

Madam chair, thank you for the floor.

We, the Children and Youth, have three points today, in our efforts to contribute to this collaborative learning space regarding chemicals.

The major group for youth and children finds the efforts of Japan to amass relevant data on the consequences of chemical pollution very reassuring. However, on a global scale we find it unacceptable that there has been no comprehensive quantification of these environmental effects. We echo the sentiments of the scientific community and the workers and trade unions Major Groups, in their request for additional research capacity and information-sharing, which is required for effective policy making at CSD19.

Secondly, the issue of chemical management crosses borders, impacting all nations, thus it is important for importing countries to retain their right to Prior-Informed-Consent. To ensure proper handling and disposal of approved chemical materials, the international community must actively work towards improving the capacities of workers in developing nations. North to South technology transfer is critical to facilitate sound chemical management, and it must be region-specific if it is to be effective.

Recognizing that chemicals are an important component of business, industry, agriculture and other sectors, we must be pragmatic yet precautionary in our use of chemicals, ensuring that they are better engineered to minimize the damage done to the environment, while maximizing efficiency. Furthermore, support must be given for the development of green alternatives--the use of harmful chemicals despite the availability of alternatives in production methods is no longer an acceptable excuse, given that we are all stakeholders and are all vulnerable to the negative impact of chemicals on our surrounding environments. Therefore, we would like to associate ourselves with the statements delivered by the distinguished delegate from Austria. We affirm our support for initiatives such as the REACH program, and appreciate Madam Guthrie's presentation which called for incentives for 'green alternatives'.

Thirdly, we encourage the creation of frameworks at the grassroots level. There needs to be appropriate communication, awareness and advocacy on both the advantages and disadvantages of chemical-use, to allow people to make more informed choices. Youth are most poised to take on the role of disseminating information from the scientific community to the grassroots level.

In conclusion, we, the youth and children, emphasize the need for a comprehensive chemical-pollution-repercussions study. We also urge all nations to prioritize capacity-building within chemical-importing countries, founded upon the Right-To-Know, while also working to prevent the illegal cross-border transfer of hazardous substances. Finally, education of local communities is crucial for the reduction of negative impacts of chemical pollution in developing countries. Let us work together to ensure a safe and clean world for all plant and animal species, and all peoples. Let our vision be world embracing. Thank you.