

Statement from Major Groups & Stakeholder participants at OEWG3.2 Punta del Este, Uruguay

Date: 15 June 2025

Madame Chair, UNEP Executive Director, Distinguished Delegates, friends and colleagues.

My name is Anna Odur and I make this statement on behalf of all participants in OEWG3.2 who have contributed to the major groups and stakeholders preparatory meetings ahead of the plenary session today.

The OEWG meeting together here in Punta del Este presents a historic opportunity to strengthen the science-policy interface for chemicals, waste and pollution prevention.

The need for this new panel is immense and urgent, as millions of lives and ecosystems continue to be adversely affected by pollution year on year.

Science and other forms of knowledge hold the key to understanding, preventing and addressing pollution. To provide evidence on the causes and propose ideas for innovative solutions to turn harmful situations around, to bring prosperity and better lives.

For the panel to be successful, there should be formal mechanisms of civil society participation, which include multi-disciplinary scientists from across stakeholders and sectors, to share their knowledge and evidence that will contribute to effective policy-making.

We call for the meaningful engagement of non-governmental civil society participants in the work of the panel including as members of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee (IEC).

Inclusive and multidisciplinary cooperation is essential to deliver policy-relevant advice based on integrated evidence that is gender sensitive and responsive to the needs of all communities. Civil society expert participation in the IEC will ensure that its work responds to real-world needs and will disseminate the results to local communities.

We strongly advocate for the panel to embed a strong and rigorous conflict of interest policy and process, upholding the highest standards of impartiality and transparency without exceptions, using all trusted evidence.

Expectations from civil society are high that we will leave Punta del Este with a new science-policy panel agreed and established.

It is time, this week, for a strengthened science-policy interface to become a reality.

We are here and civil society stands ready to help in any way we can to support a successful outcome.

Thank You very much.