

## **MALAWI STATEMENT ON THE SCOPE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SCIENCE POLICY PANEL ON CHEMICALS AND WASTE POLLUTION**

**The Chairperson!**

**Esteemed delegates!**

I have the honour to make a statement on behalf of the Malawi delegation.

First of all, let me congratulate you Madam Chair for assuming the position of the Presidency.

Secondly, I would like to thank UNEP for organising this important OEWG session. It is timely and necessary.

Thirdly, let me appreciate the warm welcome from the Kingdom of Thailand. It is not easy to host a large number of delegates as you have done.

**Malawi** agrees with the statement made on behalf of the Africa Group. Our issues are common and we all need an SPP that will address the issues comprehensively.

**Malawi** would like to see an SPP whose scope is integrative and inclusive. The fight against chemicals and waste pollution requires the involvement of all key stakeholders. The needs of vulnerable groups should not be neglected as this can easily trigger failure in the near future on the efforts of the Panel.

On the function of the SPP, **Malawi** is looking forward to see the Panel that will carry a comprehensive Needs Assessment especially on alternatives that are applicable in developing countries. There are alternatives available elsewhere but most of them cannot be implemented in our country due to inadequate resources and technical know-how.

Lastly, **Malawi** wants to see an SPP that bridges the gap between policy and science by exploring ways of generating a good nexus between works of science and that of policy makers. Countries with advanced scientific knowledge but without political will are bound to fail. Similarly, countries with political will but without the scientific knowledge and data can not move forward either. In this regard, interface between policy and science at international and national levels should be holistically analysed by the SPP.

**Malawi** will support the SPP by providing the necessary information for it to fully and successfully discharge their mandate.

**Thank you. Madam Chair!**