

Womens MG Statement on Omnibus Decision on Chemicals & Wastes

Monday 23Jun2014

Thank you Mr President

My name is Imogen Ingram and I speak on behalf of the Women's Major Group, which also supports the earlier statement made by Trade Unions & Workers for the joint statement.

We recognize the importance of Draft Decision 6 because many women are exposed through their occupation or situation to toxics which accumulate in their bodies and are passed on to their unborn children. This goes against the basic human right to a healthy environment, and intergenerational equity.

[With regard to Para 2](#), we agree that better and more transparent enforcement of chemicals legislation is needed but we remind the meeting that 80% of countries have no chemicals legislation at all.

[At para 12](#), the draft decision seeks an integrated approach and we would like the private sector to take more responsibility before putting chemicals on the market. As part of the mainstreaming called for by other speakers, we consider that full internalization of

costs is needed over the life cycle of toxic chemicals and the products containing them.

[Paras 3 to 5](#) in the draft decision invites the regional centers of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions to work closely with industry but this relies on their having the competence to anticipate dangers from chemical products. The onus should be on the manufacturers to ensure they do not cause adverse effects.

[Re Doc EA.1/5](#), we agree that more finance is needed for research on chemicals already on the market, but we would go further and say that that investment in innovation is needed both in the design of products so that toxic components are replaced by safer alternatives or eliminated; and also in innovation to achieve safer, environmentally sound disposal of products containing hazardous chemicals.

[Referring to Paras 27-32](#), we conclude by voicing our support of the interventions by Switzerland and Norway with regard to financing of SAICM and also Mexico in relation to the Special Programme for Institutional Strengthening at national level.

SAICM is an important multistakeholder program which identifies emerging issues and seeks solutions and many developing countries have benefited from relatively easy access to the Quick Start Program to assist with their chemical management programs.

Thank you Mr President.