



Written Submission of the **Children and Youth Major Group (CYMG)** on the Needs and Questions the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention May Handle

Name of the entity	Children and Youth Major Group (the mandated youth constituency to United Nations Environment Programme)
Contact persons and contact information for the submission	<u>Submitted on behalf of the constituency by</u> Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik & Gyubin Hwang Global Focal Points zakowshik@gmail.com gyubin.hwang@youthenvironment.org
Date	05 September 2023

Children and Youth Major Group to United Nations Environment Programme (CYMG) is the mandated official, formal and self-organised space for children and youth to contribute to and engage in intergovernmental and allied policy processes at UNEP and relevant environmental governance and conservation processes in the broader UN system. CYMG has the role of the official youth engagement mechanism to UNEP. The process of preparing this submission was led by the Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Working Group that entailed several weeks of consultations, online meetings and written inputs. We appreciate the voluntary contributions of individuals and member organisations within the youth constituency to participate in the submission process.



❖ **Preference for which needs the panel may handle:**

1. **Multi-Disciplinary Youth Expert Group (YEG):** The establishment of a Multi-Disciplinary Youth Expert Group should be prioritized to bridge the gap between youth expertise and the policy process.
2. **Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Approach:** The panel should prioritize ensuring gender responsiveness and gender balance in its composition and activities. In addition to, ensuring geographical, regional, intergenerational, and indigenous community representation within the panel's structure.
3. **Broad Scope and Integration:** The panel should prioritize addressing the sound management of Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution in an integrated manner across all ecosystems, including air, water, soil, and oceans. && Implementing an early warning and risk assessment model that will assist underserved and underdeveloped nations.
4. **Capacity Building:** Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work, targeting and understanding the specific needs of Member States and other stakeholders especially for youth and future generations, should be a core function of the panel.
5. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage with industries, environmental organizations, constituent groups, and other stakeholders to gather input, build consensus, and propose effective solutions.
6. **International Collaboration:** Foster collaboration between countries to address transboundary pollution and harmonize safety regulations on a global scale.

❖ **Comments on the needs listed above:**

Empowering youth with knowledge and skills is crucial for meaningful youth engagement and effective policy contributions. Hence, engaging youth as experts is vital for innovation, diversity, and fresh perspectives in addressing chemicals, waste and pollution challenges. A comprehensive approach is essential to address the multifaceted challenges of environmental management effectively. Moreover, Gender considerations and inclusivity are critical for equitable and inclusive decision-making and policy formulation.



❖ **Preference for which questions the panel may handle:**

1. What strategies can the panel adopt to ensure inclusivity and representation of diverse stakeholders?
2. How can the panel foster collaboration and knowledge sharing with external stakeholders, including industries and civil society constituent groups?
3. How can gender responsiveness be ensured throughout the panel's activities?
4. How can intergenerational equity be ensured throughout the panel's activities?
5. What are the possible ways to bridge the gap between youth expertise and the policy process?
6. How can scientific assessments of the panel be translated into local realities?
7. How can the panel collaborate with MEAs relevant to chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention and contribute to their works?
8. What suggestions can the panel provide to encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices?

❖ **Comments on the questions listed above:**

Inclusivity is a cornerstone of effective environmental governance while collaboration with diverse stakeholders is critical for holistic solutions as it provides possible, diverse methodologies and approaches to handling issues in the society from diverse perspectives.. Hence, addressing these questions are essential to ensure a comprehensive panel for solutions to enhance sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

For additional information, the following thematic facilitators from CYMG could be contacted:

Name	Role within CYMG	Email
Aseel Ibrahim Mohammed Abo-Taleb	Facilitator - Chemicals, Waste and Pollution	aseel.abotalib.3@gmail.com
Warefta-E Murshed	Facilitator - Chemicals, Waste and Pollution	wareftaemurshed@ginearth.org

