

Plenary Session Intervention at the 6th Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention

May 7, 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

by Laurie Kazan-Allen, Coordinator of the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat

Thank you Madam President for giving us the floor.

I am speaking on behalf of the WECF, a participating member of the Rotterdam Convention Alliance.

During the lunch break there was a demonstration outside the conference hall of groups representing thousands of asbestos victims from around the world. With one voice they called for the right to know, a fundamental right enshrined within the Rotterdam Convention.

As we all know, the Convention was established to provide the right to prior informed consent to all countries, rich or poor, North or South.

For the FOURTH time the Chemical Review Committee has recommended listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III.

This recommendation has resulted from due process according to the conventions rules and procedures.

If the Convention is to fulfil its obligations, all Parties should support the listing of chrysotile.

The world is watching what is being done in this chamber. To safeguard human life, and preserve the Rotterdam Convention, we urge every Party to support the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III.