

- Thank you madam Chair,
- Since the last plenary session, the contact group on scope and functions met twice.
- Our task as mandated by the Chair of the working group was related to the objective, scope, and functions of the panel as well as to consider elements of possible intersessional work.
- We had very constructive discussions on the objective on the panel following the informative discussions from the previous sessions. In this context, and drawing from the example of the objective and functions of IPBES, discussions indicated a desire to keep the objective short, yet broad while considering that other specific elements that had been introduced earlier in the draft objective could be reflected elsewhere.
- The group considered that the following elements, among others, could be further considered when developing other proposals for the science policy panel, while noting that there were differing views: the delivery of policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive, the contribution of indigenous and traditional knowledge, human rights approach, all forms of pollution including pollution related to chemicals, waste and release to air, water, soil and the oceans, the promotion of innovation, transparency, inclusivity and complementarity.
- With this in mind, the co-chairs made a proposal, based on the IPBES text, which included a proposed objective, together with the functions, with the understanding that the four functions as adopted in resolution UNEA5/8 were agreed, while further discussions were needed on a potential fifth function on capacity building. For the benefit of those delegates who were not present in the contact group, I would like to read out the text on :  
*[The **objective of the panel** is to strengthen the science policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution for the protection of human health and the environment, with the following **functions**:]*
- The text on objective has been left in brackets with the understanding that future discussions of the OEWG may continue to inform the objective.
- Madam Chair - With regards to proposals for the functions of the panel, we have not been able to further discuss the inclusion of a fifth function on capacity building. We know however that bilateral consultations were

planned and we hope that further progress will be achieved today, if you would allow us additional time.

- Finally, regarding intersessional work, it was discussed that, to further inform the discussion on the objective and functions of the panel, the OEWG could consider in the intersessional process other elements such as the development of prioritization criteria, a conceptual framework, operating principles. It was also mentioned that further work could be needed on the horizon scanning and assessment functions.
- This being said, it was the feeling of the group that our discussions should not duplicate those of contact group 2, and that the planning of intersessional work should be left to contact group 2, taking into account the discussions of our group
- In closing, madam chair, my co-chair and I would like to thank all the participants who took part in this contact group. Their expertise and professionalism made for a pleasant working atmosphere, and I am grateful for the spirit of compromise they showed at the meeting. Madam chair I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their support during this contact group.
- Thank you Madam Chair.