

Thank you, Madam Chair for the floor.

I am Henrietta Ampofo, delivering on behalf of the Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples and Their Communities, and Women Major Groups, as well as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Endocrine Society, Royal Society of Chemistry, International Panel on Chemical Pollution, and Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry who have joined in the scope of this present statement.

We humbly request the Member States to retain paragraph 18 on institutional arrangements concerning the inclusion of non-governmental participants in the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee. Allow me to highlight two points for your consideration, illustrating the importance of non-governmental participants to the work of the IEC:

First, non-governmental participants offer a broad range of multidisciplinary technical and scientific expertise which can be leveraged by the IEC to enhance its effectiveness. This can enrich the scientific knowledge available to the IEC and ensure credible, comprehensive, and balanced assessment of issues related to chemicals, waste and pollution.

Second, non-governmental participation can facilitate the integration of different knowledge systems, such as Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge, and lived experiences of relevant stakeholders including children, youth, women, and communities in vulnerable situations, into the work of the IEC, to build a robust and credible work programme.

We, therefore, encourage the Member States to kindly retain paragraph 18 to ensure that the IEC remains a platform where all voices are equitably considered to provide the best possible contributions.

Thank you for the floor.