

**Statement from the Government of Norway on the
Establishment of a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals,
Waste and Pollution Prevention.**

**H.E. Ambassador Halvor Sætre, Royal Norwegian Embassy
in Buenos Aires**

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

Let me start by warmly thanking the Government of Uruguay, for hosting this meeting. This beautiful city of Punta del Este, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, is an inspirational location to establish an important new intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

The Government of Norway would like to express its appreciation for the important work UNEP has done in support of the negotiations.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the members of the Open-Ended Working Group for working literally day and night, making this achievement possible.

The sound management of chemicals and waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. A strong, comprehensive and scientifically independent science-policy interface will make a real difference.

The Panel will provide the missing link and give us the necessary scientific basis for meeting the three interlinked planetary crises: Climate, biodiversity, and pollution.

And we know that it works: The reports coming from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IPBES, have given Norwegian policy makers knowledge to support concrete action.

For instance, the current Norwegian policy to protect pollinators, was directly informed by knowledge from IPBES. Furthermore, our scientists both contribute to and use the knowledge from the IPCC reports in their daily work to combat climate change.

I could give many more examples to show the significant value added of these scientific panels.

This Panel will enable us to share existing knowledge, to exchange experiences and best practices, and to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy on chemicals, waste and pollution.

When we establish the Panel, we also establish a platform that can grow and develop and find its place in the world of global environmental institutions.

Dear colleagues, we are again proving that multilateral cooperation is an effective way to solve global problems.

Congratulations!