



a toxics-free future

25 April, 2017

IPEN Intervention on the listing of hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD) in Annex C

Given by Dr. Mariann Lloyd-Smith

Thank you Mr. President, IPEN considers HCBD must be listed on Annex C as recommended by the POPRC. As delegates are aware, there is no ongoing intentional use. The principle source of HCBD to the environment are unintentional releases from the production of certain chlorinated hydrocarbons, vinyl monomers and from incineration processes.

The POPRC concluded HCBD has high chronic toxicity and its biotransformation products are linked to organ toxicity, genotoxicity and carcinogenicity with young females being far more susceptible to its toxicity. HCBD is already present in the Arctic and also contaminates groundwater and drinking water.

While some countries have expressed concern about measures required to reduce unintentionally-produced HCBD releases, we note these measures are the same measures needed to control the releases of other unintentional POPs like dioxins, activities all parties are already obligated to undertake. In addition, unintentional releases can also be minimized by alternative production processes and implementing currently available safer alternatives for perchloroethylene and trichloroethylene.

To conclude, unless HCBD is listed on Annex C, this very toxic chemical will continue to contaminate the globe and its inhabitants unabated, and will make its listing in Annex A on the Stockholm Convention, a futile endeavour.