

**Asia-Pacific Group Statement in the 2nd session of the 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**

Madam Chair!

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues, I would like to deliver a statement on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.

- The Asia-Pacific Group would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting the second session of the open-ended working group notwithstanding the Bureau's decision to change the venue of our meeting to the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. We would also like to extend our thanks to the government and people of Kenya for facilitating the presence of all the participants. The Asia-Pacific Group would also like to appreciate the Chair, the Bureau members and the Secretariat for their hard work for preparing and organizing this meeting.
 - The Asia-Pacific Group is pleased to state that the first meeting of OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution based on UNEA Resolution 5/8 was held successfully in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand which is in our region. The first meeting of the OEWG laid down the foundations for our endeavour towards the final goal of establishing the Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution in 2024. We would like to highlight the need for further efforts and to this end, The Asia-Pacific Group is committed to actively engaging in the importance of discussions ahead of us.
1. The Asia-Pacific Group is open to working with the Skeleton document OEWG 2/2 and Inf 10 document as a starting point for dialogue and discussion.
 2. We strongly emphasize the need for a broad scope to effectively address the mandate given under UNEA Resolution 5/8, and for the operating principles to be rooted in scientific principles.
 3. It is crucial to have a clear vision and understanding of the institutional arrangement, and the panel's structure should align with its scope and functions in order to carry out its work.
 4. The governance of the panel is of utmost importance, particularly in terms of providing mandates and prioritizing the work to be carried out. This process should be driven by member states.
 5. It is essential that the scope and role of the Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to

the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution remain neutral, transparent, inclusive, and in line with principles of good governance and modality. It should transcend political considerations and territorial disputes and should not generate any legal implications.

6. The panel's primary objective should be to provide non prescriptive policy-relevant scientific evidence. This evaluation should consider global and regional impacts and focus on inclusive, science-based solutions for the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, particularly taking into account the capacities and circumstances of developing countries.

7. Additionally, the panel should prioritize improving the availability of scientific data, information, and assessments to address capacity challenges. This will enable more effective and efficient actions to minimize and prevent the adverse impacts of unsound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

8. The panel should also emphasize the expansion of scientists' capacities across all relevant areas, with a particular focus on regions facing challenges in the field of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

9. Moreover, the panel should support and integrate existing intergovernmental settings, multilateral agreements, regional bodies, and mechanisms related to chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. This support should aim to complement existing efforts and avoid duplication, while also addressing any overlapping issues or areas that may currently be overlooked.

10. Many countries in the Asia-Pacific are amongst the developing countries and recognize the importance of capacity building including providing financial resources, technical assistance and transfer of technology to support these countries in achieving the mandate of Science Policy Panel on chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

- Finally, the Asia-Pacific regional group attaches paramount importance for attaining the consensus-based decisions in the process of negotiations and meetings of the OEWG.
- In concluding our statement, the Asia-Pacific Group reiterates its commitment to proactively engage in the discussions, and we look forward to a productive further work ahead of us.

I thank you Madam Chair.