

Statement by the Endocrine Society to the Open Ended Working Group 1.2: Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

February 01, 2023

Thank you Chair,

The Endocrine Society, a UNEP accredited organization, is the world's largest and oldest professional society dedicated to the understanding of hormone systems and clinical care of those with endocrine diseases including a global membership of physicians and scientists from over 120 countries. Our expertise has defined much of what we know about the endocrine system: what hormones are, what they do and how they do it. Our members have advanced our understanding of how chemicals can interfere with the function of endocrine systems and act as endocrine-disrupting chemicals, or EDCs, and cause human and ecological health impacts. We provide guidance to policymakers around the world to help develop effective strategies and implement measures to minimize exposure to hazardous endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

The Endocrine Society appreciates and welcomes the comments from Member States on the importance of ensuring that the activities of the OEWG and the Science-Policy Panel (SPP) are transparent, independent, and free of real or perceived conflicts of interest, or COI; be they financial conflicts of interest, or conflicts related to relevant relationships that may influence the activities of the OEWG or the SPP. Pervasive COI can prevent the full and unbiased utilization of all scientific information to assess and provide guidance on chemicals, waste, and pollution, denying policymakers and the public the potential benefits afforded by this group. We support the inclusion of systematic approaches to identify and manage COI in the activities of the OEWG and SPP to ensure that the panel can be relied on for trustworthy, unbiased information.

We strongly support the positions of Member States who have emphasized the importance of implementing robust instruments to ensure transparency, independence, and conflict-free activities of the OEWG, especially as it related to definition of scope and function of the SPP, and selection of SPP membership.

Thank you for considering our comments.