

Thank you Co chair,

On behalf of the African Group, South Africa thanks the Secretariat for the comprehensive work on Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern under the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Africa recognizes that the dynamic nature of chemical production, use, and disposal presents ongoing and evolving challenges that demand proactive and coordinated international responses. Emerging policy issues such as the management of new chemical substances, the impacts of chemical mixtures, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and the safe handling of nanomaterials require urgent attention.

We emphasize the following key priorities:

- Strengthening early identification and assessment mechanisms to detect and evaluate emerging chemical risks before they become widespread threats.
- Enhancing capacity building and technical cooperation to support developing countries in monitoring, risk assessment, and management of emerging chemical issues.
- Promoting the integration of scientific research and traditional knowledge to inform policy decisions and regulatory frameworks.
- Encouraging transparency and information sharing among countries, industries, and stakeholders to foster collective understanding and action.
- Ensuring that vulnerable populations and ecosystems are prioritized in risk management strategies.

The African Group calls for increased international collaboration and resource mobilization to address these emerging challenges effectively. We urge all partners to support the development of inclusive, science-based policies that safeguard human health and the environment while enabling sustainable development.

Thank you.