

Barbara Pecarich presented an intervention on behalf of the World Uranium Hearing (WUH) on the question of safe and environmentally sound methods of radioactive waste storage. The intervention questioned the so-called working models of radioactive waste management referred to in PC-34 which are based on the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Code of Practice dealing with the International Transboundary Movements of Radioactive Waste. The Code states that "nuclear power generation and the utilization of radioisotopes involve the generation of radioactive waste". However the definition ignores the very beginning of the nuclear chain when uranium is taken from the ground leaving behind tailings which contain up to 85% of the original radioactivity.

With 70% of the mining of uranium ore occurring on indigenous lands, the WUH questioned why the impact of uranium production is not included in the definition of radioactive waste. It also urged that knowledge of the full range of dangers and negative effects of the nuclear chain in case studies should be made available to those nations who are considering the developing of nuclear energy facilities. The WUH also called upon the UNCED Secretariat to prepare a report on the extent to which NGOs have participated in international programmes, mechanisms and organizations dealing with the environmental ramifications of nuclear energy. And finally, the WUH asked that the IAEA be required to prepare a revised Code of Practice given the shortcomings in the current text.

8. WORKING GROUP II: PROTECTION OF OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

Much of the substantive discussions have been postponed until after the Halifax Intergovernmental Meeting to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia this May. The Halifax meeting will prepare global strategies and action plans for the consideration by Working Group II at PrepCom III.