

Monday, 17 June 2024

Written Statement by the NGO Major group of UNEP

Delivered by:

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On behalf of: NGO Major Group

Thank you very much Madam Chair. I am Anna Odur and this statement is on behalf of the NGO Major Group.

The NGO Major Group applauds the role of all excellencies and distinguished delegates and the Secretariat in this process of establishing a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

In the current proposals for establishing the panel, we very much welcome provisions under Annex 1: Rules of Procedure, that organizations with observer status to UNEA among others be admitted as observers to the panel, with participation in proceedings at the invitation of the Chair. We welcome this as it promotes inclusivity and participation. We hope and envisage for full, inclusive and effective engagement.

In reference to the draft procedures for the preparation and clearance of panel deliverables - and specifically the section on languages and translations, provisions are outlined for Governments or institutions to opt to produce translations of summaries presented to the governing body in languages that are not official UN languages. We would like to emphatically reiterate the importance of local communities being able to articulate and comprehensively understand global instruments, policy recommendations and related processes. The most affected and vulnerable to toxic chemicals are usually the semi-literate persons in our communities. Therefore communicating key messages and key themes on sound chemicals and waste management and pollution prevention should be conducted in a way that is clearly understood and appreciated by all.

We welcome the importance of science-based assessments for sound and effective decision making. We would like to further highlight the effectiveness of triangulation as a methodology to compliment these assessments. How chemicals affect children, women and men differently, including knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of communities should be well documented and disseminated.

Finally as actors in data management, NGOs are well positioned to capture and share local information on chemicals, waste and prevention of pollution. This aligns well with the draft procedures for the preparation and clearance of the panel deliverables. We welcome continued engagement during OEWG3 and we are available for further consultations during these negotiations.

Thank you