

IPEN Intervention – Issues of Concern

By Tom Kurz

25 June 2025

Thank you, Madam Co-Chair for giving me the floor.

My name is Tom Kurz, I am with the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development and I am speaking on behalf of IPEN.

More than 100 governments, together with other stakeholders, have identified Emerging Policy Issues and other Issues of concern as problems that urgently need to be addressed at national and global levels in a concerted and coordinated manner. Similar to SAICM, addressing Issues of Concern (IoCs) under the GFC is a critical component in preventing harm from chemicals and waste. We strongly call for all the IoCs to be retained and that mechanisms of implementation, allocation of resources and development of ambitious work plans be identified within the GFC.

To date, none of the IoC have been sufficiently addressed and none of them have been resolved. Even lead in paint, which is viewed as the most successful issue of concern, needs additional and continued targeted action to eliminate it globally. Also, for some IoCs in the IOMC document, mechanisms of taking action have been identified, but it must be made clear that is not the same as being fully addressed. Further action is needed for all IoCs, and repealing even some of them is not an option.

Therefore, we call for a strong commitment from all stakeholders to the existing IoCs and further efforts are needed to ensure meaningful multisectoral and multistakeholder engagement in addressing the IoCs. Relevant aspects of the IoCs should be integrated into implementation programs under the GFC in addition to specific action on each of the IoCs.

Finally, in regards to the CRP we have strong concerns about the proposed approach. While we agree all sources of lead exposure need to be eliminated, different sources require different, specific actions focused on prevention to be effective. Also, we are concerned that the proposed approach will lead to a serious and costly delay in acting on the many already known sources. We have several more points of concern that we will share in a contact group, if one is established.

Thank you, Madam Co-Chair.