

OEWG 1.2: Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention.

Agenda item 6:

Thank you, madam Chair!

On the functions of the panel, Liberia supports the four core functions outlined by the UNEP in its guiding document relating to resolution 5/8. We believe they captured all the essential functions of the panel, and those options proposed were based on in-depth information. Just like the EU and the UK, our uncertainty is with "horizon scanning". While it is a policy tool that might be vital to the panel, we think it is essential to define it in the scope of this panel and the importance of adopting it.

Additionally, we believe that the functions did not capture to address the challenges at member states' scientific and policy-making levels. Sometimes, there can be insufficient buy-in to mainstreaming scientific issues by policymakers at the national level. This gap can and may affect or impair the functions and scope of the panel locally. Therefore, Liberia proposes that the secretariat consider this as we establish the panel.

Liberia also proposes capacity enhancement and infrastructure development as one of the core functions of the panel. Many Multilateral Environmental Agreements are building capacities, but this panel is unique and specific. Therefore, it must equip local scientists and experts from member states, which economies are in transition or with developing economies, to put them on the same level and give them the tool to provide information and data to the panel in a uniform and specific manner.

Lastly, Liberia proposed further developing other operating principles to supplement the functions and scope of the panel.

Thank you for your attention.