

Resolution

This meeting of unions, NGOs and asbestos groups, meeting under the auspices of SEABAN, determines as follows:

1. We are united in our common demand that we will not cease our campaigning until asbestos in all its forms is banned and removed from the workplace, the built environment, and the community generally.
2. We note that asbestos is subject of national and international regulation in its crocidolite form, but not chrysotile. This is despite there being no safe level to exposure of asbestos in any form.
3. Currently the production, transport, use, storage and disposal of chrysotile is not subject to the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention, despite its toxic nature. All except 7 signatories to the Convention accept the need for it to be listed, but because the Convention currently requires unanimous endorsement before a substance is listed, this prevents its listing.
4. This meeting notes and endorses the actions of the African group of countries to change the provisions of the Convention to require a 3/4 majority for a substance to be listed.
5. We commit to seeking the agreement of our national governments to this change. We also commit to seeking the listing of chrysotile in Annex III.
6. To pursue these aims, we will:
 - (a) Maintain and improve the network created through A-BAN and SEABAN, bringing all local unions, NGOs and victims groups together to discuss and endorse a common platform;
 - (b) Write to the relevant level of government (national, provincial or local) to put forward the proposals;
 - (c) Seek to meet the relevant government representatives to forward the demands.

All unions, NGOs, victims groups, health agencies, and, where possible, employer groups which are prepared to agree, commit to maintaining communication through social media, etc, and to provide regular updates to each other about actions taken.

At the appropriate time, this group will reconvene electronically to coordinate our approach to the COP in Geneva in April 2017.

Coordination activity will be undertaken by regional groups, working cooperatively.