



Statement at OEWG1.2: Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

Agenda item 6

Functions of the future Science-Policy Panel

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I am Mrinalini Rai, speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group.

We believe the panel's function should prioritize the functions of **horizon scanning** as well as the facilitation of **information-sharing** with low- and middle-income countries, and **capacity building**.

In line with Article 6 of the Resolution, we expect **transparency**, regional and gender balance, and full and effective participation in all decision-making processes, including **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**, and Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge.

As mentioned in INF/4, we do reiterate that collaborations with existing bodies will be key for success, both for scope and functions.

The Kunming Montreal Global **Biodiversity** Framework adopted at CBD COP15 in December, has a specific Target (7), addressing chemicals, waste and pollution-reduction, negative impacts of pollution from all sources by 2030; including at least half reduction of risks from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals, and to work towards elimination plastic pollution."

Finally, we recall that access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a universal **human right**, as are science-based policies to protect the human rights of individuals and communities exposed to hazardous substances and wastes.

Under these functions, it's key that the panel addresses the need for **better gender-related data** on chemicals and their effects, waste and pollution. Therefore, the science-policy panel must improve data collection and data availability, and should ensure data quality with gender-disaggregated data.

As mentioned by many member states, including Eswatini, Costa Rica on behalf of GRULAC, Chile, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago, and Canada, we support ensuring a gender-responsive SPP, upholding human rights, and including both traditional and scientific knowledge in the SPP.

Thank you.