Intersessional work

Thank you for the floor,

Dear distinguished delegates,

My name is Yuyun Ismawati, from Nexus3 Foundation, and I'm speaking on behalf of Women’s Working Group on Plastic Treaty.

We support intersessional works to discuss several issues to provide more clarity to be considered by member states in the next INCs. The intersessional works should be open for all stakeholders’ participation.

The first topic is the criteria of chemicals of concern. Plastics are made of carbon and chemicals, most of these added chemicals are hazardous. Toxicity throughout the life cycle of plastics affects our health, particularly women. Our children are being born pre-polluted, with toxic chemicals such as plasticizers, that disrupt the hormone system and can lead to infertility and irreversible disorder. Already today we find microplastics in humans, even in the brain, blood, lungs and breast-milk. Some of these chemicals already regulated under the Stockholm Convention but more works need to be done.

The second topic is the requirement for the National Implementation Plan (NIP) and National Action Plans (NAPs). Learning from the previous environmental agreement, the Minamata Convention on mercury, the National Action Plans can be developed for specific control measures which are part of the Implementation Plan. For example, there should be different or separated National Action Plans for every life cycle of plastics, such as the plan to reduce the production of plastics and plastics that are difficult to be recycled by a certain sunset date, action plan to reduce the plastic packaging and the associated chemicals of concern in certain sectors including its emissions and releases, and action plan to tackle the downstream issues of plastics.

Both plans, NIP and NAPs, should be designed and developed in consultation with all stakeholders, especially women as a disproportionately affected group following principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

Thank you.