

Item 4 Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel _United Kingdom

Thank you, Madame Chair, for giving me the floor. As this is the first time I am speaking, I would like to thank the Secretariat for their hard work in preparing documentation for this meeting and the Government of Switzerland for hosting us this week.

The UK has been a keen participant in the work of the Open Ended Working Group to prepare proposals for a science policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

As you may well be aware, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has called a general election. This places the UK government in a pre-election period now and until the time of the general election on 4 July. During this pre-election period, certain parameters and restrictions apply to policy activities the UK may conduct. Our participation in this OEWG and its contact groups will therefore be conducted in line with these parameters.

We thank all parties for their understanding on this matter.

Thank you, Madame Chair.