

General Statement at OEWG1.2: Science-Policy Panel (SPP) to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the environmental management of chemicals and waste, and has been actively promoting positive progress on all fronts.

In terms of the environmental management of chemicals, **firstly**, the Chinese government has been preventing environmental risks of chemicals from the source, and has enacted a new registration system for the environmental management of new chemicals since 2003; **secondly**, we have been promoting the environmental risk assessment of existing chemical substances, and has published two lists of chemicals prioritized for control; **thirdly**, we have been strictly implementing international conventions such as the Stockholm Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Minamata Convention to eliminate or restrict the production and use of relevant chemical substances and strictly control their release; **fourthly**, we have been actively promoting the development of a system of technical standards, and have developed a series of technical guidelines for environmental risk assessment and are continuously improving testing methods. In addition, China issued the Action Plan for the Control of New Pollutants in May 2022, further specifying the direction and arrangements for the management of environmental risks of toxic chemical substances.

In terms of solid waste pollution prevention and control, **firstly**, the Chinese government has implemented a ban on imported waste and promoted the reform of the system managing the import of solid waste since 2017, with the goal of zero import of solid waste achieved at the end of 2020; **secondly**, it has organized the "zero-waste city" construction to constantly improve the comprehensive solid waste management capacity; **thirdly**, it has stepped up reforms to enhance hazardous waste supervision, utilization and disposal capabilities, accelerated the improvement of the weak links of collection and treatment facilities, especially the safe treatment of medical waste during the epidemic; **fourthly**, it has further strengthened the whole-chain management of plastic pollution, actively promoted the reduction of use from the source, regulated waste plastic recycling and treatment, and continued to reduce waste plastic leakage to the environment.

Globally, the environmental management of chemicals and waste still faces enormous challenges. The Chinese government firmly supports the establishment of the SPP and provides the following recommendations for the SPP:

First, the SPP is expected to actively provide support for the establishment of sound policy and legal systems for the environmental management of chemicals globally, especially in

developing countries;

Second, the SPP is expected to promote the technology transfer for chemical environmental risk assessment and control, including computational toxicology, environmental risk assessment, green chemistry, emission/discharge control technologies, reduction and control technologies, etc.;

Third, countries and regions should be called on to fulfill their responsibilities for environmentally sound management of solid waste, strengthen transboundary movement management, enhance local treatment capacity building, and continue to reduce the environmental risks of transboundary movement of solid waste;

Fourth, it is essential to pay due attention to the major concerns faced by developing countries and regions, increase assistance and support to these countries and regions by organizing capacity building activities at both national and regional levels, and invite more experts from developing countries to join the SPP;

Fifth, the establishment of the SPP should be advanced actively and effectively on the basis of broad consensus. We believe that an integrated approach to defining the scope of the SPP and the recommended four key steps are reasonable and feasible, but attention should be paid to strengthening collaboration with related organizations and avoiding overlapping with existing organizations and their work.

The establishment of the SPP is of great significance for the world, especially for developing countries, to address the environmental challenges from chemicals and waste, solve technological problems, improve policy and legal systems, and enhance management capacity. The Chinese government highly appreciates the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the countries concerned in this regard, and will continue to work closely with the international community, actively participate in the preparations for the SPP and contribute to the global environmental governance of chemicals and waste.