

STATEMENT OF WOMEN MAJOR GROUP AT OECPR DELIVERED BY CAROLINE USIKPEDO (CO-CHAIR WMG) on Cluster 2 Resolutions 1 & 3

Thank you Chair, my name is Caroline Usikpedo from the Niger Delta Women's movement for Peace and Development, Nigeria representing the Women's Major Group.

We hope that UNEA 2 can effectively address issues of Chemicals & Waste including the consideration of a binding international tax on chemical and pharmaceutical sales for clean-up and health protection.

As mentioned earlier, the most affected from unsound management of chemicals and waste are women & children, especially Africa that has turned into a dumping ground, aided by corruption and other factors.

Issues of chemicals and waste need to also consider that not just chemicals remain in our bodies but also throughout the whole food chain thus it needs to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem protection into national health, economy, agriculture policies and investments. Capacity building and action plans to support low-income population to access safe ecologically clean food, water and air, shift towards organic local agriculture and production of small scale biofuels, locally and ecologically produced food to reduce land use pressure as well as reducing non communicable diseases and reducing the growing inequalities among countries and continents.

We should be careful not to add 'sustainable' to industries which are in their essence unsustainable, especially in light of the new concept of 'sustainable chemicals'. [For instance, petro-based chemicals and pesticides can never be safe: even in smallest doses petro-made chemicals can interfere with the hormone system of humans and animals and cause irreversible, lifelong damage, even damage to the health of the next generation.

Thank you.

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