General Statement by the Republic of Korea in IM

June 20th , 2025

Excellencies, and Distinguished representatives,

Republic of Korea would like to extend its sincere appreciation to UNEP for its leadership and government of Uruguay for warm and kind hospitality.

And to all delegates in the open-ended working group who have devoted their full commitment to realizing the values of multilateralism.

We recognize the urgency of addressing complex environmental challenges caused by chemicals, waste, and pollution, and deeply acknowledge the critical role and value of science in addressing these issues.

Environmental problems transcend national borders.

Pollution originating in one region often affects neighboring countries and can have global implications.

That is why we need collective action to address these shared challenges.

And collective action must be grounded in a shared scientific understanding.

ISPCWP, which we established today,

is designed precisely to achieve this goal.

Its core functions include producing accurate information through independent analysis and review, expanding global access by disseminating and sharing this information,

and providing policy-makers with robust scientific evidence

to enable the most effective and efficient policies regarding chemicals, waste and

pollution.

Given that chemicals are indispensable resources in modern society, their safe and sustainable management is imperative.

In the era of circular economy, waste must be minimized and recycled as resources.

Pollution, although a by-product of industrialization, can and must be mitigated.

Thus, today, we created a third pillar in the global science-policy framework to complement the IPCC for climate change and the IPBES for biodiversity, specifically targeting chemicals, waste, and pollution.

We anticipate that ISPCWP will serve as a crucial platform,

enabling all people to develop more effective and inclusive environmental policies.

Thank you.