

Women's Major Group Recommendations

Mining is probably the most harmful activity for environment, biodiversity and health. Mining is unsustainable in its nature. I would like to give an example from my country Kazakhstan on uranium mining.

My name is Kaisha Atakhanova, Board member of Eco-Forum, a network of 100 NGOs in the country. I am speaking for the Women's Major Group. In my country we have about 100 uranium mines. Which have been operating for over 50 years. What you who are users of nuclear energy probably do not know, is the terrible consequences of uranium mining.

The low radioactive waste from mines has already polluted many of water resources and soil. To produce only 60,000 tons of uranium, we have generated more than 200 million tons of radioactive waste in the past 50 years.

We have not even started to contain and clean up the uranium mining tailings. Only emergency measures were taken. But the radionuclides continue to pollute daily our water and our air. Our children use the uranium tailing areas as a playground. We see every day the health impacts, but we have no epidemiological data. All of this information has been secret and it is still not investigated. People are just not informed. There is a lack of information on radiation impact on health.

We therefore call for:

The UN to hold an international tribunal on the effects of uranium mining and transboundary pollution from tailing. We need truly independent monitoring bodies– with participation of affected communities to monitor all uranium mining and waste operations.

We call for:

The UN should develop **a global financial mechanism** paid for by nuclear industry for clean up uranium mining tailings. Just for one country, Kyrgyzstan, this requires an estimate 50 billion Euros to clean up. The production costs of any new mines must include cleanup costs of old one.

We call for:

A moratorium for new uranium mines until old mines have been safely closed, meaning, no more contamination of air and water from low radioactive materials.

Thank you