

THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCIENCE-POLICY PANEL ON CHEMICALS AND WASTE, IN PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY

JUNE 20, 2025

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Esteemed Scientists, and Colleagues

It is with profound honor, representing Zimbabwe, here in the beautiful city of Punta del Este, Uruguay; at this momentous intergovernmental meeting to establish a Science Policy Panel.

In recognition of the statement by Nigeria on behalf of the 54 African states, Zimbabwe would like to congratulate the secretariat and member states and commends the diligent and painstaking efforts by the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG), in preparing comprehensive proposals for the panel's structure and function including its scope, objectives, functions and operating principles, institutional arrangements, rules of procedure, and relationships with key stakeholders. **As such, Zimbabwe joins other governments to adopt the proposal for the establishment of the panel and to subsequently establish the Science Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.**

The establishment of a science-policy panel is a fundamental necessity, since the panel will serve as the indispensable panacea for the ever-evolving body of scientific knowledge and the urgent need for informed and decisive policy-making concerning chemicals, waste and pollution that continue to threaten our biodiversity, food security, and the health of our communities.

Like the rest of the world, Zimbabwe faces challenges associated with the pervasive nature of environmental contamination from chemicals and the ever-increasing volume and diversity of hazardous waste. In that regard, Zimbabwe envisages that the panel will foster a shared understanding and collective action that respects the diverse capacities and needs of all member states. Furthermore, Zimbabwe anticipates the established panel to invoke a concerted, cooperative effort among governments, scientists, industry, and civil society across the globe in recognition of our shared destiny.

In conclusion,

Zimbabwe firm commitment to the establishment and active participation in the global Science-Policy Panel on chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention is not merely an international obligation but a strategic imperative that deeply resonates with and

propels the nation towards achieving the transformative goals and signifies a proactive approach to safeguarding its environment, its people, and its future prosperity.
