

## Statement by BAN on the proposal to allow the recycling of DecaBDE

April 25, 2017

Thank you Mr. Chairman. BAN is shocked and disturbed by what it has just heard here on the floor. We have heard that countries like EU members and Canada are now proposing to make DecaBDE exempt from the Stockholm Convention's requirement to prevent the circle of poison caused by recycling POPs.

We are very sorry but the benefit of recycling some hydrocarbons found in plastic does not in any way trump the horror of poisoning generations of future plastics users. This obviously places the principles of life cycle analysis and risk assessment on its head.

Materials as dangerous as DecaBDE should never be recycled period. This just perpetuates a legacy of marketplace, workplace, and environmental contamination and consequent damage to human health and the environment for years to come. This proposal makes a laughing stock of the globally stated commitment to a circular economy.

Further this proposal is an affront to global environmental justice. The places in the world where this toxic waste material will be swept by market forces and end up harming people most horrifically, is within the recycling chains, often informal, and unprotected, operating in poorer communities in countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America

For those that are here next week BAN will show in our Monday evening side event, the results of our electronic waste tracking program. By witnessing where our trackers ended up you can graphically see where the DecaBDE laden plastics used in e-Waste are ending up --they are being broken down in dangerous conditions in Asia, and then moved to what are most often substandard plastics smelters elsewhere in Asia, contaminating workers and communities, only to then later enter the supply chain for all manner of new products -- including food containers, toys and building materials. And then the chain will begin again.

In this way these most toxic and persistent substances on earth are readied to harm and harm again and again -- and do so eventually worldwide in all countries even in countries like Canada or in Europe in countries like Germany and Netherlands and Switzerland.

This proposal is precisely the toxic circus that the framers of Stockholm aimed to prevent.

We ask all Parties to harken back to the words just yesterday spoken by the Deputy Executive Director -- are you doing everything you can to protect the children of our earth?

This proposal for a recycling exemption for DecaBDE is fundamentally contradictory to the intent and purpose of the Stockholm Convention and needs to be soundly rejected by the Parties.

