



**UNITED
NATIONS**

UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/L.1



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: Limited
6 October 2022
English only

**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***

Draft report 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

I. Opening of the session

1. 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 was held on 6 October 2022 at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi. The meeting was held in a hybrid format, with some participants attending online.
2. The meeting was opened at 10.15 a.m. by Ms. Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, Director, Economy Division, UNEP.

II. Election of officers

3. Introducing the item, Ms. Aggarwal-Khan said that the following individuals had been nominated to serve on the Bureau of the first session: Mr. Cyrus Mageria (Kenya) and Mr. Oumar Diaouré Cisse (Mali) on behalf of the African States; Ms. Saqlain Syedah (Pakistan) and Ms. Salma Qadoori Jabir (Iraq) on behalf of the Asia-Pacific States; Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda) and Ms. Valentina Sierra (Uruguay) on behalf of the Latin American and the Caribbean States; and Ms. Gudi Alkemade (Netherlands) and Mr. Michel Tschirren (Switzerland) on behalf of the Western European and other States. In addition, four nominees had been proposed to represent the group of Eastern European States, but none had as yet been endorsed by the group. As there were more candidates than seats, it was necessary to postpone the election of the Bureau members from that group until the resumed first session in 2023.
4. Several representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for the election of Ms. Alkemade as Chair of the session, but another representative objected to the election of Ms. Alkemade as Chair and as a member of the Bureau. Several representatives voiced disappointment with the objection. One, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that it was unprecedented for a Member State to object to a Bureau nomination endorsed by a regional group, and that such an objection could undermine the spirit of multilateralism underlying progress in international environmental affairs. Several representatives characterized the objection as

* 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 is being 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.

politicization of the election process and as a bad precedent, and one urged participants to seek consensus and avoid resorting to a vote on the matter.

5. Given the objection made and the hybrid nature of the meeting, which hampered the holding of a secret ballot to elect a Chair, the participants agreed to postpone the election of the Chair until the resumed first session.

6. The ad hoc open-ended working group elected the following officers for its first session:

Vice-Chairs: Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda)

Ms. Salma Qadoori Jabir (Iraq)

Mr. Oumar Diaouré Cisse (Mali)

Ms. Saqlain Syedah (Pakistan)

Mr. Michel Tschirren (Switzerland)

Ms. Valentina Sierra (Uruguay)

Rapporteur: Mr. Cyrus Mageria (Kenya)

It was agreed that Ms. Syedah would chair the meetings of the session pending the election of a Chair at the resumed first session.

7. [to be completed]

III. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

A. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the ad hoc open-ended working group

8. Introducing the sub-item, the Chair recalled that the ad hoc open-ended working group had been established as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and that the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, as outlined in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/INF/2, therefore applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the group's work.

9. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the use of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly for the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group. One, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, nevertheless recalled that, pursuant to Environment Assembly resolution 5/8, paragraph 5, the ad hoc open-ended working group was required to develop separate rules of procedure for the science-policy panel. Another, recalling that rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly required decisions to be made by a majority of the members present and voting, stressed that efforts should nevertheless be made to build consensus, with voting regarded as a last resort. Also recalling rule 70 on observers from international non-governmental organizations, he noted that paragraph 7 of resolution 5/8 stated that the panel should be open to representatives of stakeholder organizations with a focus other than the environment.

10. Responding to the comments made, as well as to a request from the representative of the European Union regarding that body's status as the representative of a regional economic integration organization, a representative of the secretariat confirmed that the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group would be governed by the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, with no changes, and that, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 5/8, the European Union was considered to be a full member of the ad hoc open-ended working group, but without the right to vote.

11. The open-ended working group agreed to adopt the rules of procedure as outlined in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/INF/2.

B. Adoption of the agenda

12. In considering the sub-item, the ad hoc open-ended working group had before it the provisional agenda (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/1) and the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/1/Add.1).

13. The ad hoc open-ended working group adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure of the ad hoc open-ended working group;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organizational matters.
4. General statements.
5. Options for the timetable and organization of work of the ad hoc open-ended working group.
6. Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the session.
9. Closure of the session.

C. Organization of work

14. The ad hoc open-ended working group agreed to organize its work as outlined in the annotated provisional agenda and in the scenario note (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/2).

15. [to be completed]

D. Attendance

16. [to be completed]

IV. General statements

17. [to be completed]

V. Options for the timetable and organization of work of the ad hoc open-ended working group

18. [to be completed]

VI. Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel

19. [to be completed]

VII. Other matters

20. [to be completed]

VIII. Adoption of the report of the session

21. [to be completed]

IX. Closure of the session

22. [to be completed]