



I'm Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik from Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group, the official children and youth constituency to UNEP. We thank member states and observers for incorporating the needs of vulnerable populations such as children, youth, women, and the health-compromised in the conversation.

We have shared concrete proposals to all on what we believe can effectively improve this multilateral process within the context of the OEWG and the establishment of a future Science-Policy Panel:

First, We believe that the future panel should focus broadly and integrate Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution in all ecosystems, including Water, Soil, Air, Ocean, etc. The panel's objective must address environmental human rights in coherence with UNGA resolution 76/300, which recognizes the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right.

Second, based on observation, we agree with numerous member states that this panel must be gender-responsive. We believe that gender should not remain an issue when deciding who will make up this future panel.

Third, we reiterate that capacity building should be considered one of the core functions of the panel. It should include enhancing the knowledge and skills of youth so that they can contribute substantially to the panel's work.

Fourth, We stress the establishment of a Multi-Disciplinary Youth Expert Group on Chemicals Waste and Pollution, and therefore we request support from member states directly towards the Youth Constituency.

Let me use this opportunity to inform you that the Children and Youth Constituency is open to engaging with all member states, and we look forward to meaningfully and constructively engaging in this process. Therefore, we ask for dedicated funding support from member states for the Children and Youth Major Group for youth participation at the future sessions of OEWG. Support the #PowerInYouth

Thank you for the floor Chair,