

Thank you, Madame Chair. Excellencies, distinguished delegates I am Josephine Robertson from the International Council on Mining and Metals and the Business and Industry Major Group.

I am delighted to be speaking on behalf of all major groups at UNEP and MEAS.

- The Major Groups and Stakeholders hope that Governments will decide to remove the proposal to have a separate 'Policy Committee' from the Foundational Document. As currently proposed, a committee of this kind would lead to unnecessary duplication of work, increased costs and longer times to deliverables, and lead to a weakening of the science-policy interface rather than the sought after strengthening of the science-policy interface.
- Major Groups and Stakeholders respectfully request governments to ensure inclusive and meaningful participation of civil society actors in the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee and throughout the SPP work program.
- A strong and rigorous conflicts of interest process to the highest standards is necessary for the outputs of the work of the SPP to be trusted. Everyone who has a role in the SPP must be expected to complete the COI process. The COI process should be transparent and ongoing. A conflicts of interest committee should decide and manage if, and when, conflicts are present based upon transparent evidence, and not by the individual themselves. The Major Groups and Stakeholders community has identified some points of detail where the process could be improved that we will elaborate on. For example, interests should be declared retrospectively ; as well as current interests including familial and close relationships.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

The following Major Groups and Stakeholder organisations support this statement:

Business and Industry Major Group at UNEP  
Children and Youth Major Group at UNEP  
Farmers Major Groups at UNEP  
Indigenous People Major Groups at UNEP  
Local Authorities Major Group at UNEP  
NGO Major Group at UNEP  
Science and Technology Major Group at UNEP  
Trade Unions Major group at UNEP  
Women Major Group at UNEP

