

Thank you, Mr / Ms Co-Chair / Chair,

I am Griffins Ochieng, director of Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD) from Kenya, we are partners with Women Engage for Common Future (WECF) and I am speaking here on behalf of WECF.

Under SAICM, more than 100 governments identified the need for national and concerted international action on eight Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. These were transferred on an interim basis to the GFC as Issues of Concern (IoCs). However, none of them have been fully resolved to date.

Let me take the example of EDCs.

EDCs are chemicals that wreak havoc on human health and ecosystems by interfering with the normal function of natural hormones in our bodies and in wildlife. These chemicals, found in everyday products, cosmetics, toys etc. Pesticides and PFAS could have endocrine properties. EDCs have been linked to rising rates of cancers, diabetes, developmental disorders, and reproductive health issues worldwide. As an eco-feminist network we know that women and pregnant women are specifically affected by EDCs due to biological reasons and social roles.

In addition to a heavy health-burden, costs of EDC-related illnesses are high; estimated at [€163 billion annually](#) for Europe in 2016. This figure only accounts for a fraction of all EDC-related diseases, and only for a limited known number of EDCs, meaning the actual costs could be significantly higher. These costs and damages in ecosystems and populations have to be internalized when assessing the economic value of those chemicals.

And this is true for all existing IoCs.

Identifying a mechanism of action for an IoC is not the same as it being sufficiently addressed. For successful progress on the IoCs, mechanisms of implementation and needs for capacity building must be identified, resources allocated, and clear work plans developed and effectively implemented, together with strong and impactful indicators.

Deleting IoCs does not delete the harm they cause.

Therefore, until the Issue is shown to be resolved, it must remain an IoC.

Thank you.

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