

## **Written submission from the Government of Norway on views on the OEWG 2 meeting documentation**

The Government of Norway would like to express appreciation for the important work UNEP is doing in support of the process to establish a new Science-Policy Panel for chemicals, waste and pollution prevention.

The new Panel will play an essential role for the implementation of the SDGs by establishing a common global science and knowledge base, so that we can solve the challenges that are not currently covered by any of the conventions. It will also serve to strengthen the implementation of existing MEAs and other international instruments and frameworks. Furthermore, the Panel will contribute to increased awareness and action in the area of chemicals, waste and prevention of pollution while fostering collaboration and synergy by promoting harmonization of efforts and more coordinated action.

Norway emphasises the importance of good progress at OEWG 2, in order to finalize the OEWG negotiations as foreseen in UNEA-resolution 5/8, to ensure that the Panel is established in 2024. The remaining workload for the OEWG is extensive and the outcome of the meeting will to a large extent rely on the meeting documentation for OEWG 2. We appreciate that the draft working documents were made available before the regional meetings to prepare for OEWG 2, to enable early preparation by the delegations. The informal preparatory session 9 December should contribute to a common understanding of the meeting documentation and on what to achieve at OEWG 2, in addition to identifying areas of convergence and areas of divergence based on the meeting documentation.

The meeting documentation mainly covers the deliverables that OEWG 1.2 requested. Regarding preparation of proposals for establishment of the Panel, the necessity for draft text proposals made available for consideration by contact groups were expressed during several regional meetings. Norway has also previously asked for such text proposals, rather than for the contact groups to start their work with identifying appropriate text, and welcome an INF document with a draft text for the Skeleton Outline to be prepared by the Secretariat before the meeting. This will reduce the risk that we do not manage to finish our work at OEWG 3. Dissemination well in advance of 9 December will be important, in order to reflect on the content and for all participants to be well prepared for the discussions. Norway would also like to see a proposal from the Secretariat for the resolution to be adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting succeeding OEWG 3. Negotiation on elements of the text for the establishment of the Panel must start now, given that OEWG 2 will be the cornerstone of our three OEWG meetings.

Regarding the expected OEWG 2 outcome, it would be useful if the Scenario Note clearly outlines the progress needed for establishing the panel within the timeframe allotted to the negotiations. The draft text for the Skeleton Outline that the Secretariat will prepare will be essential to speeding up the process to be able to finish the OEWG work as requested by UNEA in resolution 5/8.

The establishment of this Panel should learn from existing organisations, and text proposals for many of the elements that are required to establish the Panel should therefore build upon already existing text. It would thus be useful if the Secretariat could clarify to all participants what text could be reused in full or partly from other science-policy interface bodies like IPBES and IPCC, as well as UN organisations such as WHO. For such text and elements, the need for negotiation is limited, focusing on necessary adaption to this Panel only. This also implies that it is necessary to further clarify and highlight to the OEWG which issues are specific to the Panel on chemicals, waste and prevent pollution. These more substantive items may require more focus and time for discussion at OEWG 2.

In addition, it would have been helpful if the meeting documentation offered clearer guidance on which elements to be adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting and what could or must be left to the Panel itself to decide. Noting this, Norway believes that the negotiations would benefit from this being clearly outlined during the meeting.

We also take the opportunity to share our views on issues related to the organisation of the meeting that will be key to the success of OEWG 2, notably that contact group discussions start as soon as possible, that the contact group discussions are mandated to focus on negotiation on text proposals and to start with elements not discussed at OEWG 1 first. When concluding OEWG 2, we expect that all issues in the Skeleton Outline have been discussed and as far as possible concluded on elements that have to be adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting.