

Thank You Madame Chair and thank you to the Kingdom of Thailand for the opportunity to network and make new connections at the warm and welcoming reception yesterday evening.

The Royal Society of Chemistry is an accredited UNEP Major Group and is a not-for-profit organisation in the Scientific and Technological Community. The Royal Society of Chemistry agrees with the four principal functions in resolution 5/8 and as an observer today would like to contribute a few observations.

- Horizon scanning - we feel this needs further discussion and a definition developed of what this means in this specific context of the science-policy panel. For example, some academic scientists may view horizon scanning as a blue-sky exercise to think about the mid-long term horizon through a creative exercise of what research might be possible one day, what if scenarios etc.
- Members of our scientific community see horizon scanning for the SPP as looking at emerging issues in a practical way on the near horizon that require early action by governments to prevent serious adverse outcomes, for example where the scientific evidence is already providing early indicators.
- Collation and review of data in the form of technical assessments can include quite complex evidence from both the natural sciences and socio-economic sciences, and translating the technical language of the evidence base in a clear and understandable way to general audiences, including for raising public awareness, is an important function of this panel
- It is important for the work to be highly policy relevant. By the nature of science, there is always more data and evidence to be gathered to explore a problem. In the identification of data and evidence gaps, the panel should advise on the types of evidence gaps that if filled would enable a policy to be more robustly developed and implemented or decisions to be taken by governments with confidence, given the nature of the risk context and the uncertainties in the evidence package.
- The sharing of data and information between countries and through capacity building is extremely important here. Science is already a global collaborative endeavour, and there will be existing channels through the scientific community, societies and conferences to aid this function.
- Developing a common global science and evidence base, of authoritative and credible evidence, helps to develop common understanding in policy arenas across geographies and where difference are not based on the science but on other legitimate factors.
- The panel will need to develop different ways to translate the evidence in different forms for different sectors, geographies and populations. Clear risk and impact communication, as part of information sharing, is an essential function.