

My name is Martin Scheringer and I speak on behalf of the International Panel on Chemical Pollution, IPCP. I am making this intervention in response to the proposals to remove the precautionary approach from the operating principles of the panel. As a scientist I would like to point out that the science is never complete and at some point enters a territory of uncertainty. However, by means of extrapolation of what is known, future harm and impacts can be anticipated. To express this possibility of future harm, the precautionary approach is exactly the right concept, also from a scientific point of view.