



Environment and Social Development Organization

Ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

Agenda Item-9 Closer of the Session: 3rd February, 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) and as a Participating Member of IPEN.

Madam Chair, today, we have a severe challenge in the health, environmental, and economic injuries associated with the production, use, and disposal of toxic chemicals and wastes, and it is growing rapidly. In the course of this meeting, we have heard many ideas and interventions that would move us along this ambitious path.

However, our interventions have emphasized that sound and independent science should determine national, regional, and international policies on chemicals and waste. Access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a universal human right. Science-based solutions are highly required to be implemented to protect the human rights of individuals and communities exposed to hazardous substances and wastes. Therefore, Madam Chair, we could sum up the aspects for a future science-policy panel to inform decisions that protect human health and the environment and to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste. These could include:

- A main focus on chemicals (scope) and horizon scanning (function).
- The policies should not be directly coupled to already existing policy frameworks but focus on issues not already covered or not sufficiently covered.
- The framework must be built on the precautionary principle and require policy-relevant guidance to governments to be aligned with the best available scientific evidence.
- Needs to have a clear policy on disclosure of conflict of interests of its members.
- Needs to be adequately funded with sustainable, predictable, and accessible financing to deliver on its missions and objectives.

Moreover, OEWG should take into account to ensure that the panel has the ability to address potential conflicts of interest and that the participants are interdisciplinary from a broad range of disciplinary expertise. We would be happy to be committed to continuing working with all the participants and stakeholders within this process to achieve a toxics-free future.

Thank you, Madam Chair, again for a very constructive second session.

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