

IPEN Intervention on GFC Fund (Agenda item 3c)

By Gilbert Kuepouo

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Thank you, Co-chair.

I am making this intervention on behalf of CREPD Cameroon, and IPEN , a network of nearly 700 public interest organizations in more than 130 countries.

IPEN is concerned that the vastly inadequate funding available for the sound management of chemicals and waste agenda globally is a significant obstacle to a successful GFC implementation.

One of the reasons why SAICM did not meet its 2020 goal was the lack of funding. Two years after the adoption of the GFC and the establishment of the GFC Fund, the contributions to the Fund remain far below what is needed to implement the high ambition placed on the new framework.

We are facing a global crisis of chemicals and waste, with high associated public health cost, especially in Low- and Middle Income Countries.

At the same time, the total value of the global chemicals industry in 203 was estimated to be €5.2 trillion and expected to grow significantly until 2030.

In order to ensure that the implementation of the GFC strategic objectives and targets is duly funded, it is urgent to:

- Ensure adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding for building institutional and technical capacities through application of the "Polluter Pays" Principle, to generate funding from the chemical industry and companies using hazardous chemicals, for example, through fiscal and cost recovery frameworks.
- Ensure finalization of the Cost of Inaction report to serve as the foundation for financial considerations and actions at the first international conference.
- Facilitate monitoring and evaluation of financial flows by establishing mechanisms to track investments and expenditures related to chemical management, ensuring transparency, accountability, and responsible governance.

There are a number of priority actions to be taken in regards to the GFC Fund, based on the lesson learned from the [independent evaluation of SAICM](#) that recognized the SAICM Quick Start Program as a successful outcome, and the high impact of civil

society projects, and the potential of the civil society as an effective bridge to facilitate effective multisectoral and multistakeholder action. There is a need:

- For increased contributions to the GFC Fund, including from the private sector, in line with the polluter pays principle.
- To include civil society representation in the GFC Fund Executive Board to mirror the multistakeholder and multisectoral nature of the GFC, to ensure trust, transparency and equitable access to funds.
- To have more collaboration between the GEF and the GHC Secretariat to plan for the efficient use of GEF funding for the implementation of dedicated GFC activities.

Thank you for considering our views.