

In the framework of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development 18th Session

# “Asbestos – who pays the bill?”

## Testimonies and Dialogue on Policy Recommendations”

**Thursday, 6 May 2010**

**1:00 pm to 3:00 pm – Lunch will be provided**

**Conference room D, North Lawn Building**

**United Nations Headquarters, 866 United Nations Plaza, New York**

## Preliminary programme

### Opening by the organisers

**Sascha Gabizon**, WECF – Women in Europe for a Common Future

### Testimonies from asbestos production and processing countries

• **Pat Martin** (tbc), Member of the Parliament, Canada

Is member of the Parliament in Canada and a former worker in a Canadian asbestos mine, and promotes a ban of asbestos in Canada.

• **Olga Speranskaya**, Eco Accord Russia and Goldman Prize winner

Will present the findings of her NGO's inventory on the situation on asbestos in Russia, which is the biggest asbestos producer worldwide.

• **Kaisha Atakhanova**, Eco Forum Kazakhstan and Goldman Prize winner

Her NGO is working on chemical safety and asbestos in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is the second biggest producer of asbestos worldwide.

She will share lessons learned from mapping and awareness raising on chrysotile asbestos.

• **Yuyun Ismawati**, Bali Focus and Goldman Prize winner

Indonesia is a high consumer of asbestos containing building materials.

### State of the art

• **Rotterdam Convention Secretariat** (tbc) – Why is the listing of chrysotile asbestos under Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention important?

• **Barry Castleman**, Environmental consultant – What is the scientific state of the art?

• **World Health Organisation** (tbc) – No end of asbestos-related diseases in sight?

• **International Trade Unions** – Asbestos workers victims and the need for a just transition

### Lessons learned

**Ministry of Environment The Netherlands** (tbc) – Lessons learned and the costs of non-acting

**International Social Security Association** – The socio-economic costs of asbestos

### Round Table Discussion and Dialogue

Towards stronger national and international, binding policies, on asbestos mining, use and waste disposal.

**Moderation Sascha Gabizon**, WECF – Women in Europe for a Common Future



### Contact in New York:

Alexandra Caterbow, WECF, +49-179-52 44 994

Sascha Gabizon, WECF, +49-172-86 37 586

WECF Germany  
Sankt-Jakobs-Platz 10,  
80331 Munich  
Phone: +49-89-2323938-0  
Fax: +49-89-2323938-11

WECF The Netherlands  
PO Box 13047,  
3507 LA, Utrecht  
Phone: +31 - 30 - 23 10 300  
Fax: +31 - 30 - 23 40 878

WECF France  
BP 100, 74103  
Annemasse Cedex  
Phone: +33-4-50490738  
Fax: +33-4-50499738

