

IPEN Intervention on Chemicals in Products- given by Olga Speranskaya, IPEN Co-Chair / Eco-Accord, Russia

Thank you Mr. President

Chemicals in products information systems can provide consumers with the information they are looking for, information which is clear, credible, up-to-date, and comparable, that helps people to make informed decisions about the products that they purchase, use or dispose of.

IPEN believes that an international framework on chemicals in products should be developed to facilitate and guide provision, availability, and access to information on chemicals in products among all stakeholders, prioritising the most vulnerable. However, two things should be secured: first, that the harmonization should not lead to a downgrading of existing standards for human health and the environment, and secondly, that it should stimulate the development of national legislation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Framework elements should be broadened to facilitate public awareness on the issue of chemicals in products to raise the demand for cleaner products including use of the clearinghouse and a broad international consumer campaign to increase understanding and create a driving force for safer products.

So far the situation in developing countries and economies in transition is that consumers are driven by an economic approach rather than by their knowledge and interest in cleaner products. As a result there is a possibility of recalled products being sent to developing countries where there is minimum or no control.

The development of appropriate awareness-raising objectives along with technical requirements for new information exchange methods including best policy practices and best technical practices is needed.

Thank you.