



Republic of Kenya

STATEMENT BY KENYA DURING THE CLOSING PLENARY OF THE RESUMED THIRD MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCIENCE POLICY PANEL, 19TH JUNE, 2025, PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY

**Distinguished Executive Director of UNEP,
Distinguished Chair of the OEWG,
Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. The last 4 days have tested all of us to the limits. We have worked diligently and resolutely and have gone the extra mile. Amidst this, we have all shown resilience and steadfastness. UNEA 5/8 resolution is slowly becoming a reality.
2. Today, we have opened a new chapter of optimism, clarity and reality in the establishment of an Inter-governmental Science Policy Panel to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste, and for the prevention of pollution.
3. This significant milestone has come with considerable sacrifice of time, resources, and comfort by the leadership of the Bureau, the UNEP secretariat, delegates, and non-state stakeholders representing various constituencies across the world.

4. Leadership involves providing vision and direction, motivation and inspiration, decision-making and communication, as well as collaboration and adaptability to reach acceptable outcomes.
5. We have seen all these in this process, culminating in upholding the true spirit of global solidarity, and of the rule based multilateral order. Congratulations to all.
6. Special acknowledgement to the UNEP Executive Director, and her very able team, Chair of OEWG, the Bureau, and the co-facilitators for the skillful steering of the process towards an inclusive, practical and forward-looking outcomes.

Ladies and gentlemen.

7. The significant turning point towards sound management of chemicals and wastes, and in prevention of pollution is now self-evident and palpable.
8. From East to West, North to South, hope is not only in the horizon. It is right here with us. And it is moving outside there, to people whose lives continue to be severely impacted by chemical leakages into the air, water and food.
9. Our resoluteness and decisiveness are what will make the difference between life and premature deaths, and between morbidity, and long healthy lives.
10. This is so true especially for the vulnerable millions including the poor, workers, women, children, persons living with disabilities, and oh yes, indigenous People, and local communities who are often exposed to toxic chemicals.
11. We cannot afford to fail the world. We must galvanize global collaboration for sound science-policy to contribute to the effective management of chemicals and waste, and to prevent pollution, as well as to alleviate the impacts of interlinked

environmental challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, land and soil degradation.

12. As I conclude, **you are all aware of the** United Nations at 80 reforms, designed to streamline operations, realign mandates, and address financial challenges. The process involves building a UN that is not only more fit for purpose but one that is sustainable and inclusive.
13. These reforms are aligned with continued pursuit of a coherent International Environmental Governance (IEG) system that avoids fragmentation, duplication and policy inconsistency in line with paragraph 88 (k) of the **Future We want** Outcome document of the Rio+ 20 Conference.
14. The faithful application of this principle advises on where the secretariat of the **Science Policy Panel** should be located: namely at the UNEP Headquarters.
15. We request the Executive Director of UNEP to convene the first plenary meeting at UNEP HQ so that we can conclude this crucial process where it started while enjoying the magical Kenya experience.

I thank you.