



Statement on Functions 31 January

GAHP thanks the Secretariat for Document 1/5. Like Mexico, Canada, the EU, and others, GAHP would prefer to use UNEA Resolution 5/8 as the basis for further work on functions. This is because we are somewhat confused by the Secretariat's paper which seems to give some long-term work streams to this Open-ended Working Group which has a very limited life span. Like the US, we see choices on those work streams as being for the Panel itself and are not sure how much the OEWG should pre-empt how the Panel chooses to implement them.

GAHP shares the view of Africa, GRULAC and others that capacity building should be a function of the Panel. Like the EU and Liberia, GAHP thinks this should be focused on enabling researchers from developing countries to participate fully in the work of the Panel. It would be useful to learn more about how this works in IPBES.

In our latest Lancet publication reviewing progress since 2017 on the impacts of pollution on human health, GAHP drew attention to the inadequacy of the agreed Sustainable Development Goal Indicators for assessing global trends in sound chemicals and waste management and combatting pollution. In carrying out its assessment function, we would urge the Panel to give priority to suggesting improvements in these indicators so that they attract more political interest. It would of course be for Member States in the UN to decide on any changes in indicators.

Finally, we are aware that a broad scope is necessary but brings its own challenges. We would urge the Panel to use the impacts on human and ecosystem health as the primary means to set priorities. GAHP welcomes the WHO statement just made especially on the need to concentrate on the impacts of pollution.

Jill.hanna@cantab.net +44 7342 388 159

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