

**Your excellences, Ministers,
Madam Inger Andresen, Executive Director of the United Nations
Environment program,
Ms Laura Dupuy, permanent representative of the Republic of
Uruguay to UN mission in New York.**

**Mr. Yutaka Matsuzawa, Vice Minister for Global Environmental
Affairs, Ministry of Environment,
Mr. Alejandro Nario, National Director of Quality and
Environmental Assessment,**

**Distinguished colleagues, who proved again and again your
commitment for sound management of chemicals and waste, and
pollution prevention by engaging tirelessly and constructively day
and night. (Thank you)**

**Egypt expresses its gratitude to the people and the government
the Republic of Uruguay for their hospitality in hosting this meeting
in the beautiful city Punta del Este and commends the OEWG
chair, MS Gudi Alkemade, the Secretariat, cofacilitators for their
efforts exerted towards reaching a consensual finalization of the
process complementing the international efforts strengthening the
science-policy interface for further sound management of chemicals
and associated waste, and pollution prevention.**

**At this outset, we align ourselves of the statement delivered by the
esteemed colleague from Nigeria on behalf of the African group.**

Madam chair,

Recognizing that air pollution is one of greatest environmental risks we face, EGYPT reiterates its commitment to the international community to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent associated pollution according to the mandate of UNEA resolution 5/8 in 2022 , taking into account the protection of human health and the environment.

Madam chair,

Having said this, EGYPT welcomes the proposals for the establishment of the panel, while supporting the finalization of the outstanding issues of the Rules of procedures guided by ensuring consensus in the panel's decision-making process on matters of substance, while affirming that a priority should be given to capacity-building specially to developing countries, as one of the core functions of the panel, which in turn strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Madam chair,

Egypt highlights the importance of reaching consensus on the financial arrangement of the voluntary fund, without conditionalities, earmarking , or orientation of the work of the panel, as such fund serves as integral enabler of the work the panel, therefore any or distribution or favorable influence to its anticipated balance would negatively impact the impartiality and fairness of the panel.

Finally, we welcome the establishment of an independent transparent, impartial panel, and We are committed to continue

constructive engagement during the interim period as well as the upcoming panel's meetings.

Thank you!