

Opening Statement of the S&T Major Group OECPR, UNEA 6

Thanks You Chair for giving me the floor.

My name is Mohamed Abdelraouf, from The Gulf Research Center Foundation

Solar Radiation Modification (SRM)

SRM cannot be considered a complementary measure to “potentially mitigate short-term climate risks” because it’s a speculative and unproven technology with associated long-term risks, i.e., termination shock, aggravating ocean acidification. Also, bringing in CDR which is a suite of technologies that range from nature-based removals to geoengineering is controversial and is actually still being debated in the UNFCCC.

It is also essential that in no way should SRM be considered as a substitute for genuine mitigation actions that address the root causes of climate change.”

Financing for Nature Based Solutions (NBS)

NBS investments must be planned and implemented on a solid scientific basis, with attention to incentivizing performance, especially where the private sector is involved. Our MG agrees with those Member States who are pushing for binding legal regulatory frameworks on these issues, on the national or international level, since research shows that voluntary approaches tend to be ineffective.

Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution

To fully engage with the scientific community, we call upon the Member States to include 3 independent, non-governmental scientists, chosen in consultation with the Scientific and Technological Community MG, on the Interdisciplinary Expert Group of the SPP. Finally, as industrial scientists must be involved as well, it is critical to have an effective conflict of interest procedure in place at the beginning of the work, as proven by the IPBES, to ensure credibility of outputs from the SPP-CWP.

Conflict and Environment

We welcome language reflecting recent clarification of the legal framework protecting the environment in relation to armed conflicts. In particular we strongly support the inclusion of the wording of the International Law Commission PERAC principle 9 on state responsibility and

are strongly opposed to any attempts to undermine this well-established rule of customary international law.

INC on plastic pollution

Finally, we call upon Member States to include in the INC on Plastic Pollution, comprehensive measures to address plastic pollution and its multidimensional, adverse effects on human and planetary health, biodiversity, and climate.

The S&T MG urge increased facilitation of continuous interaction and dialogue between Member States, scientists, and other stakeholders, which is crucial for jointly framing policy questions, providing evidence, assessing solutions, and effectively communicating risks to craft a robust and effective instrument to combat plastic pollution.

Furthermore, the Scientific and Technological Community is prepared to provide the most up-to-date and robust scientific evidence from all relevant disciplines across the natural and social sciences, as well as to play a key role in informing the development of a robust science-policy-society mechanism based upon a comprehensive understanding of operational challenges related to its functioning and how to address them, and on lessons emerging from existing mechanisms.

Thank you.