

OEWG1.2: Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution - 30 January - 3 February 2023 - Bangkok, Thailand

Contact Group on Scope and Functions 31 January 2023

Co-chair's summary of discussion on functions

1. The group decided that the functions as listed in the UNEA resolution 5/8 will be included among the proposal for the establishment of the Panel.
2. The group discussed the inclusion of a fifth function on capacity building. There were diverging views on this matter.
3. The group therefore decided that an informal drafting group, that is open to all interested parties, will consider proposals put forward by Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Group and Brazil on capacity building. The proposals are listed below.
4. The informal drafting group is also invited to consider the request from Norway to discuss the elements of capacity building that could be included within this function.

Agreed text on the functions (from UNEA resolution 5/8, paragraph 2):

- 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;*

Proposed text for discussion in the informal group on capacity building:

- **Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Group:** Facilitating capacity building and technology transfer to developing countries with a view to strengthening data generation capacity, conducting assessments (including through the use of local experts), internal capacity for contextualizing global data into local realities, including through development of testing facilities as well as capacity for implementation of the various outputs of the panel.
- **Brazil:** Provide capacity-building, in particular to developing countries, to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels, including activities to ensure effective, geographically balanced and gender-responsive participation of scientists in the assessments of the panel, developing and deploying training materials and data, improving policy coherence in and facilitating connection and matchmaking of capacity-related needs and potential solutions.