

Agenda Item 5

The Norwegian delegation thank the secretariat for their efforts and welcome the documents that we have found very useful in our preparations for this meeting.

Given time we have available for negotiating this panel we find it important that this meeting seeks to advance the negotiations as far as possible in order to keep the momentum.

We ask UNEP to prioritize this new process, as requested by UNEA In 2022.

On the intersessional work we seek information and clarification from the secretariat, regarding which documents that have to be adopted for the establishment of the panel. We find it crucial that preparation of zero drafts for a resolution to establish the panel, included annexes on rules of procedures for the plenary of the panel with the necessary aspects - and the annex on functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the panel based on the discussions in OEWG-1 and written submissions, must be ready for negotiation at our next meeting and should be a key priority.

For other procedures that can be decided once the panel is established, for example on prioritisation of requests put to the panel, procedures for deliverables and for horizon scanning and so on, discussions should be started in due time.

Agenda item 6, Scope

We welcome the proposals for ways forward and agree to using document OEWG.1/4 as the basis for the discussions at this meeting. We find it essential not to re-open what was agreed in resolution 5/8.

Norway supports developing a broad scope that includes all three elements - chemicals, waste and pollution prevention and supports the integrative approach.

In terms of how to move forward on establishing a scope the suggested approach of developing objective complemented by other elements to us seems like a feasible way forward and is something we would like to discuss more closely.

That said the secretariats proposal for an objective is in our view too narrow and our preference is rather to develop a scope which highlights that the panel should close the science-policy gap and contribute further to the science-policy interface.

Agenda item 6, Functions

The NO delegation would like to repeat the importance of not re-open what was agreed in resolution 5/8.

We are of the opinion that the four functions included in para 2 of the resolution form a good basis for the operation of the panel, in order to strengthen the science-policy interface for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Based on the possibility for basing the panels functions, on those four functions outlined in res 5/8, we are of the opinion that capacity building should be an integrated part of those functions, in particular related to para 2 c) and d).

This also applies to the important function of the panel regarding the dissemination of knowledge.

About horizon scanning, we prefer this to be expert driven, in close cooperation with member states, and fast moving. We could find ways to include stakeholders (industry, indigenous people and so on) in these processes.

We also support that the panel, in addition to global assessments, could produce regional reports and reports on specific issues.