

- Thank you madam Chair
- Since the last plenary session, the contact group on scope and functions met twice.
- At our previous plenary session, we updated you on the progress made, and confirmed that the pending topic to be discussed in further meetings of the contact group was a fifth function related to capacity building.
- Today the group reiterated their understanding that a fifth function on capacity building should be included in the functions of the panel.
- We also continued deliberations on two texts for the capacity building function, including a joint proposal from the African Group/GRULAC and another from the EU.
- For the benefit of delegates who were not present in the Contact Group meetings, I would like to read both of the proposed texts. The proposed text from the African Group/GRULAC groups was as follows:

Provide capacity-building through all the functions of the panel and facilitate technology transfer, in particular to developing countries, to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels, including activities to ensure effective, geographically balanced and gender-responsive participation of scientists in the assessments of the panel, strengthen data generation capacity, enhance knowledge and skills that will support country infrastructure and human capacity, and facilitate connection and matchmaking of capacity-related needs and potential solutions.

- The EU proposed text was as follows:

To build capacity to support the functions and work of the panel in order to strengthen the science policy interface for sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

- Some delegations indicated that they would have proposals to include in the text however we did not negotiate further either of the proposals.

- Following these deliberations, the group came to the conclusion that more time is needed to further elaborate on the capacity-building function in the context of the panel.
- It was understood that the group would continue deliberations on the potential capacity-building function using both of the previously read texts as a basis. 2
- With this Madam chair I am happy to report that the group has concluded its work according to the mandated given by the chair.
- 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.