

Statement of the World Health Organization

WHO welcomes this important session of the OEWG as you work to finalize the proposal for establishing the independent intergovernmental science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and preventing pollution. We urge all negotiators to stay pragmatic to ensure success.

This initiative meets a pressing, urgent need: nearly one in four global deaths are linked to environmental risks. Chemicals and pollution are major contributors—health must be central to global solutions.

WHO fully supports the panel as a platform for driving evidence-based policies on chemicals, waste, and pollution. We are ready to contribute technically and through secretariat support.

The World Health Assembly and WHO Executive Board have called for continued exploration of WHO's involvement in the work of the Panel. Member States value WHO's expertise and have urged that our global networks and health constituencies are fully engaged.

As talks conclude, we hope for a panel that is inclusive, interdisciplinary, and aligned with the wider UN system. Health integration isn't optional—it's essential to protect people and planet.

Beyond meaningful participation of observers, there must be transparency and expertise in the Interdisciplinary Expert Group, and a strong health-environment focus among Panel Members, supported by a robust secretariat drawing on UNEP and WHO networks, expertise and constituencies

Once adopted, WHO and UNEP are ready to finalize a joint service model for the further consideration of the Panel building on proposals introduced at the start of OEWG3 in Geneva.

We wish all negotiators success in getting the panel across the finish line—and into action.

Thank you.