



Statement by the Delegation of the Government of Ukraine during the Intergovernmental Meeting to Consider the Establishment of the new Science-Policy Panel

(19-20 June, 2025, Punta del Este, Uruguay)

**Madam Co-Chair,
Madam Executive Director,
Distinguished delegates,**

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of Ukraine.

First, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to UNEP team for their efforts toward the establishment of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution Prevention. We highly value UNEP's leadership and commitment in driving this process forward.

We extend our special thanks to the Government and people of Uruguay for their warm hospitality and excellent hosting of this important meeting.

I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Madam Chair and our esteemed colleagues from the Bureau of the SPP OEWG for their tireless work, dedication, and guidance throughout this important process. Since its election, Ukraine has been firmly committed to contributing to the establishment of the Panel and remains dedicated to supporting its further proper operation.

Dear colleagues,

Despite numerous challenges, lengthy negotiations, and significant - at times difficult - compromises, we have successfully laid the foundation for the establishment of the Science-Policy Panel. This achievement reflects our shared determination and collective commitment to advancing global action on chemicals, waste, and pollution.

From the very beginning of this process - both as a Bureau member and in our national capacity - Ukraine has been firmly committed to supporting the establishment of an effective and mutually beneficial mechanism that will contribute to our collective efforts toward a pollution-free environment.

Our work is not yet fully complete. Ahead lies the critical task of forming the operational foundations and fine-tuning the mechanisms of the Panel. We must ensure that it becomes a powerful driver of concrete action - not just another ambiguous forum for endless debates and inconclusive meetings.

This issue holds particular significance for Ukraine, as we look to the future Panel to support our efforts in addressing the environmental consequences of the ongoing full-scale military aggression by the Russian Federation.

The invasion of the Russian Federation has caused devastating and long-lasting damage to Ukraine's environment. Explosions, shelling, and missile strikes have destroyed critical infrastructure, industrial facilities, and energy systems - releasing hazardous substances into the air, soil, and water. Forests and natural reserves have been damaged by artillery fire, while agricultural lands have been contaminated by heavy metals, chemicals, and unexploded ordnance. The war has also generated enormous volumes of military and construction debris, further burdening waste management systems and threatening public health.

These environmental consequences are not confined to Ukraine - they carry regional and global implications. Pollution of transboundary rivers and the Black Sea poses risks to neighboring ecosystems and communities. The widespread release of greenhouse gases and toxic pollutants contributes to climate instability and undermines international environmental goals. Addressing war-related waste, pollution, and environmental degradation is therefore not only a national priority for Ukraine but a matter of global environmental security. The future Science-Policy Panel can and should play a critical role in helping countries like Ukraine respond to such challenges.

To conclude, the establishment of this Panel is a milestone—but it is only the beginning. We must now focus on refining its structure, ensuring it is equipped to deliver timely, science-based guidance, and making it a truly impactful tool in the global fight against chemicals, waste, and pollution.

Thank you.
