

## **The European Union and its Member States, statement in plenary January 31, 2023**

### **Item 6 Functions**

#### **On horizon scanning:**

The EU and its Member States would like to extend its gratitude towards the secretariat for developing document 1/5. We consider this document as a good background information rather than a document for negotiations. The EU and its Member States support the functions outlined in UNEA resolution 5/8 and prefer using that text as basis for the deliberations.

For the EU and its Member States, horizon scanning is forward looking and can assist in identifying and prioritizing new developments in emerging global issues of concern.

The EU and its Member States support that the horizon scanning function comprises two purposes, a) informing the further development of existing work programs and b) to potentially identify future work areas including emerging issues. Our expectations are that outputs from horizon scanning will be considered in the assessment function. We welcome further clarifications and deliberations as regards the purpose and functions and composition of an expert group that may be established for the implementation of the horizon scanning.

#### **On assessment function:**

The EU and its Member States finds it important that the panel has the possibility to give rather rapid responses on certain assessments, but it's too early to take stand on what sort of assessments would require such rapid response by the SPP. The output of the SPP should be of high relevance for the specific target groups, easy to find and access, and fully understandable by all potential users.

The desired output of the SPP is to provide policy relevant but not policy prescriptive information, in particular options on how to sustainably design and produce chemicals and products as well as to reduce or avoid exposure to and adverse effects of harmful chemicals, waste and pollution and to identify where further research is needed.

**On Knowledge management, communication, and information-sharing:**

The EU and its Member States consider that tailored communication and informationsharing is of high importance for an effective and successful SPP and that in the future, a communication strategy is a necessary basis for achieving it. To be able to target the communication rightly, an advisory board or similar on communication may need to be established.

Equal to IPCC, SPP functions for producing and sharing knowledge and information should be defined with emphasis on enabling Member States and stakeholders to achieve sound management of chemicals and waste and prevention of pollution.

**On capacity building**

The EU and its Member States would like to highlight the distinction between the “capacity building” provided through technical assistance under MEAs and one that could be relevant under the SPP. We believe that scientific capacity building is desirable and needed, however, under the SPP it should have a function of ensuring broader contribution from all members of the panel to its work.



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