

## **Women Major Group – Mining statement:**

Thank you, Mr Chair.

We see many problems still not unsolved regarding the mining issue. There is a huge lack of awareness on mining-related health problems and the negative environmental impact.

Mining is an extreme source of environmental pollution and a health hazard. For example, unsustainable artisan gold mines cause mercury contamination of the territory, pose high health risk to the workers, make a significant negative effect to the ecosystems. Asbestos mining is a good example of how workers and women health is jeopardized. Even if women are not directly involved into asbestos mining asbestos fibres on their husbands' closure could impact women's health.

Effects of mining on local communities are disastrous due to health problems, human rights violations, especially of indigenous peoples, undemocratic processes and corruption.

Despite this, compensation for damage and illness is not internalized in the costs and the profits leave often the country without any benefit to the citizens or workers.

All decision-making processes regarding mining require greater involvement of civil society, especially indigenous peoples, workers and women since they and their children are often most affected by mining activities.

More women are becoming miners themselves. Their personal safety needs to be protected through the enactment of clear health and safety guidelines, supported by awareness education with strict monitoring and evaluation systems for compliance.

The rights of local communities to control their local natural resources, share in mining profits, and bring mining companies to court in case of abuse need to be ensured by global and national legally binding agreements.

The rights of indigenous peoples need to be safeguarded. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples needs to be implemented.

A global liability framework needs to be created, which assures accountability of the mining sector and compensation payments for damage. Governments need to ensure more corporate liability. Governments and mining companies have to be held responsible for their unsustainable mining practices, including post-mining effects.

Multi-lateral and international financial institutes need to develop strict guidelines and control mechanisms in order to avoid financing of mining projects that violate human rights and damage the environment, biodiversity and natural resources.

The safe closing of exploited mines costs billions of dollars, which mostly has to be paid by governments, taxpayers, or financing agencies, but not by the mining industry. Even after mines are closed, the surrounding territories stay destroyed and contaminated. Often mines are the one-company town. It means that closure of the mines result in social and economic problems in the communities. So after mine closure people think about new jobs and not about environmental degradation and contamination of the surroundings