

Asia-Pacific Group Statement in Resumed 1st session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

Madam Chair!

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues, I would like to deliver a statement on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.

1- The Asia-Pacific would like to thank the government and people of Thailand for hosting the resumed segment of the open-ended working group. We congratulate your election as the chair of this group and wish you success in undertaking your tasks in continuation of the work of OEWG. Our group also appreciates the Secretariat for its hard work for organizing this meeting.

2- The Asia-Pacific regional group is pleased to state that the first meeting of OEWG for sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution based on UNEA Resolution 5/8 has been held successfully. We would like to highlight the need for further efforts and support particularly with regard to mobilization of resources for implementing the mandate of OEWG and its future meetings. We also appreciate the generous support of donors for organizing the first meeting of OEWG and continuation of the work of Secretariat.

3- Furthermore, we reiterate the need to respect the mandate that we all have decided under UNEA resolution 5/8. The resolution is the result of hard negotiations and the spirit of mutual understanding, therefore, fulfilling its mandate should be our top priority. The Group stresses that the discussions of all the elements listed in the resolution should receive the same attention to ensure a balanced and consensus-based outcome.

4- With respect to future OEWG meetings, we welcome an in-person format to overcome some of the logistical challenges and limitations which affected reflecting our positions and providing inclusive and fair representation.

5- Many countries in the Asia-Pacific are amongst the developing countries and recognize the importance of capacity building including providing financial resources, technical assistance and transfer of technology to support these countries in achieving the mandate of Science Policy Panel on chemicals, wastes and prevention of pollution.

6- The Asia-Pacific regional group attaches paramount importance for attaining the consensus-based decisions in the process of negotiations and meetings of the OEWG. Furthermore, we would like to underscore the importance of gender and regional balance in the representation and participation of the scientists and other relevant stakeholders in the future work of the SPP.

7- The Group is committed to actively engaging in the importance of discussions ahead of us. We are pleased that the first meeting of the OEWG has laid down the foundations for our endeavour towards the final goal of establishing the SPP in 2024. We welcome and support the offer of Jordan and Qatar to host the second meeting of OEWG which shows the commitment of Asia-Pacific region.

In concluding our statement, the Asia-Pacific Group reiterates its commitment to proactively engage in the discussions, and we look forward to a productive further work ahead of us.

I thank you Madam Chair.