

WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP

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INTERNATIONAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS (MGS) HYBRID PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE INAUGURAL PLENARY SESSION (P1) OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PANEL ON CHEMICALS, WASTE AND POLLUTION (ISP-CWP)

On 1 February, Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) gathered for the hybrid Preparatory Meeting ahead of the First Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP). The meeting brought together the Major Groups at UNEP, civil society, scientific networks, youth, women's organizations, coalitions, stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples to coordinate positions and strengthen engagement for the week ahead.



OPENING SESSION: AGENDA <<< SETTING & MEETING RULES

This segment was moderated by Mohamed and Camilla, representing the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group (STC MG) at UNEP.

Participants arrived and engaged in a collective review of the proposed agenda. All attendees were invited to suggest adjustments, additions, or clarifications to ensure that the meeting reflected shared priorities and that each segment had clear facilitation.

During this process, the group:

- Reviewed the full agenda item by item
- Confirmed whether any changes were needed
- Agreed on the flow and timing of the meeting
- Selected the individuals who would facilitate each of the upcoming segments

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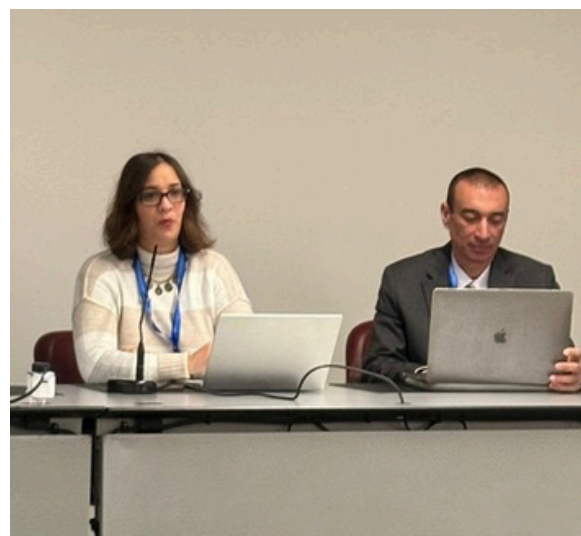
>>> UPDATES ON RELEVANT TOPICS TO THE ISP-CWP FROM CSOS

Facilitated by: Marwan Jihel (Children & Youth Major Group) & Rabeb Aloui (Women's Major Group)

The second segment of the Preparatory Meeting focused on updates from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) relevant to the ISP-CWP. Representatives from across the Major Groups and scientific networks shared brief reports on their recent work, priorities, and preparations for the First Plenary.

Updates were provided by:

- Children & Youth (C&Y): Janna
- NGO Major Group
- Scientific & Technological Community (S&T): Camilla
- Business & Industry (B&I): Chris
- Women's Major Group: Natasa Dokovska
- Indigenous Peoples
- Farmers
- Workers and Trade Unions
- MEAs/GFC constituencies/orgs: Sara, Shannon Lisa
- SPP Science Alliance: Anna Becker, Mohamed
- INC Science Coalition: Xavier Cousin
- IPCC: Gabriel Sigmund
- RSC, IUPAC, SETAC, IOCD: Camilla Alexander-White, Bipul Saha, Michelle Bloor, Stephen Matlin
- Science data/networks & AI: Camilla
- Citizen Science Data: Jamala Djinn
- Delivering Indigenous Peoples Knowledge: Frankie Orona
- Waste Networks: Keith James
- Africa Networks (online)
- Others



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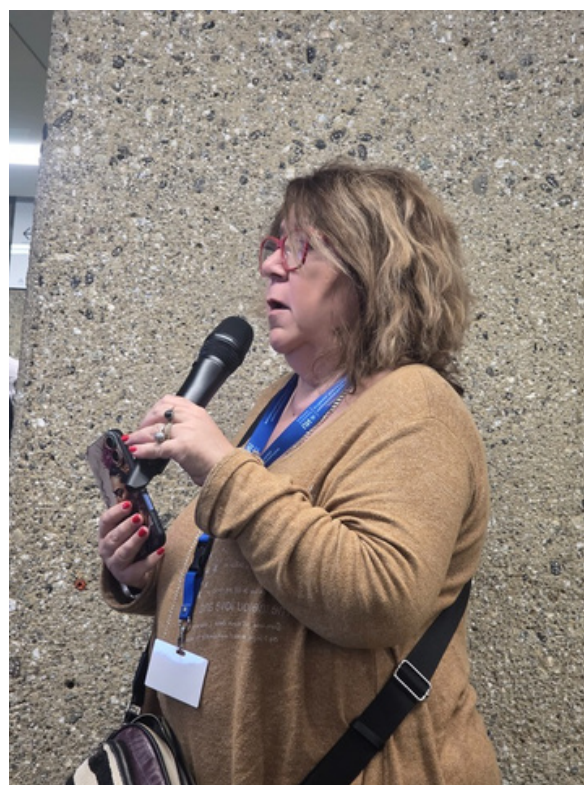


>>> WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP UPDATE

Speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group, Natasa Dokovska presented an update on the group's recent activities. She highlighted:

- The capacity-building session held in January, which prepared members for the technical and procedural aspects of the First Plenary.
- The consultation process carried out in the lead-up to the plenary, gathering inputs from women's organizations and feminist experts across regions.
- The launch of the Color Campaign, inviting delegates to wear yellow as a collective call for a toxic-free, gender-just future.
- The group's intention to deliver a statement during the Opening Session, emphasizing gender-responsive science, meaningful participation, and the protection of Major Groups.

This segment provided a comprehensive overview of civil society's readiness and reinforced the importance of coordinated engagement across constituencies.



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>>> DISCUSSION ON WHAT MAJOR GROUPS & STAKEHOLDERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACHIEVED IN THE FIRST PLENARY

Facilitated by: Dalia Márquez (MGFC Co-Chair – Women's Major Group) & Lovish Raheja (Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform)

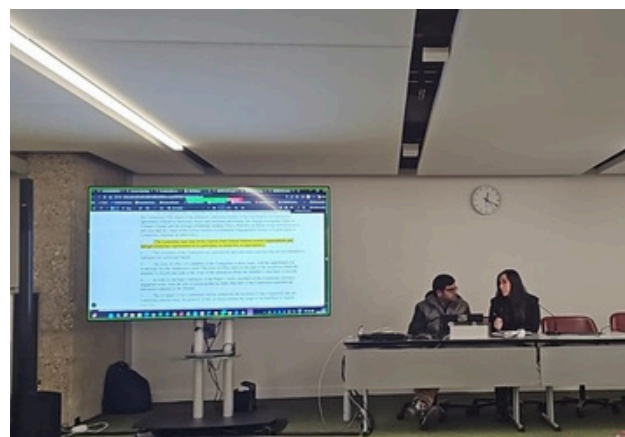
This session explored the shared expectations of Major Groups and Stakeholders for the First Plenary of the ISP-CWP, with reference to the Foundational Document finalized in Uruguay and the Draft Rules of Procedure (UNEP/ISP-CWP.1/3).

Overview of the Draft Rules of Procedure

Camilla and Gabriel provided an overview of the content of the Draft Rules of Procedure, after which participants examined key elements affecting civil society engagement.

The discussion centered on three guiding questions:

- Key focus areas and watch points in the current Rules of Procedure regarding civil society participation
- Potential red lines for Major Groups and Stakeholders
- Desired phrases and outcomes to ensure meaningful participation in the final text



CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE PANEL

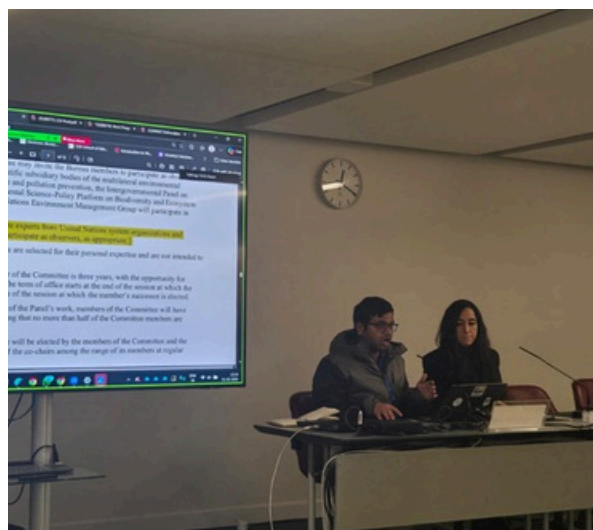


Interventions on this topic were delivered by Tom, Stephen Matlin, Rabeb Aloui, and Bipul.

- Rabeb Aloui emphasized that the Major Groups system is essential because it is a long-standing and proven mechanism within the UN system, ensuring structured, diverse, and representative participation.
- Natasa Dokovska reinforced this point, explaining why maintaining the Major Groups is beneficial and necessary for legitimacy, inclusiveness, and transparency.

Additional Points of Attention Raised by Participants:

- Draft Process for Determining the Work Programme – including how priorities will be set and how submissions will be evaluated.



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>>> CLARIFICATION SESSION WITH THE SECRETARIAT & UPDATE FROM UNEA-7 RESOLUTION

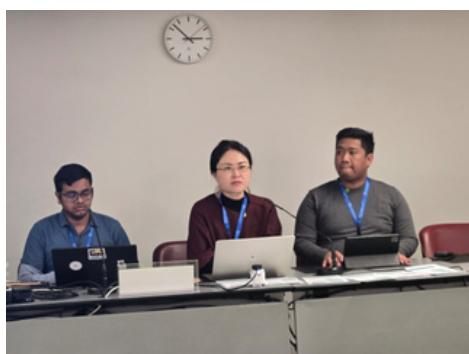
Speaker: Tessa Goverse, Principal Coordinator and Head of the Interim Secretariat.

Following the earlier discussions, the meeting continued with a dedicated session led by Tessa Goverse, offering participants the opportunity to ask clarification questions on the ISP-CWP P1 working documents and process before the start of the plenary. This open exchange allowed Major Groups and Stakeholders to seek explanations on procedural elements, document structure, and expectations for the week, ensuring that all constituencies entered the plenary with a shared understanding of the workflow and decision-making processes.

Tessa also provided an update on the UNEA-7 Resolution, outlining its relevance to the establishment and operationalization



>>> DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) POLICY



Following the clarification session with the Secretariat, the meeting moved into a focused discussion on the Draft Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy. This segment centered almost entirely on the content, implications, and operationalization of the COI document, reflecting the high level of attention and concern among participants.

Representatives from different constituencies intervened to share observations, raise questions, and highlight areas requiring further clarity or strengthening.

Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring that the COI framework protects the scientific independence, credibility, and integrity of the Panel from the outset.

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>>> MAJOR GROUPS & STAKEHOLDERS - ORGANIZATIONAL



The final session of the Preparatory Meeting focused on organizational and logistical matters essential for coordinated participation during the First Plenary. This segment was led by Mr. Zhanyun Wang from the SPP Secretariat. The discussion covered:

- MGS seating arrangements in the plenary hall
- Daily morning meetings and debriefs, ensuring consistent coordination throughout the week
- Confirmation of Major Group focal points, including the WhatsApp communication channel
- Modalities for MGS statements, including the process for developing consensus positions
- Communication procedures during the plenary
- Other meetings and coordination spaces planned for the week

This session ensured that all constituencies were aligned on procedures, communication flows, and participation modalities before entering the formal plenary.

>>> AGREEMENT ON THE JOINT OPENING STATEMENT DRAFTING PROCESS

At the end of the Preparatory Meeting, participants agreed to establish a drafting committee composed of representatives from multiple Major Groups, coalitions, and civil society organizations. This committee worked immediately after the preparatory session to prepare the joint opening statement, which was attached on the final page of the meeting notes.

It was further agreed that this draft joint statement would be reviewed collectively the following morning, 02 February, during the daily coordination meeting, allowing all Major Groups and Stakeholders to refine and endorse the final version before its delivery in the plenary.



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NEW GLOBAL PANEL ON CHEMICALS AND POLLUTION LAUNCHES WITH URGENT CALLS FOR ACTION

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution opened with strong warnings about the growing global impacts of chemical pollution. UNEP Executive Director **Inger Andersen** called the new panel a critical step toward closing knowledge gaps and strengthening science-based decision-making worldwide. She emphasised that governments are ready to begin the Panel's work but must first agree on strict operational rules to ensure credibility and impact.

Host country Switzerland reinforced the call for swift progress. **Katrin Schneeberger**, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment, stressed that adopting clear rules of procedure will be essential for managing complex environmental challenges and building trust among member states.



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>>> CHILE'S OSVALDO ÁLVAREZ PÉREZ TAKES THE HELM

Delegates elected Osvaldo Álvarez Pérez of Chile as the Panel's first Chair, clearing a key hurdle in launching the body's work. A veteran of international environmental negotiations, Álvarez Pérez immediately stepped into a leadership role, steering discussions on how the Panel will operate. While negotiations on the remaining Bureau members continue, his election allows countries to move forward with critical institutional groundwork. During the session, he also met and took photos with observers from the Women Major Group, highlighting engagement with stakeholders and civil society representatives



TECHNICAL TALKS GAIN MOMENTUM IN CONTACT GROUPS



With leadership in place, delegates shifted focus to intensive technical negotiations on the Panel's draft Rules of Procedure. Working in contact groups, countries reviewed the text line-by-line, aiming to resolve sensitive issues and establish transparent decision-making processes. The outcome of these talks will shape how the Panel delivers scientific assessments and policy guidance to tackle global pollution and chemical risks.

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>>> SUMMARY OF MORNING MEETING ON DRAFT OPENING CEREMONY STATEMENT

During the morning meeting, the Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) discussed the proposed draft statement for the Opening Ceremony. Representatives of the WMG actively participated in drafting the statement. Among other issues, the discussion focused on the inclusion of the concept of precaution. Participants emphasized that precaution is essential, recognizing that science and knowledge alone are often insufficient to address uncertainty, long-term impacts, and incomplete evidence. The precautionary concept, rooted in the 1992 Rio Declaration, was widely supported as a necessary element to avoid delays in decision-making when evidence is limited.

There was broad agreement that the group should remain policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive. While scientists and knowledge holders are responsible for providing robust and inclusive evidence, governments retain the authority to determine acceptable levels of risk and precaution. To address concerns that the term "precautionary principle" could be seen as prescriptive, the group agreed to use the wording "precautionary approaches," emphasising proportionality and evidence-based decision-making.



WARM WELCOME RECEPTION BY THE CITY OF GENEVA



On the opening day of the Panel, the City of Geneva hosted a welcoming reception for participants. It was a lovely opportunity to enjoy traditional Swiss food and wine and to experience a bit of local culture in a relaxed atmosphere.

Participants also received a practical gift from the host city, a thoughtful gesture that was much appreciated. Beyond the hospitality, the reception created a great space for networking, allowing delegates, experts, and observers to meet informally, exchange ideas, and connect with one another at the start of the week.



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>>> YELLOW DAY ON THE OPENING OF THE PANEL: FEMINISTS DEMAND A TOXIC-FREE FUTURE FOR ALL

On the opening day of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution, the Women's Major Group (WMG) made its presence visible through its colour campaign by mobilising yellow as the colour of the day, carrying the message: "Feminists demand a toxic-free future for all."

This action marked the beginning of the Panel's work with a clear feminist demand and a strong political signal. Yellow was chosen deliberately to represent urgency, caution, and resistance — a warning that toxic chemicals, waste, and pollution continue to cause profound harm to human health, ecosystems, and especially to women, girls, and marginalised communities worldwide.

Through the colour campaign, WMG brought feminist perspectives into the opening of the Panel, reminding decision-makers that science-policy processes must respond to lived realities. Exposure to toxic substances is not gender-neutral; it is shaped by structural inequalities, care roles, labour conditions, poverty, and environmental injustice. Feminists therefore demand policies that are not only scientifically sound but also grounded in human rights, precaution, and social justice.

By wearing yellow on the opening day, WMG collectively reclaimed space within the Panel and amplified the call for transformative action. The message underscored the need to move beyond incremental change and to confront the root causes of pollution, including unsustainable production systems and corporate accountability gaps.



Feminists demand
**A TOXIC-FREE
FUTURE FOR
ALL**



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>>> ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Jenn statement dec 2



CHEMICALS AND WASTE

On dec 2



WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP



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>>> CHEMICALS AND WASTE

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WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP

>>> ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Jenn statement dec 4



CHEMICALS AND WASTE

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WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP



DEEP SEA

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>>> CHEMICALS AND WASTE

Dec 05 lee kristina



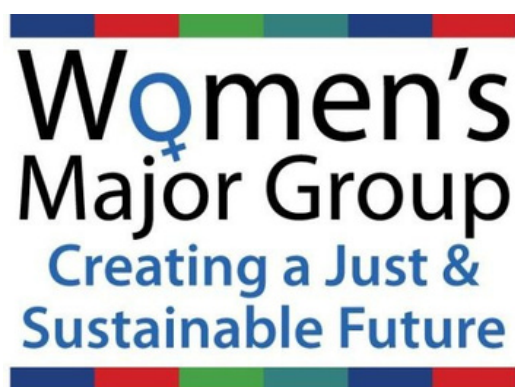
WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP

>>> CORAL REEF

dec 5 kristina

>>> CRIMES AGAINST ENVIRONMENT

Dec 05 lee Christ



WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP

>>> GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

During the second meeting of the Women's Major Group (WMG), members reflected on the informal lunch with women delegates, discussing both positive aspects and areas for improvement. Participants highlighted the value of the rich exchanges during the lunch and the importance of maintaining this space, while noting the need for stronger follow-up and outreach to maximize impact.

The group also discussed the development of a strategy to actively engage men as champions for gender equality within the plastics treaty process.

A brief recap was provided of the key developments from the previous days of INC-5.2, ensuring all members were aligned on progress and priorities. It was agreed to send a follow-up email to participants of the lunch to reinforce connections and continue the dialogue.