



Thank you, Madam chair,

I am from Ecological Alert and Recovery – Thailand or EARTH, speaking on behalf of IPEN.

Chemicals, waste and pollution is a global crisis, that has a particular impact on local communities. There is very little access to knowledge at the local levels, and often, the extent of local awareness is that a factory has released some foul smell, some strange-colored water, or that they are stricken by sickness they cannot explain. We also often find that local authorities lack the knowledge to explain the dangers to them.

This also means that locals cannot provide their valuable on-the-ground insights on environmental contamination to scientists and policymakers. The work of the Science-Policy Panel could help bridge these gaps through ensuring access to scientific data and through including the collection of information from local knowledge, indigenous knowledge and citizen science.

It is important that a strong conflict of interest policy is put in place to ensure the integrity and credibility of the panel, and to prevent corporate capture. A good approach that can be adapted for this panel is the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control that includes an obligation to protect public health policies from the commercial and vested interests of the industry. We are also hoping for a transparent and inclusive intersessional period, where the willingness of all organizations and Major Groups to engage is utilized.

IPEN has been engaged in the science-policy discussion for over two decades and look forward to continuing to work in a constructive and collaborative manner through the upcoming meetings.

Thank you