



a toxics-free future

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IPEN Intervention on Partnership

Given by Mark Peñalver, IDIS, Philippines

Thank you, Madam President.

I am Mark Peñalver of the Interface Development Interventions Incorporated, a Participating Organization in IPEN from the Philippines.

According to the UN Secretary General's principles: *"Cooperation with business sector must be transparent. Information on the nature and scope of major cooperative arrangements should be available within the concerned United Nations entity and to the public at large."*

Partnership among the highest level of stakeholder organisations, including government, industry, civil society, and international organisations, should serve the implementation of internationally agreed goals; respect international law, be transparent and accountable, compliment rather than substitute commitments made by government, and be multi-stakeholder driven with clear roles outlined for different partners.

Further, partnerships should only be operating with businesses that are consistent with UN Guidelines, including UN Global Compact and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. These include relevant chemical safety principles such as, *"Business should support precautionary approach to environmental challenges."* and *"Business should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining."* We should view partnership not as a substitute for a functioning financial mechanism or the need to internalise costs within the chemicals-producing industry.

We should also look into establishing inter- and intra-sectoral partnerships, networks, and collaborative mechanisms to mobilize resources, share information, experiences, and lessons learned, as well as promote coordinated action at the regional, sub-regional, and international levels.

Partnership should be holistic and inclusive and no one should be left behind. Everybody has a stake in the sound management of chemicals and wastes since the hazardous effects of chemicals and wastes transcend political boundaries as well as geographical boundaries. Hence, concerted effort from governments, industries, civil societies, and international organisations is necessary to effect change beyond 2020.