

Africa Statement on Function of the SPP

The Africa region welcomes the identified four principal functions of the SPP as stated in paragraph 2 of the UNEA resolution 5/8. However, we propose that the functions should be expanded.

We note that many institutions are already conducting capacity-building activities in chemicals and waste and prevention of pollution at the national, regional and global levels, but their combined efforts is marginal and need to be complemented without being duplicated as the capacity gap between developed and developing countries keeps widening due to emerging chemicals, waste and pollution issues that require specialized capacity and experience to deal with. Therefore, the function of the panel should be expanded to include capacity building especially for the developing countries to enable them partake adequately in the work of the panel and implementation of its outputs. Capacity building is needed in translating scientific data into policy relevant documents; testing infrastructure, amongst others.

The functions should also include :

- i. Comprehensive need assessments and foresight-oriented functions.
- ii. Mobilisation of adequate, sustainable, predicatable and timely financial resources for implementation of SPP functions.
- iii. Institution of proper coordination amongst the Community of Practice.