

Africa Group - SPP - Regional Statement

Madam Chair,

On behalf of the 54 African States, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the people and government of Jordan for the tireless effort made in organizing this meeting and, to the government of Kenya and UNEP for hosting us. We thank, Ms Gudi Alkemade, for steering the whole process and for guiding us through to arrive at this critical milestone in the establishment of the Science-Policy-Panel.

2. The African region appreciates the efforts that went into putting together the skeleton outline as presented in document 2/2 and the text proposal in document INF 10. The skeleton outline is based on the elements laid out in UNEA resolution 5/8 and the outcomes of our discussions from the previous session. We thank the Secretariat for the job well done. We strongly support document, INF 10 to be the basis to start our work at this meeting. We understand that there are several Science-Policy bodies in other realms that already have well-functioning structures and operating modalities with a wealth of experience in how the interface works and operates. We have to learn from their weaknesses and build on their strengths without the need to reinvent the wheel. However, we believe that the document needs fine-tuning and adjustments to meet the set goals and objectives.

Madam chair,

3. The African region has proposals for consideration by the appropriate contact groups when they are established at this session.

4. Regarding institutional arrangement, the African Region wishes to emphasize the need for a broader participation of observers at the panel, giving due regard to the rules of procedures for admittance and participation.

5. On expert identification under the inter-disciplinary expert committee, our region proposes to increase the number of experts that would be involved in reviewing and evaluating the technical reports to be issued by the Panel. We also propose that the experts from the health and environmental sectors are equally represented.

6. On the issue of capacity building under the function of the panel, the African region prefers option 1 as this will promote and support inclusivity, local content,

indigenous knowledge, adaptive technology transfer, and the continuity of capacity-building measures to ensure mainstreaming into governance structures.

7. Regarding the operating principles, we propose the inclusion of ethical considerations. While agreeing on the content of the Conflict-of-interest policy in the skeleton document, we would propose the inclusion of disciplinary measures in case of violation of the rules.

8. To avoid duplication of efforts and enhance resource efficiency, our region proposes that the work programmes and financial rules must be independent in line with the scope of the Panel and aligned with the objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

9. Madam Chair, though it would have been perfect to finalize the scope and functions of the panel before addressing its institutional arrangement – for the sake of time – we support that discussions on them can go on concurrently.

Thank you, Madam Chair!