

Thank you Madam President,

I take the floor on behalf of Sustainlabour and the International Trade Union Confederation that represents 175 million workers in the world. We would like to express our support to the inclusion of endocrine disrupting chemicals as an emerging issue.

The last decades have been important to understand some of the health and environmentally devastating impacts of EDC. Workers are the first in line suffering these impacts. Female and male workers from very different sectors are exposed to EDCs all over the world, agricultural workers, waste pickers, particularly e-waste workers, cleaning workers. **Exposure to EDC in the workplace can not only damage workers' health but compromise the health of their children.** We need action to protect specific vulnerable groups, such as pregnant or lactating woman workers. Workers have the right to know the effects of the hazardous substances they are using on a daily basis to earn their living.

We need to move quickly on two simultaneous tracks, one is the improvement in assessment and research on newer and less studied EDCs, and at the same time we need to start protecting workers NOW, communities and ecosystems through prevention and substitution policies. All governments need to design and put into place preventive policies for EDCs through their occupational health and safety departments, the health sector will need to require the inclusion of a labour history in their patients' medical records, and companies have to work together with OHS union representatives in assessing and preventing risks. Developing countries will need support to do these tasks.

In the framework of the UNEP WHO proposal, workers call for including among the collaborative action the development of a report, in line with SAICM's principles, on issues related to endocrine disrupting chemicals including, in particular, issues of relevance to workers in developing countries and economies in transition.

All stakeholders can count on our structures, with our capacities, for learning and acting together on better protecting our people.

Thank you very much Madam President.