

## Open-Ended Working Group on a Science-Policy Panel (OEWG 3.2) – 16 May 2025

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### **The role of the Science-Policy Panel in addressing the health and ecological impact of conflict pollution and the toxic remnants of war.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on the following pre-session documents for the OEWG 3.2:

- (i) [UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6](#) Foundational document and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel;
- (ii) [UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7](#) Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution at its first session and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting; and
- (iii) [UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/8](#) Proposal on interim arrangements to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel.

We welcomed adoption of [resolution 5/8](#) in March 2022, and have submitted earlier [joint statements](#) on the role the **Science-Policy Panel** can play in addressing the '*health and ecological burden of conflict pollution*'. Regarding [UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7](#), we **strongly support** the following, which can each contribute in supporting people from conflict-affected regions:

1. Page 16, Annex 2, para 4 – and the inclusion of submissions by relevant stakeholders, such as international and regional scientific organizations, trust funds, governmental and non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector entities and foundations
2. Page 18, Annex 3, para A 1 c – and the inclusion of experts from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, those engaged in citizen science and vulnerable groups, in the definition of “expertise”
3. Page 20, Annex 3, para C 14 i - and the inclusion of individuals with Indigenous knowledge, or local expertise from communities with relevant knowledge
4. Page 23, Annex 3, para E 37 & 38 – and the inclusion and acknowledgement of the value of “grey literature”, which may include outputs from citizen science initiatives and the importance of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge as primary sources of data and information

We **do not support** the inclusion of any exemption or clause which reduces transparency and risks potential misuse, and as such do not support inclusion of the following:

1. Page 34, Appendix A, para 7 bis - [Notwithstanding paragraphs [3 and 5] an individual may decline to disclose information related to activities, interests and funding where its disclosure would adversely and materially affect:
  - (a) Defense, national security or imminent public safety...

This is of particular relevance for individuals with links to the military or military-related activities, given the longer-standing exemptions and derogations often applied to this sector, and the need for greater transparency and accountability linked to conflict-related pollution and hazardous materials used in military materiel.

Thank you for the opportunity, and we look forward to seeing the SPP implemented in full.