

In Session written statement from The Royal Society of Chemistry

CG1 Institutional Arrangements

Relating to the membership of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee

Contact: Camilla Alexander-White alexanderwhitec@rsc.org

The Royal Society of Chemistry requests for the continued involvement of civil society interdisciplinary science and technology representatives in all aspects of the science-policy panel. Observer status in the Governing Body is as expected. Scientists will also be expected work on the assessment/working groups of the Panel.

The specific request is to retain the text in paragraph 18 **[CG1 18 INSTITUTIONALARRANGEMENTS 1805](#) for the inclusion of non-government participants in the IEC i.e.**

18. [Representatives of non-governmental participants as well as the Chair of the United Nations Environment Management Group may participate as ex officio members in Interdisciplinary Expert Committee meetings. The representatives of non-governmental participants are elected by and from non-governmental participants engaged in the work of the Panel.⁶]

In respect to the membership of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee, the RSC is expecting that governments will nominate scientific and technological experts from their networks to work on behalf of the UN Regions.

In addition, to strengthen the science-policy interface even further, we hope member states can agree that non-government civil society technical experts can be included in the IEC as Special Representatives and not only as observer status.

A number of Civil Society Special Representative roles could in principle be defined in Rules of Procedure. The process of civil society nomination and election could take place soon after the government technical experts have been agreed. Civil Society Special Representative may then cover specific areas/groups that are not well represented by the regional representatives, for example to ensure necessary technical disciplines for chemicals waste and pollution are fully covered in the IEC.

A formal nomination and election process would need to be devised as part of the rules of procedure, to make this a fair, proportionate and representative process that can be trusted and assists in supporting the deliverables of the IEC.

This will ensure positive inclusivity of civil society knowledge and the best possible coverage of technical expertise in the IEC. This acknowledges the multidisciplinary technical fields that will be needed in this broad theme of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention, fields such as human health sciences, environmental sciences, chemical sciences, green chemistry and technological solutions-based science, computational sciences, social sciences, behavioural sciences etc.