

Preparations for the resumed first session of the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel for chemicals, waste and pollution prevention (OEWG 1.2)

Briefing to the Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (CRP)
19 January 2023

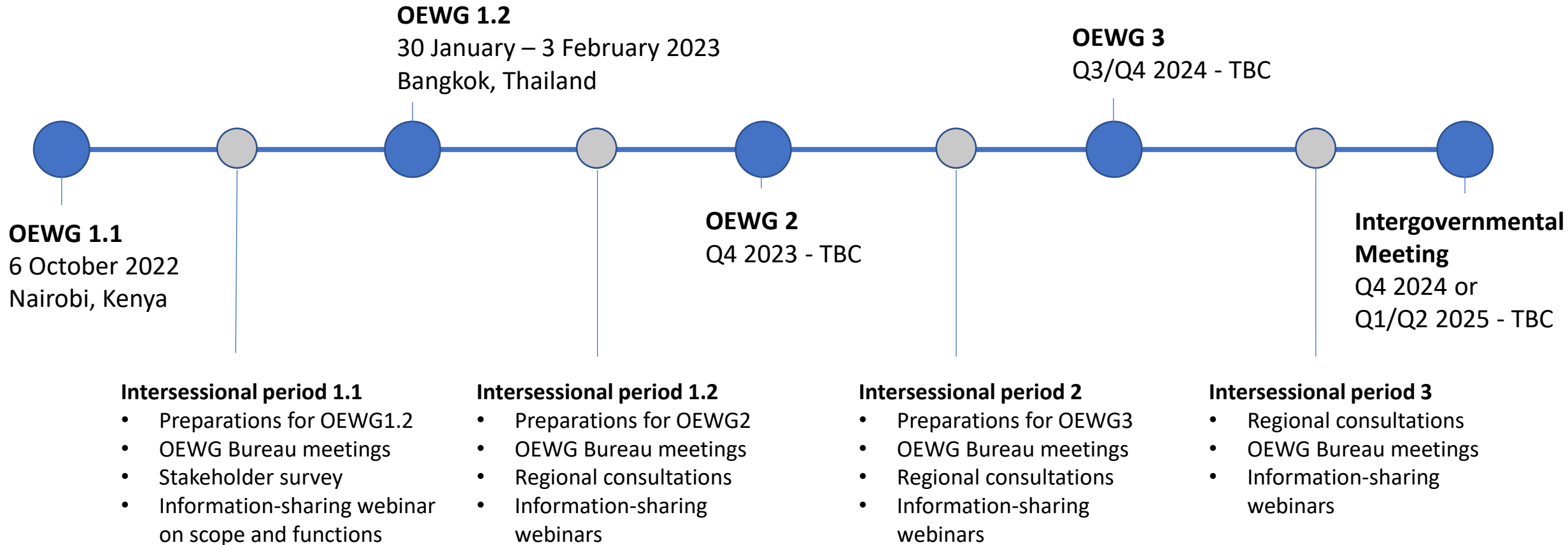
Kevin Helps, Principal Officer of the Science-Policy panel on Chemicals, Waste and Prevention of Pollution, UNEP

Background - UNEA 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 (para. 1)

Decided to convene, subject to availability of resources, an ad hoc open ended working group that will begin work in 2022 with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024 (para. 4)

OEWG Process - Tentative Timeline



OEWG 1.1, 6 October 2022, Nairobi & online

Close to 500 participants representing over 80 Member States, as well as representatives from UN entities, MEAs, SAICM, accredited IGOs, NGOs, academia, private sector/industry

- Election of seven of ten **Bureau Members**, including the Rapporteur and agreement on interim **Chair** (pending finalization of Bureau election)
- Adoption of **UNEA Rules of Procedure** to apply *mutatis mutandis*
- **Initial exchange of views** on the establishment of a science-policy panel

OEWG Bureau

Seven of ten **Bureau Members elected at OEWG 1.1.**

Vice-Chairs: Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda)

Salma Qadoori Jabir (Iraq) *

Oumar Diaouré Cisse (Mali)

Saqlain Syedah (Pakistan) – *acting interim Chair*

Michel Tschirren (Switzerland)

Valentina Sierra (Uruguay)

Cyrus Mageria (Kenya) - *Rapporteur*

OEWG 1.2 – Practical information

When? 30 January to 3 February 2023, with regional and other groups preparatory meetings on 29 January 2023

Where? United Nations Conference Centre, ESCAP, Bangkok

How to participate? Register no later than 20 January 2023 through the online meeting platform at <https://indico.un.org/event/1001971/> (application for travel support now closed)

Further practical information: [meeting webpage](#)
(meeting documents were posted on 23 December 2022)

OEWG 1 – 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 – *UNEA Rules of Procedures adopted at OEWG 1.1*
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda – *adopted at OEWG 1.1*
 - (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

OEWG 1.2 – Meeting documentation

- *Working documents*

(Posted 23 Dec 2022)

Symbol	Topic
1	Provisional agenda
1/ Add.2	Annotated provisional agenda
3	Report of OEWG 1.1
4	Scope of the science policy panel
5	Principal functions of the science policy panel
6	Budget and provisional workplan for the OEWG

Documents are available on the [OEWG1.2 webpage](#)

OEWG 1.2 – Meeting documentation

- *Information documents*

(Posted 23 Dec 2022)

Symbol	Topic
INF/1	UNEA Resolution 5/8
INF/2	UNEA Rules of procedure
INF/3	Scenario note for OEWG 1.2
INF/4	Mapping analysis of the current landscape of existing science policy interfaces on the sound management of chemicals and waste and the prevention of pollution
INF/5	Comparative analysis of existing assessment structures
INF/6	Stakeholder engagement feedback
INF/7	Overview of existing rules and procedures of selected science-policy bodies
INF/8	Procedures for elections to fill vacancies in the Bureau (...) [online soon]

Documents are available on the [OEWG1.2 webpage](#)

OEWG 1.2 – Main expectations (1)

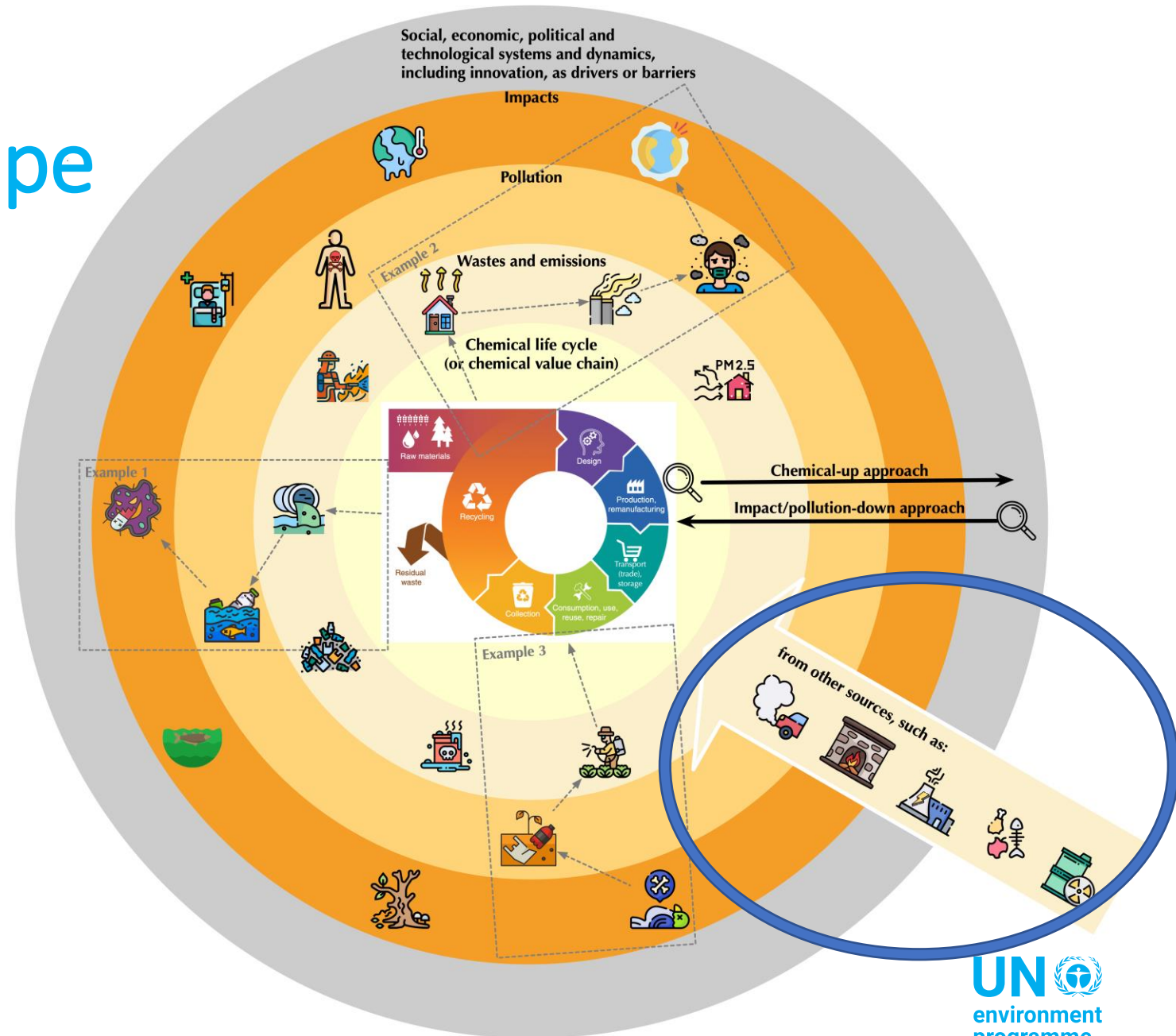
- Finalize election of Bureau Members, including election of Chair
 - INF 8 on the procedures for elections will be shared soon
 - The secretariat will organize a briefing on the election on Sunday (29th January) at 17:00 after the regional meetings

OEWG 1.2 – Main expectations (2)

- Discussions on issues outlined in para 5 of the Resolution 5/8, particularly:
 - Options for the scope of the panel
 - Options for the principal functions of the panel

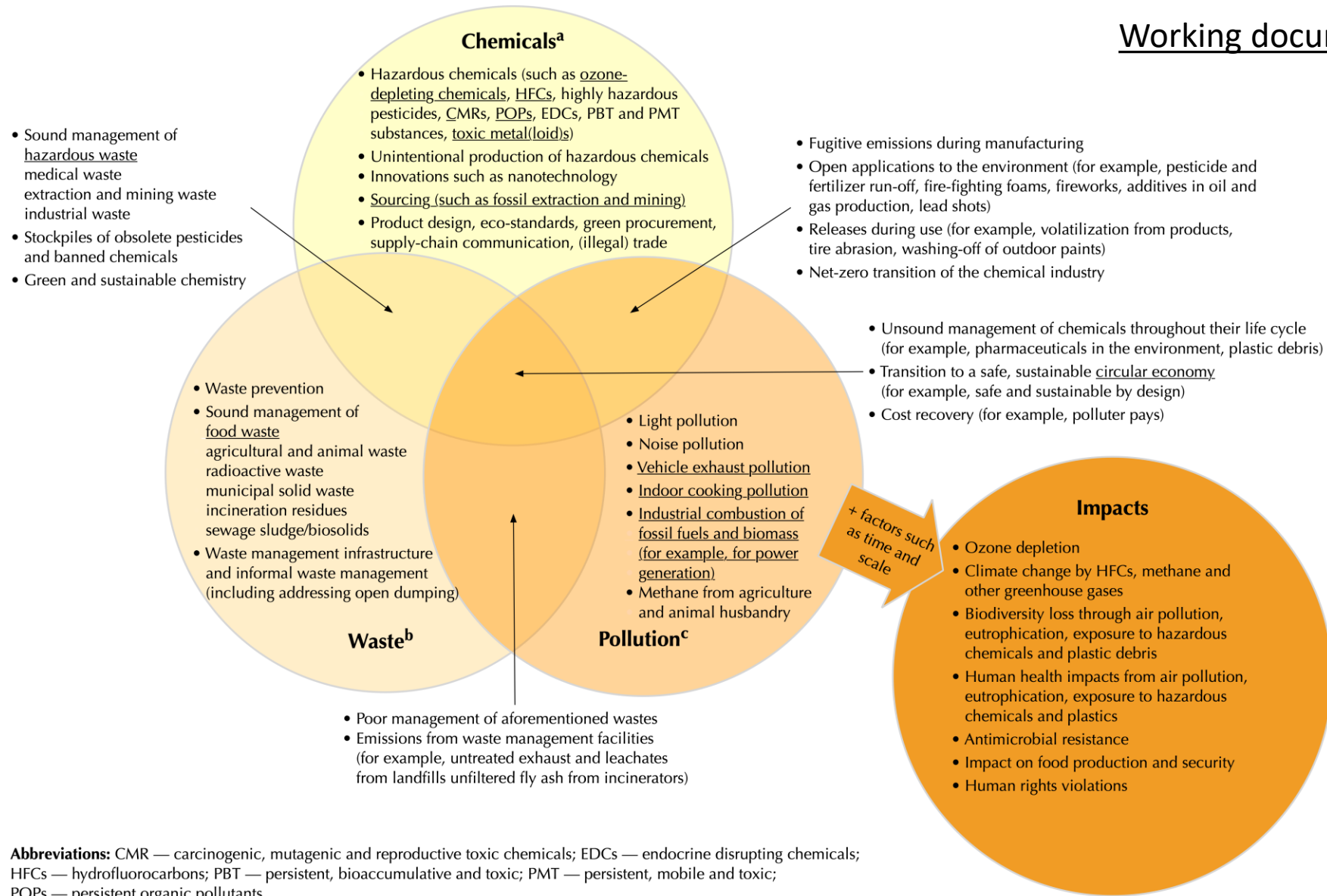
OEWG 1.2 – Options for the Scope

- Chemicals, waste and pollution are highly interrelated matters.
- An integrative scoping approach can be beneficial, though it doesn't cover everything.



OEWG 1.2 – Options for the Scope

Working document 4



Abbreviations: CMR — carcinogenic, mutagenic and reproductive toxic chemicals; EDCs — endocrine disrupting chemicals; HFCs — hydrofluorocarbons; PBT — persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic; PMT — persistent, mobile and toxic; POPs — persistent organic pollutants

OEWG 1.2 – Options for the Scope

- **Proposed steps for establishing the panel's scope**
 - Agree on the panel's objective that reflects an integrative approach to scope;
 - Initiate the development of a conceptual framework to guide the panel's work;
 - Consider whether to explicitly include or exclude certain dimensions;
 - Identify the entities that the panel would support most directly in the light of its scope.
- **The OEWG may wish to agree on a process for the development of a proposal on the scope of the panel.**

OEWG 1.2 – Options for the Principal Functions

- UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/5 elaborates on the functions set out in the UNEA resolution 5/8 and that was mentioned during the OEWG 1.1.
 - horizon scanning; assessments; knowledge management , communication and information-sharing, and stakeholder engagement; and capacity-building
 - The document provides common definition(s) and identifies a range of approaches and associated implications for implementing each function, based on a review of mandates and activities by existing science-policy bodies.
- **The OEWG may wish to**
 - Consider the options for a way forward and provide guidance on intersessional work (e.g., options for the institutional arrangements, rules of procedure), taking into account the working document 5, and INF 4, 5 and 7.

OEWG 1.2 – Main expectations (3)

- Consideration of options for the timetable, budget and sequencing of the OEWG work

OEWG Process – Budget Status

- Thanks to governments of China, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and the UK for their financial contributions
- Estimated total cost for the OEWG process: 8.25 million USD (including support for the participation of eligible countries and stakeholders, venue and conference services)
- Total contributions & pledges received to date: 2.35 million USD (resources available to cover the OEWG 1, while most Secretariat costs covered so far by UNEP)
- Proposals currently being developed for additional support
- **Member States in a position to do so invited to provide financial contribution to support delivery of the process, including the secretariat**

OEWG 1.2 – Main expectations (3)

- Consideration of options for the timetable, budget and sequencing of the OEWG work
- Further guidance on date & possible venue of OEWG 2
- Agreement on intersessional work in preparation for OEWG 2
 - Provisional timetable and programme of work presented in Working Document 6

Stakeholder engagement

Including with:

- IGOs such as WHO and IOMC member organisations
- Relevant MEAs, including BRS, Minamata, Montreal, and SAICM
- Other panels and assessment bodies / processes
- Civil society organisations, academia, private sector

Intersessional period

Seize opportunities for outreach/back-to-back meetings with relevant Conferences and COPs & other relevant regional meetings

Stakeholder Engagement Survey

Webinar series

Stakeholder Engagement Survey

- Conducted between mid-October and end November 2022 with circulation to all Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders
- Close to 400 respondents: 85 from governments, other from IGOs, civil society organisations, academia, industry, UN agencies, etc.
- Explored different key topics to be further considered in the context of the OEWG process: Scope, Functions, Principles and Governance of a Science-Policy Panel
- INF 6 provides an overview of input received
- Possibly the first of a series

Webinar series (2022 & 2023)

25 July 2022: [Introducing the science-policy panel](#)

5 October 2022: [Lessons learned from WHO, IPCC, IPBES, IRP, Ozone](#)

24 January 2023: [Scope and functions of the Panel](#)

End February 2023: OEWG 1.2 follow up

More to be developed in 2023 on: Academia and industry involvement, OEWG 2 overview, OEWG 2 outcomes, Horizon scanning in the SPP

OEWG – National Focal Points

- Member States invited to designate their National Focal Points to the SPP OEWG process
- 109 Member States have nominated Focal Points to date
- Designations to be submitted through formal letter from the Ministry or Note Verbale from the Embassy or Permanent Mission to : unep-sgb@un.org, copy to spp-cwp@un.org.

OEWG 1.2 – Technical deep-dive dialogues

- To be held in the margins of OEWG 1.2 (Monday and Tuesday lunch time)
- **Objective:** To further inform the OEWG discussions on scope and functions of the panel through an inclusive dialogue across stakeholder groups - *including governments, Secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and international organisations, civil society, academia, industry / private sector*
- Currently in development, including Identification of experts from broad range of disciplines

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Contact the OEWG Secretariat at:

spp-cwp@un.org
