

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 1 on Scope and Functions 1 February 2023: Outcome of discussions

[The **objective of the panel** is to strengthen the science policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution for the protection of human health and the environment, with the following **functions**:]

- 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;
- e) [capacity building]

Proposed text to be included in the report of the meeting:

The contact group agreed that the proposed objective and functions of the panel should be further complemented by operating principles to be further developed during the intersessional period.

The group considered that the following elements, among others, could be considered when developing the operating principles, while noting that there were differing views: the delivery of policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive (see UNEA 5/8, OP3), the contribution of indigenous and traditional knowledge (in the context of OP6 of UNEA5/8), human rights approach, the promotion of innovation, transparency, inclusivity and complementarity.