

Distinguished delegates,

My name is Dalia Márquez, from WMG and I'm speaking on behalf of the UNEP Women's Major Group, Farmers, Science and Technology, Indigenous People and Children and Youth Major Group.

We believe in the recognition and inclusion of Major Groups and other stakeholders as an essential strategy to ensure inclusion of the most affected people and also those people in vulnerable situations, the ones facing the worst side of the consequences because of chemical and waste pollution but also improving with research and solution orientated innovations.

"Innovation" in this context also means: more diverse stakeholder and wider actor engagement, **collaboration** and mutual learning among major groups, stakeholders in order to enhance impact of the assessments for chemicals, waste and pollution.

We call the inclusion of the Major Groups in this Panel and other stakeholders. There are a wide range of stakeholders with a diverse set of voices and the engagement must allow for that.

Major Groups and Stakeholders need to have input into all nomination processes, including into bureaus and committees (governance aspects of the panel) as well as the experts who conduct the assessments (practical work of the panel).

For example, there should be open calls for nominations, as in the GEO. The nominations should have criteria for inclusion, diversity and the Others Systems of Knowledge (Local Knowledge, Citizens Science and Indigenous Peoples Knowledge).

There should also be representations of all MGs Recognized in the Agenda 21, and other stakeholders in the governance of the panel (current proposal only includes health, environment, industry, trade unions, and public interest groups).

We would like to push for establishing the Multidisciplinary Youth Expert Group to share youth perspectives and expertise on the issues of chemicals, waste, and pollution.

Additionally, we advocate for responsible private sector engagement, cautioning against accrediting organizations with potential conflicts of interest.

Thank you