

Madam Chair, Member States delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the EE region, we would like to thank Madam Chair, the Secretariat, and the bureau members for preparing this meeting and for the opportunity to express our main considerations. We want to thank the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its continuing commitment to host this meeting and the Republic of Kenya for providing the venue on such short notice.

Our region acknowledges the undeniable interdependence between science and policy in shaping a future that is both prosperous and environmentally responsible as outlined in the UNEA resolution 5/8 and as further advanced in discussions held in Bangkok at OEWG 1.2 session. To further advance our deliberations, we believe that document INF10 and its addendum 2 also represent a good basis for our necessary progress in this OEWG session.

Further, the pressing challenge of chemical management and waste prevention requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. Scientific advancements and informed policy decisions are essential pillars in the foundation of a sustainable and resilient society. Our region recognizes the urgency of bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and policy implementation to address the growing threats posed by pollution and hazardous substances.

Eastern European states are committed to fostering international cooperation, sharing expertise, and promoting transparency in the scientific and policy-making processes. By collaborating across borders, we can harness the wealth of knowledge within our diverse nations to devise holistic solutions that transcend regional boundaries.

In this pursuit, OEWG 1.2 has conscientiously decided that the foundation for subsequent considerations shall be laid upon two specific texts. Firstly, we emphasize the significance of providing capacity-building through all the functions of the panel, with a particular emphasis on facilitating technology transfer to developing countries. This strategic approach aims to enhance the science-policy interface at appropriate levels. We acknowledge the importance of activities geared toward ensuring the effective, geographically balanced, and gender-responsive participation of scientists in the panel's assessments.

Eastern European states are united in our commitment to advance the crucial discussions on capacity-building within the framework of the ad hoc open-ended working group.

Moreover, our commitment extends to strengthening data generation capacity and fostering the enhancement of knowledge and skills that will support country infrastructure and human capacity. We seek to establish a robust foundation for the Eastern European states to actively contribute to collective efforts in the realms of scientific assessments and policy formulation.

In conclusion, we urge all member states to join us in supporting the establishment of a Science-Policy Panel dedicated to advancing our understanding of the intricate dynamics between chemicals, waste, and the environment. Let us seize this opportunity to contribute meaningfully to global efforts aimed at achieving sound management of chemicals and waste, fostering a sustainable future for generations to come.

Thank you!