

Bridging the gap between science and policy-making for a pollution-free planet

Pollution, including from chemicals and waste, is a global problem — deadly to humans, destructive to ecosystems and disastrous for economies.

To stem the pollution crisis and address emerging issues of concern, **countries are developing** a new science-policy body that will provide policymakers with robust, independent information on chemicals, waste and pollution for a sustainable future, for people and planet.





Chemicals are a US\$5 trillion industry,

integral to global food, construction and transportation systems. If not managed safely, chemicals can cause catastrophic damage.

Pollution is responsible for

9 million deaths a year globally, or one in six fatalities. Pollution-related deaths have increased by 66 per cent over the last two decades.



99 per cent of

the world population is exposed to levels of air pollution that do not meet the 2021 World Health Organization air quality quidelines.



1 in 3 children

have dangerously high blood lead levels, which has been linked to lower intelligence quotient scores and behavioural problems.



The global cost of lead exposure was **US\$6 trillion in 2019**, equivalent to almost **7 per cent** of the global gross domestic product.

Antimicrobial resistance, which caused more than 1.3 million deaths in 2019, could push **24 million** people into extreme poverty in the next decade.





2.1 billion tonnes of solid waste are produced annually—enough to reach the moon and back if it was packed into standard shipping containers and placed end-to-end.

A solution to lessen the toll of chemicals, waste and pollution

A new science-policy body will help inform governments, companies, farmers and a broad array of other stakeholders to better manage chemicals, reduce waste and prevent pollution. This is crucial to tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, and improve the health of people and the planet.

The panel will be an independent intergovernmental body and is expected to be operational as early as 2025. The panel will:

- identify issues of relevance to policymakers and propose evidence-based options to address them;
- conduct assessments to help identify potential solutions, particularly those relevant to developing countries;
- improve access to high-quality and up-to-date scientific information for evidencebased decision making;
- · identify key gaps in existing knowledge;
- encourage and support communication between scientists and policymakers;
- build capacity.

The science-policy panel will complement the work of United Nations entities and other organizations. It will also provide policy relevant, credible and scientifically robust scientific evidence to support countries in making sound decisions and to quide stakeholders towards a transformational shift to achieve sustainability.

Why are science-policy bodies important?

Science-policy bodies provide authoritative global assessments that can help sound the alarm on emerging crises and shed light on solutions to complex challenges. This helps raise global awareness and mobilize the political will to confront critical issues.

The new panel on chemicals, waste and pollution will sit alongside existing science-policy bodies: the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This ensures that all three components of the triple planetary crisis have a dedicated science-policy body.