Date: 28 November 2025

The Scientific and Technological Community Major Group (STCMG)
Statement for the opening of the OECPR Nairobi 1-5 December 2025

Thank you Mr. Chair, Ms. ED and ladies and gentlemen. This is Mohamed Abdelraouf, from the Gulf Research Center, presenting this statement on behalf of the Science and Technology Major Group.

Given the complex, interconnected and multifaceted nature of the modern world we live in, access to open, transparent and independent science is more crucial than ever to inform effective policy making in all nations and regions.

The scientific and technological community calls upon UNEP and Member States to build national and regional capacities for better scientific evidence generation and evaluation to support environmental quality, inform assessment processes and influence policymaking.

The skills and capabilities that need to be developed, are dependent on national and regional strategic priorities. Horizon scanning is a useful process where science and technology can highlight the emerging areas imminently affecting the world, such that policy makers can be prepared with the best evidence, and we have seen clearly what these areas are from the UNEP report titled “A global foresight report on planetary health and human wellbeing”

At UNEA7, we are particularly pleased to see new draft resolutions on the major relevant themes of artificial intelligence, antimicrobial resistance, critical minerals, chemicals waste and pollution, and marine ecosystems. We look forward to contributing our knowledge, expertise and ideas to support member states progress of the respective draft resolutions to successful outcomes in the coming days.

The scientific and technological community major group welcomes the approval of the GEO 7 main report. Our community has been involved and working on the GEO-7, which is an important science policy interface that enables monitoring of the state of the environment globally. However, the STCMG regrets that the GEO 7 SPM, which is an important contribution towards strengthening the science-policy interface, was not approved and this will lessen the impact of the overall conclusions and potentially deflate the main GEO-7 report.

We emphasise the importance of governments working in partnership with the scientific and technological community in enhancing the delivery of UNEP’s programme of work across all themes, and we call upon Member States to apply the findings of scientific assessments from all of its science-policy bodies to inform policy-making at the relevant level.

As a general remark, in all cases where an expert group is to be formed, Major Groups possess specialist and highly useful expertise and knowledge and we

request the inclusion of civil society expertise in such, especially where science and technology evidence is pivotal. Importantly, expert groups should include The Scientific & Technological Community Major Group, in order to strengthen the science-policy interface for informed policy-making.

The Scientific & Technological Community Major Group is delighted to see the establishment of the new Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP), on 20 June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay, as mandated by UNEA resolution 5/8. This is an important and historic milestone in strengthening the science-policy interface and completing a triple pack of science-policy bodies for the triple planetary crises, of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Now the work on the ISP-CWP begins in early 2026, to build networks, cooperation and collaboration to operationalise the panel as effectively as possible.

There is broad recognition that an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution is needed urgently. To be effective, it is critical that sound scientific evidence informs the development and the implementation of the future treaty. It is very important to include scientists in next steps of negotiation to inform sound decision-making and to minimise unintended consequences, including regrettable substitutions.

Last but not least, The STCMG is here to connect UNEP and Member Staes with the world’s best experts and knowledge. We also support the increasing relevance of evidence generation through citizen science programmes and taking into account the unique knowledge and intergenerational science and evidence from Indigenous peoples and their communities. All sources of science evidence and know-how relating to technical solutions needs to be integrated to provide clear science-policy advice, by all communities and the nine UNEP major groups working together with government representatives towards a common aim, namely, to improve the lives of people and planetary health.

Thank you.