

**INTERVENTION by the Women's Major Group to UNEP**

On Women and Chemicals

During UNEP Open Ended CPR, Wednesday 26, 2014, Nairobi, Kenya

Thank you chair

I am from WICF/WECF and speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group

We briefly wanted to contribute to the discussion on chemicals just now and congratulate UNEP on the excellent work they are doing in this area.

This week, the LANCET<sup>1</sup> published a new report on the negative impact of hazardous chemicals on children.

The LANCET in addition to the five chemical groups published a few years ago, has added new chemicals, including Bisphenol-A and Phthalates but also some pesticides.

They estimate that 10-15% of all children born today are negatively impacted by chemicals.

Much more must be done to protect vulnerable groups from hazardous chemicals - women and children, - and in particular pregnant women.

Unfortunately these are chemicals we are in contact with ever day, in our food, clothing, in the plastics we use.

We are glad that UNEP is already giving attention to this matter - I know that they are undertaking a scoping study on women and chemicals this moment, - and we encourage them to take this further.

Thank you for your attention.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(13\)70278-3/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(13)70278-3/abstract)