



Interventions Switzerland – OEWG SPP 1.2.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of agenda and other organizational matters

- First congratulations to you Madame Chair for your election. We are fully confident that you will steer this process in an excellent manner and are looking forward working with you.
- We would thank Thailand for welcoming us in Bangkok and the secretariat for their preparatory work for this meeting.
- This delegation supports the planned organization of work and schedule for this week as presented. We also think that it is good to avoid an overlap of the CG on scope / objective and the one on functions.
- We are mindful that the UNEA Res. 5/8 tasked the OEWG to develop proposal on 12 items and that we have only three meetings to develop and agree on these proposals.
- To make best use of our time, we see UNEA resolution not only as starting point for our discussions but as well as a guiding framework and we support that we don't re-negotiate elements that we have agreed on at UNEA.
- As mentioned, regarding the big workload and the limited time, we have to make as much progress as possible on scope and the functions of the SPP.
- We suggest further to consider others of the 12 items, in particular those for which the secretariat has provided INF-Documents. This could be through presentations, deep-dive sessions or discussion in plenary or informal groups.
- An important outcome of this week, will be the decision on intersessional work. Looking at the timeline, we know that we have to agree on the proposals at OEWG 3. To have sufficient time and space for proper negotiations and to reach agreement, we need draft elements presented at the OEWG 2 and hence mandate them to be developed those in the intersessional period.
- Thank you Madame Chair

Agenda item 6: Scope & Objective

- On the scope, Switzerland supports an integrated, inclusive and broad scope. A narrow scope, might prevent us in future to react to new developments or new priorities. Obviously, this does not mean that the Panel should work on all possible issues. A good mechanism to prioritize the work will be of essence to deliver impactful results.
- Regarding the objective, we again recommend to use as a starting point the UNEA resolution. The title of the resolution *“a science policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution”* is quite explicit and contains elements that could be used to define an objective. Additionally, we have language in the preambular para on how scientific information and assessments can assist to address challenges and enable and efficient actions. In our view, those two elements could serve a basis to formulate a objective.
- We have noted the idea to put value-chains at the center of the objective. We acknowledge that value-chains are of relevance and that the Panel should include those in their work along other important approaches such as “life-cycle”. However, focusing so strongly on one aspect would narrow the scope too much and limit the lenses through which the Panel can look at issues.
- Regarding the identification of relevant entities, the Panel should serve. This delegation would suggest to use a step-by-step approach. First is be the question of what we want to deliver - this will be discussed under the objective. Next step would be how the information’s could be delivered and then to whom. We support again a open approach not limiting potential entities but rather to ensure relevant informations that can serve a broad public.
- Thank you Madame Chair

Agenda item 6: Functions

Thank you Madam Chair.

Switzerland would like to thank the government of Thailand for the wonderful reception we experienced last night.

With regard to our business, Madam Chair,

The OEWG process was established through the UNEA5/8 resolution on the establishment of the SPP. This UNEA resolution is quite precise with regard to many aspects of the new SPP. This is in particular the case with regard to the functions. Switzerland is of the view that with

the functions of 5/8 the essential part of the SPP are covered. The 4 functions are already spelled out in res 5/8.

- (a) Undertaking “horizon scanning” to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them;
- (b) Conducting assessments of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address, where possible, those issues, in particular those relevant to developing countries;
- (c) Providing up-to-date and relevant information, identifying key gaps in scientific research, encouraging and supporting communication between scientists and policymakers, explaining and disseminating findings for different audiences, and raising public awareness;
- (d) Facilitating information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information;

Those 4 functions should be included as part of the draft elements in the documents going forward.

We thank the secretariat for the document provided. We are of the view that there is no need to add additional functions. However, a discussion on what is needed to carry out the 4 functions will be useful. Concrete outcomes of that discussion can be added to the draft text. This delegation is looking forward to engaging in this discussion in a contact group, which is in our view to be based on res5/8.

Thank you, Madam Chair.