

CLUSTER ON CHEMICALS AND WASTE AND MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS RESOLUTIONS

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All major groups consider sustainable management of chemicals a key issue for achieving a sustainable development and welcome this particular discussion at the historic time of the First UNEA. All groups welcome the report from the Executive Director and the draft resolution.

All major groups call for the achievement of the Johannesburg Plan of implementation and the Future we want goals aiming to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimisation of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. We all call for greater political attention in order to achieve this important goal and commit to further action.

Achieving sustainable management of chemicals is a fundamental part of sustainable development, thus it has to be an ongoing effort. In that sense and additionally to highlighting the need to achieve the 2020 goal all major groups call for also an approach that goes beyond 2020 and welcome the discussion that has been opened in this direction.

Achieving a sustainable management of chemicals needs its mainstreaming into local, national, subnational, regional and international policies and strategies.

All major groups welcome the recognition that both the Executive Director's Report and the draft resolution on the importance of multistakeholder approaches, we all are convinced that our involvement on policy design and implementation is fundamental in the area, and we reiterate our commitment to contribute to the achievement of mentioned 2020 goal.

WOMEN, NGOS, TRADE UNIONS, FARMERS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES

These groups see with concern the slow path for advancement on the issue, and call on governments and UNEP to accelerate efforts. Time is not on our side. They are concerned by the increasing size of the challenge, lack of information on risks to health and the environment of an increasing number of substances, and lack of capacity of many developing countries to advance on environmentally sound management of chemicals. The objective is to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of minimization of waste by 2020.

They call on governments to accelerate much more the development, implementation and enforcement of national legislative and policy frameworks, including designating the responsibilities of industry, such as the internationalization of costs among others.

They all see with concern the lack of integration of a sustainable management of chemicals in the current discussions and the current OWG draft on the SDGs. They want to call on governments to better mainstreamed the issue on different goals, such as for example the elimination of most hazardous pesticides under the food security goal.

Focus has to be put into access to information and transparency. They share the believe that the lack of complete information on impacts on health and the environment is the main challenge for a sustainable management of chemicals. Women, children, workers, farmers, poor communities do not have enough information on impacts on health and the environment on the substances they use or consume and they die from it.

Mechanisms for accountability should be put in place for those responsible for massive chemical waste pollution that has degraded the environment and impacted the livelihood, health, and food security of the people denying them a life of dignity. These mechanism will be key towards realizing the 2020 goal.

Finance is of course essential. Decessions have to agree on ensuring access to adequate, sustainable and predictable finance for a long term approach. They call governments to honor their commitments by

contributing financially to the different funds including, QSP the new Special Programme Trust Fund and others. They call them to commit and honor their commitments.

Lastly, access to finance for NGOS initiatives has to be part of all funds dealing with the issue. Unfortunately is not the case in current draft ToR for the Special Program Trust Fund.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Business and Industry welcome the report from the ED. They believe is crucial to continue the work towards the 2020 goal and setting a path for long term approaches beyond 2020.

Multistakeholder approaches and common search for solutions are very important, and welcomes its mentions in the report and draft decisions.

Business and Industry recognize that funding is important and are confident that it will be mobilized.

They believe that the new Special Programme is very much needed for the countries that lack capacity.

They agree with the mentions to SDGs as stated in the draft decisions as they did not consider this forum for discussing particular targets or objectives.

MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS AND MICRO PLATIC

BUSSINESS AND INDUSTRY, WOMEN, TRADE UNIONS, NGOS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Agree that marine debris is an important issue, that requires global attention in addition to action by all stakeholders at national and regional levels.

Agree plastics and other forms of marine debris should not be in the oceans.

Support efforts to reduce or eliminate marine debris from both ocean-based and land-based sources.

NGOs, WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS

Believe that immediate action has to be taken and welcome the resolution. Growing concern and threaten to ocean animal life. Action on plastics is important because they make up at least 60% of marine debris. As other waste problems, production has to incorporate from its design this growing concern.

They call on governments to raise awareness of the problem among all stakeholders and general public.

Chemical leachate from plastics into the sea water transfers to fish and other marine organisms. Small Island Developing States are vulnerable due to the reliance on seafood and subsequent impact on their health, and their problems have to be highlighted.

FARMERS MAJOR GROUP

The Farmers Major Group welcomes UNEA resolution/ decision number 9 on Marine Plastic Debris and Micro Plastics. Many studies on marine debris have shown that plastic consistently make up 60 to 80% of all marine debris.

They want to call also for the recognition of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFS) as an important part of marine debris based on its adverse impacts on marine biodiversity through both habitat disturbance and the effects of ghost fishing.

They also call for the recognition of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as the most effective route to protecting, and restoring the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine eco-systems and

an existing global commitment to achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment by 2025.

BUSSINESS

Bussiness would like to see not only plastic but all forms of marine waste included in the resolution.