



Environment and Social Development Organization

Thank you, Madam Co-Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), a Participating Organization of IPEN.

Participants may wish to refer to, in particular targets, mechanisms to support implementation, including capacity building; financial considerations; and programmatic approach that addresses the concern as set out in SAICM/IP.4/10. To give the foundation of the extensive set of recommendations upon IP3's request after 2020, the Conference Secretariat prepared ideas in the name of the new instrument. *[to shorten, maybe this para could be deleted]*

Madam Co-Chair, a fundamental human right recognized by international law is gender equality. Due to issues like poverty, prejudice, violence, oppressive social and institutional structures, and a lack of participation in decisions that affect their lives, women face significant barriers to achieving equality. In addition to gender disparities in decision-making related to chemical and waste management, the impact of chemicals on women as a vulnerable group has been highly exposed to hazardous chemicals. All people, regardless of gender identity, must have the same rights, obligations, and opportunities in order to achieve sound chemical and waste management, as both are essential to achieving the majority of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Exposure to chemicals and waste has a disproportionately negative impact on women, who also have less access to decision-making opportunities. When switching agents, women are also significant. A topic that has received little research but deserves more attention is women and chemicals.

We must continue with the goal of building a toxic-free world for all by increasing the safety of chemicals and waste for a healthy future. We need to search for safer alternatives and ensure that we put creative and sustainable methods of product value chains in place in order to maximize the benefits to human health and the environment and prevent or, if not doable, reduce the risks. Proper management of chemicals and waste should be a priority. Over 350,000 different chemicals and chemical mixtures are used where only 1% of the chemicals are assessed properly. Many of these chemicals disrupt the endocrine system, cause cancer, and/or cause brain disorders. Over 53 million years of life were lost due to exposures to a group of selected chemicals due to leaching, production and usage, estimated by WHO in 2019. Only a fraction of these chemicals are regulated by existing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

However, we have to take action in order to adopt, implement, and enforce legal frameworks and establish the necessary institutional capacities to prevent or, when feasible, minimize the effects of chemicals and waste. It's essential to locate the sources of hazardous chemicals and their health and environmental consequences in developing countries. Because toxic chemicals are not being properly managed, studied, or regulated. Thank you.

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