Greetings and thanks to the Conference Centre workers, interpreters, caterers, hotel and security staff.

On behalf of the workers, I have four reflections I want to share.

First: a safe and healthy working environment has now been recognised internationally as a fundamental human right, a right which is only realisable if workers are informed, empowered and enabled through freedom of association. That has enormous implications for the management of chemical risks.

Because, second, from extraction, production and use to distribution and disposal, my 200 million members and all our potential members around the world deserve decent, safe, healthy and sustainable jobs along the value and supply chain, through private and public investment decisions, public procurement and trade, all on the basis of due diligence.

Third, my members include vulnerable workers, young and older workers, indigenous groups and of course women, exploited and abused because the risks they are forced to run are preventable. And while workers are on the frontline, first users of the chemicals we are discussing, they live in communities – especially in Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific – affected and impoverished by chemicals, but without the money to deal with them. We need a new Quick Start Programme at scale and at speed, with all governments following the German example on funding.

And fourth, thanking our German hosts for what I know has been a gruelling two weeks in a wonderful city our colleagues will have seen far too little of, I note that Chancellor Scholz in his message yesterday asked us to be ambitious in our High Level Declaration. We need a Just Transition that leaves no one behind, for a cleaner, greener future.