

ESWATINI STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 6

Madam Chair allow me to (The Kingdom of Eswatini) join all those who have taken the floor before us to warmly congratulate you Madam Chair for assuming your position as chair of this OEWG. We also seize the opportunity to equally thank the UNEP Secretariat for the preparations of this meeting and the Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm reception we have received since our arrival here.

For the Scope Madam Chair, Eswatini is in favour of a broad systematic approach to chemicals, waste, and pollution. That is to say an integrated scope for the Science-Policy Panel which is adaptable, flexible, gender responsive and inclusive and also taking into account the centrality of achieving the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international agreements and frameworks, by significantly reducing their release to the air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment in line with target 12.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We need an SPP that will come out with scientific information to help address capacity challenges across all nations, enable more effective and efficient action to minimize and prevent the adverse impact of the unsound management of chemicals and waste, and prevent pollution to improve human well-being and contribute to the prosperity of all.

In a nutshell, Eswatini advocates for a scope that seeks to strengthen the science-policy interface on the sound management of chemicals, waste, and pollution and associated impacts at the global and regional scales to safeguard human health and the health ecosystem.

In terms of functions, Eswatini propose that the SPP should (a) identify key gaps in scientific research and potential evidence-based options to address them; and (b) Facilitate information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries. May I emphasize Madam Chair that Capacity-building activities should focus on improving capabilities to produce scientifically

based knowledge to support a diversity of interested parties, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

I THANK YOU!!