

## **Reporting on Labour Sector meeting**

Ms Manal Azzi representing the ILO has been actively participating in IP3 this week but was unable to be with us on this final day due to other work engagements. The ILO has asked me, in my capacity as acting IOMC chair, to report back to plenary on the labour sector meeting which took place Wednesday at lunch time.

The ILO is very grateful for the overwhelming interest received and high turnout of participants joining the labour sector meeting. The ILO recalled that in terms of human health impact, workers are the population most at risk, referring to the millions of workers dying or falling sick due to exposures in their workplace that can be prevented.

The ILO took this opportunity to present their long standing work in the area of chemicals and waste. This year, the ILO celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, re-establishing its relevance as the specialised agency founded on the principle of promoting decent work and protecting workers' health from hazardous substances and other risks.

The ILO then reflected on over 20 ILO internationally legally binding standards in the area of occupational safety and health and particularly in the area of the sound management of chemicals and waste. The ILO referred to the numerous technical codes of practice, tools and publications but also to their role in the international community and through projects in various issues of concern. The ILO also referred to a new upcoming labour sector chemicals action plan to be launched in 2020. The PPT which was rich in information can be made available.

The International Trade Union Confederation, represented by Rory O'Neil and his colleagues Liam O'Brien and Repon Chowdhury then spoke to the role of unions in fighting for the right of workers to work in safe and healthy working environments and some persisting concerns. Then there was a country example from the government of Malaysia, Dr Hazlina shared a wealth of information on the main governance of chemical management in Malaysia and the interministerial collaboration needed locally.

There were a large number of questions and comments as the world of work cuts across all economic activities and involves the responsibilities of all industries and production processes across global supply chains. The ILO would like the group to seriously consider the large number of indicators that it has proposed in its document to this SAICM meeting, which are inspired by its legal instruments and that can be integrated in the beyond 2020 process.

It would also seem that similar labour sector meetings would be very welcome as an integral part of the beyond 2020 process.