ICCM5 cannot be overstated.

It has now been established that SAICM will not be able to meet its goals. However, we do see that where funding has been available, important action has been taken. We need to make use of the evaluations of both SAICM and the integrated approach to financing to identify gaps and key actions that will ensure a strong SAICM 2.0 and a clear path towards the overall enabling framework beyond 2020 which are being discussed under one process.

IPEN is committed to continue working with all the participants and stakeholders within this process to achieve a toxics-free future.

Thank you Madam President.