

Statement on capacity building, as referenced in agenda item 4 and contact group 1

My name is Stephanie Metzger, and I am part of the Science and Technology Major Group.

Thank you to the chair for the opportunity to present this statement on capacity building, on behalf of Science and Technology, Farmers, Business and Industry, Children and Youth, Indigenous People, and Women's Major Groups.

We note that there are currently two proposals on capacity building under consideration, and hope that our input can help to further the discussions needed to refine and finalise this text.

We believe that capacity building will be an essential function of the SPP. It is clear that in many cases there are large data gaps on the uses, emissions, environmental and human exposure to chemicals, as well as the resulting health and environmental effects in many countries of the world, in particular in middle- and low-income countries, and the full scale of chemical pollution problems is not known globally. Additionally, there is an insufficient collaboration of relevant actors, including the most vulnerable and affected communities, at the science policy interface. Capacity building will be needed to bridge these gaps and generate actionable outcomes for decision makers.

Having adequate capacity building will be essential for the SPP to be able to fulfil its other four functions. For example, work undertaken on horizon scanning and capacity building will complement one another. Capacity building will be needed to better identify, monitor, and understand emerging issues, and horizon scanning can help to identify priority areas for capacity building.

The function of conducting assessments of current issues and identifying evidence-based options will rely on the development of local capacity to generate accurate disaggregated data and implement sound chemical and waste management practices. Building international scientific networks can also help to facilitate knowledge and information sharing, as in function (d).

Capacity at the science-policy interface is also important for achieving function (c), of encouraging and supporting communication between scientists and policymakers, explaining and disseminating findings for different audiences, and raising public awareness.

Many organisations within our Major Groups possess significant experiences, resources, and collaborative approaches to share in this area. There is an opportunity to recognize and include diverse knowledge systems, for example of indigenous peoples and citizen science. The SPP could also play a role in facilitating the exchange of this knowledge and resource.

Finally, capacity building should ensure that all stakeholders are enabled to meaningfully participate in the work of the Panel. Adequate representation and a collaborative process for involvement of scientific community and stakeholders from all major groups as early as possible and during the process is key to creating an effective panel.

Thank you.