

Bangkok, 1 February 2023

Dear Chair of OEWG SPPCWP,

As a follow-up to our meeting yesterday, on behalf of the organizations listed below, please accept our sincere gratitude for agreeing to meet with us during such a busy time during the Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Pollution and Waste (SPPCWP) OEWG. Your willingness to meet with us at such an early stage in your chairwomen-ship is greatly appreciated.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the critical points of our discussion and memorialize next steps.

Some observations that were expressed regarding the current discussions of the OEWG included the lack of discussion regarding the linkages between food production/access and the use of chemicals (including the fisheries/farming industry) as a relevant issue for the future SPP to consider. Observers raised questions about the intersessional process and how to engage and contribute effectively in the regional work. Another question that was expressed is in relation to the lack of clarity on how the work of the future SPPCWP will “trickle down” to the local and community level where the largest negative impacts of the mismanagement of chemicals, pollution, and waste are seen. There was also a concern raised regarding how the SPPCWP will include gender aspects beyond gender balance in discussions around data and impacts, including that the future panel will be gender sensitized.

Representatives from the Children and Youth major group requested support to establish a Youth Expert Group on chemicals, waste and pollution that would include young and/or early-career scientists. They also suggested SPPCWP should adopt the stakeholder engagement mechanism of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO). The Co-chair of Major Groups and Stakeholders at UNEP also supported the suggestion by Children and Youth to utilize the GEO model of engaging all major groups in SPP work, subpanels, and activities and maybe include a representative from major groups and stakeholders in the bureau.

Academic scientists present at the meeting pointed out the challenge of the current UNEA accreditation process for academic institutions. Currently, they cannot be accredited given that in many cases they are government-supported and it is difficult to prove a non-government status. The current workaround for academic scientists is to join an accredited NGO and register for the meetings under this affiliation. This is a pragmatic solution but does not solve the problem that academic institutions as a major source of scientific results, data, and insights are not visible in the system. Further, this workaround cements "scientists" as an "interest group" in the process, rather than as providing independent advice and support.

In terms of the future work of the OEWG, representatives expressed interest in participating and contributing to the intersessional work to include areas such as capacity building, training, and webinars on the SPP. Representatives further suggested to include the topic of the SPP

process on the agenda of the regional consultative meetings of major groups and stakeholders in preparation for UNEA.

As a result of the discussions and the identification of opportunities for next steps, below are agreed ways forward:

- The Chair will discuss with the SPPCWP Bureau on how to engage with major groups and stakeholders. The Chair further clarified that the composition of the panel and selection of their experts will be discussed in a next session of the OEWG, and that she expected that the Secretariat will continue to engage MGSB in the activities organized in the intersessional period towards the next OEWG.

Again, we thank you for taking the time to meet with us, and for your sincere and thoughtful responses. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with you throughout the SPPCWP process.

Signed,

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION
OUR SEA OF EAST ASIA NETWORK (OSEAN)
INDEPENDENT SCIENTISTS: INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON CHEMICAL POLLUTION (IPCP)
CARPIN, UTECH, JAMAICA
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MSP
INSTITUTE)
SCIENTIST: UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST
NEXUS FOR HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT (NEXUS3) FOUNDATION
CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, SRI LANKA
MARINE ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTED AREAS TRUST OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ENDOCRINE SOCIETY
WOMEN4BIODIVERSITY
GULF RESEARCH CENTER
CHILDREN & YOUTH MAJOR GROUP
GROSS INTERNATIONAL NATURE (GIN)
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MAJOR GROUP
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (CIEL)
ASSOCIATION OF UGANDA PROFESSIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE &
ENVIRONMENT (AUPWAE)
CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT SOCIETY
(CECOEDECOL)
NORWEGIAN RESEARCH CENTRE (NORCE)
CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT, KENYA
INTERNATIONAL POLLUTANTS ELIMINATION NETWORK (IPEN)

ECOWASTE COALITION
CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OF PENANG
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GENDER, FAMILY AND ENVIRONMENT IN DEVELOPMENT
(CGFED), VIETNAM
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BAN TOXICS
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (ESDO), BANGLADESH
WONJIN INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (WIOEH), KOREA
GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL