

Closing Statement from Major Groups & Stakeholder participants at OEWG3.2, Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Thursday June 19th

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates and Friends

My name is Camilla Alexander-White from The Royal Society of Chemistry and co-facilitator of the Science & Technology Major Group. I speak on behalf of eight of the nine major groups and stakeholders present in this meeting. That is:

- Children and Youth
- Farmers
- Indigenous Peoples and their communities
- Local Authorities
- Non-governmental organizations
- Scientific and technological community
- Women
- Workers and Trade Unions

We thank you Madame Chair and your Bureau, co-facilitators, the UNEP ED, her senior staff and the Secretariat and conference staff, our hosts the Government of Uruguay, the Governments who have generously financed this and previous meetings, and all our friends from this Conference centre who have kept us going late into the night. You have done a superb job.

The triple planetary crisis desperately needs a functioning, effective and scientifically respected Science Policy Panel on chemicals, waste and pollution.

As stakeholders and rightsholders we want to move forward with this much needed panel, to advocate and raise awareness of its outcomes and do what we can to support their implementation. In doing so we will always base ourselves on precaution, inter-generational equity, respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and gender responsiveness.

As we have already said we honour all the countries who spent many hours supporting gender equality and the Women's group have eloquently explained why this matters.

We are puzzled why it proved difficult to refer to the agreed right to a healthy, clean and sustainable environment.

Scientists and knowledge holders stand ready to work to produce rigorous, multidisciplinary assessments that can be translated into policy relevant but not policy prescriptive outcomes for governments to consider.

We are disappointed that the outcome of the final negotiations did not include the immediate need for civil society observers to the interdisciplinary expert committee. Without our input we are not sure that the work programme will be based on the real needs of developing countries and their communities.

We wish we had been able to complete the job foreseen in UNEP resolution 5.8. By having an objective that still contains two brackets we are doing reputational damage to the future panel. We hope that the remaining documents will be finalised at the beginning of the panel's first meeting.

Madam Chair, despite the restrictions on our role, we will continue to engage and will remain energetic and optimistic.