

Statement by Workers and Trade Unions at the Opening of UNEA 3

Thank you President.

I am speaking on behalf of the Workers and Trade Union Major Group.

In recent years, the rates of workplace injuries and deaths have augmented in number due to the increased use of harmful and toxic chemicals at the workplace. Beyond the workplace, workers and communities are most susceptible to various forms of chronic diseases arising from poor air and water quality caused by pollution.

In this regard, we embrace the overall theme of UNEA-3 on a ‘pollution free planet’.

Our view of a pollution free planet is one that takes into account the principle of Just Transition for workers and their families, creation of decent and green jobs, protection of livelihoods and a world where universal social protection for all is guaranteed.

To this end, the Workers and Trade Union Major Group stress the need for parties to adopt resolutions centered on a rights based and inclusive model to sustainable development during this Assembly.

We acknowledge that work places are critical for the achievement of a pollution free planet and thus affirm our commitment to the fight to reduce pollution and its related effects on the planet.

We look forward to continued engagement with the United Nations Environment in the implementation of decisions from this Assembly and in the overall fight towards a pollution free planet.

Thank you!