

Thank you, Mr Chair.

I'm Yuyun Ismawati, from Nexus for Health, Environmental, and Development Foundation, speaking on behalf of Women's Major Group.

### **Regarding the involvement and implementation**

We would like to express our disappointment for not allowed to participate in the town halls consultation yesterday. We would like to see the more meaningful engagement of Major Groups in various consultation processes and have the opportunity to engage with higher delegates and not talking between ourselves.

We are the right-holders. UNEA should recognize the devastating impact of business stakeholder on rights-holders and the environment. UNEA also needs to recognize the conflict of interest of UNEP partnerships with polluters.

We are currently entering the digital era. UNEA should recognize that there is gender-digital divide where fewer women than men have access to the internet and are affected by the environmental and social impacts of digital technology production and development.

We need to re-thinking, re-orient the meaning of development, including in the digital form of development and how we can reduce, eliminate harmful practices towards a meaningful 'new normal' worldwide.

UNEA and government worldwide should provide more support for sustainable community-led solutions as well as facilitate rights-holders to engage in meaningful participation, including to assess the impact of new technologies.

### **Regarding Tackling the Ocean Pollution**

Women's Major Group support the legally binding approach to tackling ocean pollution. We request UNEA5 to adopt a mandate to negotiate a legally binding instrument that covers phase-out/reduction of plastic at the up-stream and middle-stream level and addresses the health impacts of plastic pollution.

We also would like to see the new treaty address other kinds of ocean pollution such as geoengineering, deep-sea mining, and chemicals hazardous wastes dumping to the ocean.

For a meaningful engagement and participation of stakeholders, we would like to see the representatives of impacted communities and vulnerable populations in the plastic negotiation process, including a meaningful engagement with the right-holders to assess new technologies.

### **On environmental health**

We need robust control and regulation to create a healthy environment for all, and it should be extended to planetary health. Corona pandemic shows that pollutions dropped drastically when strong regulations and control in place.

Women's Major Group call for UNEA to stop bailing out polluters, especially chemicals industry, agro-industry, etc. and divesting from dirty technology.

We want UNEA to actively recognize and emphasize the strong link between environmental pollution with human health that affect all populations. The polluters-pay principle needs to be strengthened, no fiscal incentives/subsidies for polluters and dirty business.

We need to replace agriculture and current food production system, with decentralized, localized, biodiverse peasant, and women-led agriculture system using agroecology approach.

We also need to enforce existing environmental health conventions and agreements, phase-out harmful chemicals production and use in products and processes, replace with organic and nature-based materials that will not be jeopardizing the food productions.

### **Regarding Ecosystem Restoration, Biodiversity and Development**

As mentioned earlier, we need to re-think the meaning of development and have a good reflection about what have we done before Corona crisis and how our planet healed and healthier for a couple of months.

We need to have a strong commitment and political will to reduce and eliminate harmful practices if we want to move towards a meaningful "new normal" globally.

We can start by ending dirty business practices that destroyed the ecosystem and ecosystem services. We all know which industry or sector that has contributed to the ecosystem disaster.

As significant sites of mineral deposits worldwide already depleted and mined by large mining companies in the last 50-60 years, the remaining deposits of minerals are now sitting under the biodiversity sensitive areas, indigenous peoples territory and protected forests. Deep-sea mining is coming up quickly as a new approach.

The mining sector will find a way to supply the demand and hungry for minerals for development and justify mining activities in protected areas labelled as climate-smart mining or forest-smart mining. There is no such thing as climate-smart mining. Indigenous peoples, small-farmers holders, and vulnerable communities will be hit hardest and might not enjoy the benefit of the 'new normal' climate-smart development.

Therefore, Women's Major Group call for a meaningful process and steps to rethink the development paradigm and financing, as well as stop funding false solutions. More support interventions using a landscape approach to maintain high biodiversity mix in the ecosystem will be needed if we want to have a balanced ecosystem restoration, biodiversity and "new normal" development.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.