

Thank you Madam President.

IPEN believes a strong SAICM Secretariat is needed to ensure an effective, efficient and meaningful SAICM process and implementation.

IPEN believes fundraising should be a shared responsibility, and that institutional staff commitments from UNEP and WHO to the Secretariat are important.

We would like to highlight para 29 of the OPS:

“UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) will take lead roles in the secretariat in their respective areas of expertise in relation to the Strategic Approach, with UNEP assuming overall administrative responsibility. “

Leaving the WHO position vulnerable to cash contributions is of concern for IPEN.

For example, in practical terms, the WHO position is sharing a lead role in organizing the Global Alliance for the Elimination of Lead in Paint. Without WHO staff it would be left up to only UNEP to advance the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. Yet lead poisoning is a major health issue.

We look forward to the follow-up group discussion.

Thank you Madam President.