

IPEN Intervention – International Coordination and Cooperation

By Sonia Buffheim

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Thank you, Madam Co-Chair.

I am Sonia Buffheim, I am speaking on behalf of the Nexus3 Foundation, Indonesia and IPEN.

We welcome the recognition that international coordination and cooperation are central to achieving the objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals. We urge this OEWG to move beyond broad commitments and identify concrete mechanisms that will ensure effective cooperation across all relevant sectors and international agreements.

The GFC must work in synergy with other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention, and the Montreal Protocol,. At the national level, coordination must include not only environment ministries, but also health, labour, agriculture, trade, finance, and women's affairs. A whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is needed, with full and meaningful participation of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, workers, youth, and communities most affected by pollution and toxic exposures

We also call for stronger cooperation with UN bodies, such as WHO, ILO, FAO, UNITAR, OHCHR, UNDP, and UN Women to ensure that chemicals and waste are addressed as cross-cutting issues that impact health, livelihoods, decent work, and human rights. These are not just technical matters; they have real consequences for people's lives, safety, and environmental justice.

International coordination must prioritise the inclusion of voices from the Global South. This means transparent access to technical support, predictable and sustained funding, and meaningful support for South–South cooperation, so that capacity is built where it is most needed and solutions are driven by those directly affected.

Finally, we recommend the development of a joint coordination platform, grounded in inclusive governance, that can help align efforts across sectors and agreements, track progress, and ensure that international cooperation leads to real outcomes, not just proposes.