



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

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### **South Africa statement of Science Policy Panel Chemical Waste Pollution (SPP CWP) on Scope and Function**

As this is the first time South Africa is taking the floor, we would like to congratulate you madam Chair for your election, and to thank Thailand for hosting this event and Secretariat for their good preparation of this meeting.

South Africa is advocating for a scope of Science Policy Panel that is focusing on chemicals throughout their life cycle including pollutants linked to the use of chemicals such as plastics and nanomaterials, addressing legacy pollution and future pollution and adopt a risk-based approach that is built on robust scientific evidence.

South Africa support effective SPP that engage in horizon scanning that addresses knowledge gaps and facilitate sound management chemicals and waste, identify emerging issues of concern; monitor trends; identify, assess, and communicate the environmental and human health issues associated with chemicals and waste pollution; evaluate and refine response options; and stimulate new policy approaches.

Support a harmonized approach to the sound management of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention by addressing gaps not filled by or addressed within existing international conventions, such as Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention, SAICM, etc.

Support prioritization and criteria setting approach that is science based and applied consistently to all potentially relevant topics and value chains, in the space of chemicals, waste, and pollution.

Supports holistic assessments on discussions of uncertainty and focuses on finding solutions and learn from the approaches taken by other science-policy panels such as the Montreal Protocol on ozone depleting substances, the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and e IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).



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A holistic approach to the assessment and risk management should integrate policy and science, be multi-disciplinary and well-integrated in approach, incorporate socioeconomic and geopolitical factors influencing the impact of chemicals throughout their life cycle, as well as different environmental compartments and exposure pathways.

Capacity building and predictable, accessible financing mechanism is very crucial for the SPP to deliver its mission and objective, and to have sustainability and retention of the panel members.

Thank you.