



for a toxics-free future

Thank you Madam Chair.

I am Lemuel Manalo, from the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), an Environmental Non-Government Organization in the Philippines. I am speaking on behalf of International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), a global network of public interest, civil society organizations in more than 120 countries. We agree with previous speakers that have highlighted the importance of aligning the work with the text of the UNEA resolution.

The resolution lists horizon scanning as a principal function. IPEN believes that this function is crucial to reach the objective of the panel, as described in the UNEA resolution, since it could help address current and future knowledge gaps on chemicals. In the UNEA resolution, information sharing between countries is also listed among the principal functions of the panel. Today, scientific publications on chemical hazards for health and environment are often not publicly available. These are important resources for governments as well as citizen-science initiated programs and monitoring systems. The lack of access to scientific data has become a major obstacle for the sound management of chemicals.

IPEN therefore strongly supports the inclusion of information sharing functions of the panel. This will help increase accessibility and availability of knowledge, technologies, and information for both government and non-government stakeholders.

I thank you Madam Chair.