

**FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
*GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009***

**Agenda item 6. Chemicals**

Intervention by the World Society for the Protection of Animals<sup>1</sup>

Thank you Chair,

we represent the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the world's largest alliance of animal welfare organizations with over 1000 Member Societies and a presence in over 150 countries.

To begin we endorse the two statements previously made by the Women in Europe for a Common Future and the Albanian Association of Organic Horticulture.

We wish to highlight the importance of considering animal welfare when addressing Chemicals Management. Electronic waste threatens not only humans and environmental health but also animals. Pesticides are the largest source of chemical exposure in developing countries where the majority of the one billion of the world's poorest people depend on animals for food, livelihood and social status. Animals are harmed from chemical exposure yet they provide a vital source of protein, are used for transport, cultivation and many other agricultural practices. Therefore we endorse production, like organic farming, to reduce chemicals in the environment.

The sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human, animal and environmental health, and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development.

Considering this, we encourage governments, the private sector and civil society to share in the task of improving animal welfare practices and also recognize animal welfare as a cross-cutting issue within CSD.

Alli Doherty  
Project Co-ordinator

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<sup>1</sup> The text is presented as received from the author.