

Children and Youth Major Group (CYMG) Intervention at the Informal Consultation prior to OEWG2

I am Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik from Bangladesh, representing the Children and Youth Major Group.

We, young people, are here to advocate for a transformative approach in establishing a future science-policy panel on chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention. Drawing upon the lessons learned from the shortfalls of existing science-policy panels, it is imperative that we address the limitations and pave the way for a more effective and inclusive platform.

The shortcomings of past initiatives underscore the need for enhanced transparency, collaboration, and engagement with diverse stakeholders. Our generation demands a science-policy panel that embraces gender equality, intergenerational equity, and interdisciplinary perspectives, incorporating not only scientific expertise but also the invaluable insights of communities affected by chemicals, waste, and pollution.

To bridge the gap between science and local realities, we emphasize the importance of context-specific solutions and a human-rights-based approach. Recognizing that the impact of these issues varies across regions, it is essential to integrate indigenous knowledge, traditional practices, nature-based solutions and community experiences into the scientific discourse. This approach ensures that policies are not only scientifically sound but also culturally sensitive, fostering sustainable solutions rooted in the lived realities of people worldwide.

In building this future science-policy panel, we urge to prioritize accessibility, inclusivity, and the meaningful participation of youth. Our generation is eager to contribute, innovate, and collaborate for a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable future. It is also important to take note that existing science-policy panels are controlled by Global North with almost no representation of youth experts into the formation of scientific assessments. Let us collectively embark on a journey that transcends the limitations of the past, connecting science with the diverse and dynamic realities on the ground.

Lastly, we cordially invite you to the Youth Consultative Meeting starting from 12:00 today in Conference Room 14, especially to the Intergenerational Dialogue from 4:30 PM.

Thank you!

Submitted on behalf of the youth constituency by:

Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik & Gyubin Hwang

Global Coordinators

zakowshik@gmail.com, gyubin.hwang@youthenvironment.org