

## **ROCA - Rotterdam Convention Alliance**

**ROCA is an Alliance of Environmental, Labour and Health organizations around the world working to promote the full and effective implementation of the Rotterdam Convention**

### **Intervention at Plenary Session of COP4, October 31, 2008 by Madhumita Dutta, Rotterdam Convention Alliance delegate**

As NGOs working with workers and their families exposed to Chrysotile asbestos in our countries, we are shocked and distressed at the outcome of the decision or rather indecision on inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in the annex III. It seems obvious that the parties to this convention, including those who have opposed to the listing of chrysotile asbestos in the annex III, have not disagreed to the science or the scientific process that conclusively proves this substance's ability to harm, especially people in the poorer countries.

Therefore obviously the opposition to its listing has been based purely on domestic commercial and political interests, undermining the larger public health and human rights interest that this convention promotes by giving rights to countries to make informed decision.

This is indeed a very sad state of affairs. While the parties here today decide to bring back the decision on inclusion of chrysotile asbestos to COP 5 in two or three years, there will be so many more lives lost, uninformed and unprotected due to this deadly substance, thanks to the entrenched position of a few.