



**Ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel
to contribute further to the sound management of
chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution
First session
Nairobi, 6 October 2022***

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Pursuant to resolution 5/8, in which the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme decided to convene an ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution that would begin its work in 2022, the first part of the first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group will be held in Nairobi on 6 October 2022. The second part of the first session, namely the resumed first session, is scheduled to be held in Bangkok in the first quarter of 2023.¹

Item 1

Opening of the session

2. The first part of the first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group will be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi. The first part of the first session will be opened at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 6 October 2022.
3. Opening statements will be delivered by representatives of UNEP and the World Health Organization.

Item 2

Election of officers

4. The ad hoc open-ended working group was established as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations Environment Assembly by resolution 5/8. At the first part of its first session, in accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, the ad hoc open-ended working group is expected to elect its officers, including a chair, vice-chairs and a rapporteur, who will collectively constitute the bureau of the ad hoc open-ended working group. The ad hoc open-ended working group is invited to consider the election of a bureau composed of

* The first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution is being held in two parts. The first part of the session will be held in Nairobi on 6 October 2022, while the second part, namely the resumed first session, will be held in person in Bangkok and is tentatively scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2023.

¹ The present document will be revised following the one-day first part of the first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group to reflect the outcomes of that meeting and any effect they may have on the possible actions proposed for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended working group during the resumed first session.

10 representatives, comprising two officers from each of the five regional groups² in order to ensure adequate regional representation in the composition of the bureau, while taking into account the need to ensure gender balance.

5. Upon the election of officers, the Chair will preside in accordance with the rules of procedure. Pending the election of the Chair, the session will be presided over by a representative of UNEP.

Item 3

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the rules of procedure of the ad hoc open-ended working group

6. As a subsidiary organ of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to note that the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly apply, mutatis mutandis, to its work. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to adopt those rules of procedure.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

7. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to adopt the agenda for its first session, on the basis of the provisional agenda set forth in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/1.

(c) Organizational matters

8. The first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group will be held in two parts: a one-day hybrid first part to be held in Nairobi on 6 October 2022, and an in-person resumed first session, tentatively scheduled to be held in Bangkok in the first quarter of 2023. During the first part of the first session, the ad hoc open-ended working group will consider items 1, 2 and 3 of the provisional agenda. Also during the first part, the ad hoc open-ended working group will consider item 4 of the provisional agenda, on general statements, to give representatives of Member States and observers an opportunity to express their views on the establishment of a science-policy panel. The ad hoc open-ended working group may also wish to hold an initial exchange of views on item 5, on options for its timetable and organization of work, and item 6, on the preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel, and thereafter conclude the consideration of those two items as well as the remaining items on the agenda at its resumed first session.

9. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to meet in plenary session from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., subject to adjustments, as necessary.

10. During the first part of its first session, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider the scenario note prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/2), setting out proposed plans and general expectations for the session.

11. Following the practice of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to establish a time limit for general statements of three minutes for individual representatives and five minutes for representatives speaking on behalf of groups of States. The ad hoc open-ended working group may also wish to establish a time limit of three minutes for general statements by observers.

Item 4

General statements

12. Under this agenda item, as proposed in the scenario note prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/2), representatives of Member States and observers may wish to deliver general statements on the establishment of a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, taking into account the mandate of the ad hoc open-ended working group set out in Environment Assembly resolution 5/8.

² African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States.

Item 5**Options for the timetable and organization of work of the ad hoc open-ended working group**

13. At its resumed fifth session, the United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution 5/8, decided to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare proposals for a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, beginning its work in 2022 with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024.
14. Under item 5 of the provisional agenda, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider options for the timetable and organization of its work to respond to its mandate as set forth in Environment Assembly resolution 5/8. It may also wish to discuss any information to be provided by Member States, observers and other relevant stakeholders for its subsequent sessions, as well as intersessional work to be undertaken by the secretariat, including potential documentation to be prepared in the light of the discussions at the first part of its first session. The ad hoc open-ended working group may also wish to consider the funding and resource requirements needed to facilitate the fulfilment of its mandate. Finally, it may wish to consider whether sessions should be held in a hybrid format that allows for online as well as in-person participation.
15. At the first part of its first session, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to begin the consideration of item 5 with general statements and an initial exchange of views. In so doing, it may wish to consider the scenario note prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/2). The ad hoc open-ended working group may, in particular, wish to decide on any intersessional work to be undertaken, as well as on the number of sessions to be convened to support the negotiation process, given that these matters were not specified in resolution 5/8.

Item 6**Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel**

16. At its resumed fifth session, the Environment Assembly, in its resolution 5/8, decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, with details to be further specified according to the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution. The resolution further specifies that the ad hoc open-ended working group is to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel to consider the issues outlined in paragraph 5 of the resolution.
17. Under item 6, the ad hoc open-ended working group at the first part of its first session may wish to commence the discussion with general statements relating to the establishment of a science-policy panel, followed by consideration of the issues outlined in paragraph 5 of resolution 5/8.
18. At the first part of its first session, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish, as proposed in the scenario note prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/2), to continue its consideration of the item with general statements and an initial exchange of views on the issues set out in paragraph 5 of resolution 5/8, taking into account the aspects laid out in paragraph 6 of the same resolution. It may also wish to consider whether proposals should be developed on any other matters. The ad hoc open-ended working group may also wish to consider the clustering of issues proposed by the secretariat in the scenario note (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/2) as a means of structuring the discussions at its subsequent sessions.

Item 7**Other matters**

19. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider other matters raised during the session.

Item 8**Adoption of the report of the session**

20. Consistent with standard United Nations practice, the report of the first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group will be prepared by the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the secretariat and under the authority of the Chair. In the light of the short duration of the first part of the first session,

the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to adopt the draft report on the work of the first part of its first session in English only. The report would then be finalized after the closure of the one-day first part of the first session. At the resumed first session, the ad hoc open-ended working group will be invited to consider and adopt a supplemental draft report reflecting the proceedings of the second part of its first session. The two reports will together constitute the proceedings of the first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group.

Item 9

Closure of the session

21. It is expected that the first session will be adjourned by the Chair by 6 p.m. on Thursday, 6 October 2022 and be reconvened in Bangkok in the first quarter of 2023. The first session will be formally closed at the conclusion of the resumed first session.
