

Science and Tech. MG Statement opening of 10th ASC
20 Nov. 2023

Science and Technology major group call for strong action from member states based on the science that is already available, recognizing that six out of the nine planetary boundaries have now been breached. Science is explicit: we must cap fossil fuel, petrochemical, plastic and the production of other novel entities, and reduce this pollution in order for our planetary systems to survive. We fully support Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

To support strengthening actions for nature, there is a further need to advance integrative and participatory research to action initiatives informed by systems-thinking and evidence around cross-cutting topics such as food and agriculture, resilience, and health – taking a One Health approach. This includes issues around invasive species and pollution prevention, which continue to cause cascading effects on food, health and zoonotic diseases, and ecosystems.

Critical feedback loops around conflict – including scarcity driving conflicts, the environmental impacts of conflict, and weaponizing natural resources, must also be taken into account. We need to support better environmental analysis through efficient and responsible use of data, including remote sensing (RS) and Geographical Information System (GIS), also taking into account data sovereignty. These are critical components of a toolbox for data-driven, evidence-based decision-making in response to environmental emergencies and pressing challenges around the triple planetary crisis.