

Thank you for the floor.

My name is Yuyun Ismawati, from Nexus3 Foundation, Indonesia. I'm speaking on behalf of the Women's Working Group on Ending Plastic Pollution, a network of over 200 organizations in 20 countries.

We appreciate the efforts and contributions of all delegates in the three contact groups to shape this negotiation. We welcomed the attention to chemicals of concern, which is not highlighted before, received good attention from delegates and the inclusion of gender perspective as a principle.

As the science-based data confirmed, plastic pollution directly impacts health. Several studies revealed that many everyday personal care products, e.g., contain microplastics, nanoplastics, and EDCs, exposing women to these harmful chemicals. However, studies have also shown unknown effects of larger groups of chemicals due to a lack of transparency.

Women, men, children and their families in countries who are unwilling to reduce plastic production and avoid the negotiation about polymers and chemicals of concern will face the same exposures and risks from harmful plastic chemicals in their daily lives.

In this sense, women's perspectives and health concerns must be considered and reflected in the treaty's negotiations, following Resolution 17 of UNEA 4, "Promote gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance".

We noted several interventions about the economic benefits of plastic production. However, it is necessary to consider the impacts that plastic pollution has on public health that potentially outweigh the benefits of plastics.

Scientists revealed that six out of nine Planetary Boundaries have been transgressed. Our humanity is threatened by the worst possible scenario of plastic pollution, the climate crisis, and biodiversity loss. Therefore, the One Health Approach is fundamental for this treaty.

Our call extends beyond immediate health concerns to emphasize the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic. The co-benefits of climate change and biodiversity control measures underscore the need for a holistic approach. Additionally, we stress the imperative to provide incentives for reducing plastics, eliminating harmful chemicals, and considering the workforce's just transition, particularly waste pickers.

Finally, we would like to remind all delegates that plastic pollution has been, is, and will always be a threat to human health, the ecosystem, and our future.

Thank you, Mr President.