

Below is the statement by Japan, on functions.

With regard to the functions, Japan considers that, among the four primary functions identified in the resolution 5/8, designing the horizon scanning and assessment, with more clarity on their nature, is essential.

Also, in order to efficiently address a lot of items to be discussed during the OEWG process, it is essential to distinguish the issues to be discussed as the OEWG and the issues which the Panel's Governing body should or can discuss after the establishment of the Panel. Accordingly, Japan proposes not to go into detail on the strategies or policies on data management, communication and stakeholder engagement, which can be discussed even after the establishment of the panel, and proposes to focus on the key issues which are essential in fulfilling the mandate of OEWG.

As for horizon scanning function, its primary objective should be to identify information which needs attention of policy-makers based on available information sources such as academic literature, in order to provide early warning of the potential risks and opportunities.

At the same time, we need to discuss how the outcome of the horizon scanning can be used. It could support the other functions of the panel, including incorporating the outcome into the workplan or identifying the assessment area in the future, however, depending on the outcome, further research activities may be needed, or more practical activities by other bodies may be desirable. Therefore, Japan believes that horizon scanning and assessment is not necessarily a sequential activity.

For the assessment function, it should be clarified that the new Panel is not going to conduct its original research activity but is going to review the literature in an objective viewpoint, independently from policy makers.

Finally, for the type of the assessment report, Japan considers that comprehensive global regular assessment on the entire scope of the panel would be inefficient and unrealistic, if the scope is broad. Rather, special or thematic assessments on specific issues, in response to the priorities and needs of the governments should be the main activity.