

Operating Principles: Learning from Previous Practice

Background document to support discussions on operating principles

Released in advance of Webinar on Developing Operating Principles of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention / SPP-CWP Series (26 April 2023)

I. Introduction

1. At its resumed fifth session, held in Nairobi from 28 February to 2 March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly decided, by resolution 5/8, that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, with details to be further specified according to the provisions in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution (full text of resolution in Annex I). The Environment Assembly considered that “the panel should be an independent intergovernmental body with a programme of work approved by its member Governments to deliver policyrelevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive”.
2. By the same resolution, the Environment Assembly decided to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an *ad hoc* open-ended working group (OEWG) that would begin work in 2022, with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024. The Assembly requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide a secretariat for the OEWG and to prepare the analytical and summary reports necessary for its work.
3. At OEWG1.2 in January 2023, the OEWG Secretariat was tasked to prepare and circulate, in advance of OEWG2, a document to collect written submissions on operating principles for the science-policy panel on the sound management of chemicals and waste and the prevention of pollution (hereafter “the Panel”). This document is intended to be used in parallel to a webinar on operating principles being held on 26 April 2023 (the first webinar in the SPP-CWP series) and a call for written submissions (see paragraph 43 of this document).
4. The request for the OEWG Secretariat to prepare such a document stemmed from discussions in the context of the panel’s scope and function at OEWG1.2. In the contact group on scope and principal functions, delegates “discussed a range of issues to be considered further when developing other elements of the panel, including the delivery of policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy-prescriptive; the contribution of Indigenous and traditional knowledge; adopting a human-rights approach; covering all forms of pollution, including pollution related to chemicals and waste and pollution released into the air, water (including oceans) and soil; and the promotion of innovation, transparency, inclusivity and complementarity” (paragraph 81 in the Report of OEWG1.2, UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/7). Further, the “contact group suggested that intersessional work to further inform the discussion on the objective and functions of the new panel could include the development of ... operational principles” (paragraph 83 of the Report).
5. This document is based on a review of operating principles of the same group of relevant panels or science-policy interfaces consulted while preparing documents for OEWG1.2: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the International Resource Panel (IRP) and the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process. Note that while the comparison of assessment processes prepared for OEWG1.2 (INF/5) also looked to the Ozone regime, there is no document dedicated to “principles” for the Montreal Protocol Assessment Panels.
6. The relevant documents consulted for this background document are:

- a. [Principles Governing IPCC Work](#), a document first approved in 1998¹, last amended in 2013 (full text in Annex II);
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- b. [IPBES Operating Principles, approved in 2012, one section of comprehensive document also addressing functions and institutional arrangements \(full text of relevant section in Annex III\)](#);

- c. [IRP Guiding Principles, approved in 2016 \(full text in Annex IV\)](#); and,

- d. [GEO Operational Principles, approved in 2022 \(full text of relevant section in Annex V\)](#).

7. This background document is organized as follows: First, this document presents the role and use of operating principles for science-policy panels, providing some detailed examples highlighting variation across existing panels. Next, the document presents an overview of elements from UNEA Resolution 5/8 (hereafter referred to as “Res. 5/8”) that may serve as a starting point for defining operating principles of the Panel. Finally, concepts not currently reflected in UNEA Resolution 5/8 that may be considered by the OEWG as part of principles have been identified.

II. The Role and Use of Operating Principles

a. Definition and Use

8. The inclusion of operating principles among the documents establishing a science-policy panel can be a means of recognizing agreement on several overarching priorities, characteristics or values that shape the panel’s work and outputs. Such operating principles are typically only one component among a larger group of documents, including those setting out specific rules, procedures and guidelines.

9. Relevant science-policy panels have defined their operating principles according to varied approaches (see Annexes II to V of this document), and in developing these, the panels have learned from each other.

10. The IPCC document “Principles Governing IPCC Work” was first adopted in 1998 and was last amended in 2012. This two-page document lays out principles specifically as they connect to the rules governing the IPCC’s work process and includes basic elements of what are addressed under guidelines, rules of procedure, or institutional arrangements. This document is supplemented by a variety of more detailed appendices and other documents that provide much more detailed guidance on procedures to follow, including for example its own Appendix I: Procedures for the preparation, review, acceptance, adoption, approval and publication of IPCC Reports and Terms of Reference for some of IPCC’s subsidiary bodies (Bureau, Executive Committee, etc.).

11. IPBES’ “Operating principles of the Platform” are eleven concise items included in a document called Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, adopted in 2012 by the second session of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for IPBES.

¹ A first version of this document was approved in 1991 (see De Pryck, K. (2021), *Controversial Practices: Tracing the Proceduralization of the IPCC in Time and Space*. *Glob. Policy*, 12: 80-89. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.12910>)

12. IRP’s “Guiding Principles” are a subsection of the larger “Policies and Procedures” document approved in 2016. This is a list of five terms, each followed by a brief elaboration.

13. GEO’s “Operational Principles” is a 10 sub-paragraph section of a 20-page document, Global Environment Outlook (GEO) Intergovernmental and Expert-led Scientific Assessment Procedures, the result of a September 2022 meeting convened as a result of Resolution UNEA 5/3 which “Requests the Executive Director, with guidance from the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder advisory group, to: Convene an intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder and expert meeting to establish a set of procedures that reflects the objectives and core function of the Global Environment Outlook process”.

14. In addition to slight variation in the specific priorities/values being put forward, there is also variation as to the degree of separation between explicit listing of specific operating principles and laying out the details of specific operating principles in other documents such as institutional arrangements, rules, procedures and guidelines. There is also variation in the style and phrasing of the concepts. These differences are elaborated in the next section where illustrative examples are examined.

15. It may be helpful to think of operating principles in a similar vein to the preamble of a treaty – they identify overarching understandings and priorities that underpin the remainder of the agreed text.

16. In drafting operating principles for a science-policy panel, one might consider how they may shape the long-term flexibility of the panel’s work, and its institutional arrangements, rules, procedures and guidelines.

17. Notably, one might envision a set of operating principles that are drafted in general terms to flag key values and points of understandings that would rarely need re-visiting once the panel is established. In contrast, the accompanying rules, procedures and guidelines might be periodically reviewed to improve and streamline processes and improve outputs.

18. Principles can also be helpful in conveying and communicating essential aspects guiding the work of the panel to different audiences.

19. In other circumstances, including a concept under the operating principles can also serve as a placeholder of sorts, flagging an issue regarding which the panel, once it is operative, may need to develop more detailed procedures or strategies.

20. Two considerations are likely to be of greatest relevance for the development of an operating principles document for the Panel:

- a. Identifying the ideas/concepts/priorities around which there is consensus, and which could form the basis of an operating principle; and
- b. Determining whether these ideas/concepts/priorities fall under “operating principles” or whether they are best considered while developing detailed procedures or guidelines.

21. The sections that follow provide detailed illustrations of the pertinent text, and of the variations in terminology used across panels. Each of the documents reviewed includes language on these broad principles. Specific text is included below to facilitate comparison, and pertinent language has been emphasized in bold.

b. Example 1: Policy Relevant (and not policy prescriptive)

22. Res. 5/8: 3: Also considers that the panel should be an independent intergovernmental body with a programme of work approved by its member Governments **to deliver policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive**;

23. IPCC: 2. ... IPCC reports should be **neutral with respect to policy**, although they may need to **deal objectively with** scientific, technical and socio-economic **factors relevant to the application of particular policies**.

24. IPBES: (e) **Provide policy-relevant information, but not policy-prescriptive advice**, mindful of the respective mandates of the multilateral environmental agreements;

25. IRP: (a) **Policy relevance**. The IRP **provides scientific knowledge and science-based policy options in a nonprescriptive manner** responding to requests from its Steering Committee as well as from intergovernmental bodies including the United Nations Environment Assembly, the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other institutions as deemed relevant and appropriate by the Steering Committee.

26. GEO: to ensure (b) **The relevance (or salience) of GEO** in terms of responding flexibly to the needs of Member States and stakeholders, for example for improving the effectiveness of environmental policy.

c. Example 2: Inclusivity/Balance of Representation

27. Res 5/8: 6(b): Is **interdisciplinary**, ensuring contributions from experts with a broad range of disciplinary expertise; has **inclusive participation**, including **indigenous peoples**; and has **geographical, regional and gender balance**.

28. IPCC: 5. The IPCC Bureau, the IPCC Working Group Bureaux and the Bureaux of any Task Forces of the IPCC shall reflect **balanced geographic representation** with due consideration for scientific and technical requirements.

29. IPBES: (d) **Recognize and respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge** to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems; (g) Recognize the unique biodiversity and scientific knowledge thereof within and among regions and the need for the full and effective participation of developing countries and **balanced regional representation and participation in its structure and work**; (h) Take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that **incorporates all relevant disciplines, including social and natural sciences**; (i) **Recognize the need for gender equity** in all relevant aspects of its work;

30. IRP: (c) **Inclusiveness**. The IRP aims at striking and maintaining a **balanced and diverse composition** of the Panel, Steering Committee and Working Groups **in terms of expertise, gender, and regional representation**.

31. GEO: to ensure (d) ... To ensure team compositions that are **balanced with respect to geography, gender and discipline**;

d. Example 3: Integrity/ Objectivity/ Independence/Lack of Bias (avoiding conflicts of interest):

32. It is notable that only the IRP's principles document explicitly calls out the issue of conflicts of interest, even though there are procedures in place regarding conflicts of interest under each panel.

33. Res. 5/8: 3. Also considers that the panel should be an **independent** intergovernmental body with a programme of work approved by its member Governments to deliver policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive; 6(f) Has the **ability to address potential conflicts of interest**

34. IPCC: (2). The role of the IPCC is to assess on a comprehensive, **objective**, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. IPCC reports should be neutral with respect to policy, although they may need to **deal objectively** with scientific, technical and socio-economic factors relevant to the application of particular policies.

35. IPBES: (b) Be **scientifically independent** and ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy through peer review of its work and transparency in its decision-making processes;

36. IRP: (d) **Objectivity**. The IRP undertakes critical, **unbiased** studies and assessments of best available science, follows robust methodologies and peer review processes, and ensures open and transparent decisionmaking processes. (e) **Integrity**. Panel members maintain the integrity of the scientific process and **avert any conflicts of interest**.

37. GEO: to ensure (c) The legitimacy of GEO, as an assessment accepted by Member States and stakeholders as authoritative, **produced through unbiased, representative and defensible procedures**;

III. Developing options for operating principles

38. UNEA Resolution 5/8, para 6 may be used as a starting point for defining the operating principles of the panel, as may be other concepts already included in the resolution. These are concepts that are generally endorsed by each of the other panels, albeit not necessarily within their principles document (so for example, as noted above, conflict of interest is addressed in specific rules/guidelines and not in detail in many of the other principles documents).

39. Below, these concepts are grouped according to the overarching features of credibility, relevance/salience, and legitimacy, three categories broadly recognized as hallmarks of a successful sciencepolicy interface. Such conceptual groupings may help to facilitate comparison with existing panels' principles (see Annexes), although references to specific sections of the resolution are also referenced for convenience.

Credibility

Robustness/Rigour (*para 6(c)*)

Integrity/ Objectivity/ Independence/Lack of Bias (conflict of interest) (*para 3; para 6(f)*)

Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary/Balance of disciplines (*para 6(b)*)

Relevance/Salience

Policy relevant, not policy prescriptive (*para 3; para 6(a)*)

Legitimacy

Inclusivity/Balance (geographic/regional, gender, of indigenous and local knowledge) (*para 6(b)*)²

² Note that we list "Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary/Balance of disciplines" and "Inclusivity/Balance

Cross-cutting themes

Transparency (*para 6(c)*)

Flexibility (*para 6(g)*)

Coordination (without duplication)/Complementarity (*para 5(c); para 6(d) and (e)*) Cost-Effectiveness (*para 6(h)*)

40. While the three lenses of credibility, relevance/salience and legitimacy are well established for the purpose of examining/designing science-policy interfaces, it is important to remember that there can be significant overlap across these areas within a single principle.
41. In addition to UNEA Resolution 5/8, several other items that are included as principles in other panels or that have been flagged in earlier OEWG deliberations, are identified.
42. These may include that a panel:
 - a. Promote innovation (raised at OEWG1.2)
 - b. Be comprehensive, holistic or integrative (included in IPCC, IPBES, IRP)
 - c. Be consensus-based (included in IPCC)
 - d. Be accessible (and/or that its outputs be accessible) (included in GEO)

IV. Next Steps

43. Following the webinar to be held on 26 April 2023 and/or review of this document, Member States and relevant stakeholders are invited to provide written statements. To facilitate the submission and compilation of these submissions, the OEWG Secretariat has prepared a form, which will be available at this [link](#) from 26 April 2023. Submissions will be accepted until 6 June 2023.

44. Written submissions received by the Secretariat will be posted online to the OEWG website, and the results compiled into an information document in support of a working document setting out options for operating principles for consideration at OEWG2.

(geographic/regional, gender, of indigenous and local knowledge)” under the separate headings of “credibility” and “legitimacy” because they are sometimes separated out in other panels’ principles, but they are all addressed together in para 6(b) of the resolution.

Annex I: Resolution UNEA 5/8: Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 4/8 on sound management of chemicals and wastes, and stressing the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels to support and promote science-based local, national, regional and global action on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

Recalling also its resolution 5/2, which approved the medium-term strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2022–2025, with its subprogramme on chemicals and pollution action, alongside those on nature action and climate action, its promotion of sound science, and the sharing of information and knowledge,

Appreciating the work on the promotion of the sound management of chemicals and waste and the prevention of pollution by the relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, including the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and welcoming the continuation of their scientific work to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution,

Recognizing the importance of science-based assessments to inform decision-making processes,

Noting the report prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals entitled *Assessment of Options for Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface at the International Level for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste*¹

Acknowledging that improving the availability of scientific information and assessments can address capacity challenges, enable more effective and efficient action to minimize and prevent the adverse impact of the unsound management of chemicals and waste, and prevent pollution to improve human well-being and contribute to the prosperity of all,

Reaffirming that the sound management of chemicals and waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment,

Recognizing that air pollution is the single greatest environmental risk to human health, with a disproportionate impact on women, children and the elderly,

Convinced that a science-policy panel could support countries in their efforts to take action, including to implement multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international instruments, promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, and address pollution by providing policy-relevant scientific advice on issues, and that it could further support relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in their work,

1. *Decides* that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution, with details to be further specified according to the provisions in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the present resolution;

2. *Considers* that the principal functions of the panel should include, among other things:
 - (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;

3. *Also considers* that the panel should be an independent intergovernmental body with a programme of work approved by its member Governments to deliver policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive;

4. *Decides* to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc open-ended working group that will begin work in 2022, with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024;

5. *Also decides* that the ad hoc open-ended working group will prepare proposals for the science-policy panel to consider the following issues:
 - (a) Institutional design and governance of the panel;
 - (b) Name and scope of the panel;
 - (c) Principal functions of the panel, as set out in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, while respecting the mandates of relevant multilateral agreements and other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, avoiding overlap and duplication of work, and promoting coordination and cooperation;
 - (d) Relationships of the panel with relevant key stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, and civil society;
 - (e) Processes for determining and executing the work programme of the panel;
 - (f) Arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel;
 - (g) Procedures for the review and adoption of reports and assessments produced by the panel;
 - (h) Arrangements for secretariat support for the panel;
 - (i) Options for voluntary financing of the work of the panel;
 - (j) Rules of procedure and the operating principles governing the work of the panel;
 - (k) An indicative budget for the panel;
 - (l) Any other matters that the ad hoc open-ended working group believes should be addressed;

6. *Further decides* that the ad hoc open-ended working group should take into account the need to ensure that the panel:
 - (a) Is able to deliver outputs that are policy relevant without being policy prescriptive;
 - (b) Is interdisciplinary, ensuring contributions from experts with a broad range of disciplinary expertise; has inclusive participation, including indigenous peoples; and has geographical, regional and gender balance;
 - (c) Has procedures that seek to ensure that the work of the panel is transparent and impartial and that it can produce reports and assessments that are credible and scientifically robust;
 - (d) Undertakes work that is complementary to and does not duplicate the work of the relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, including those that are members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;
 - (e) Coordinates, as appropriate, with other science-policy bodies, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
 - (f) Has the ability to address potential conflicts of interest and safeguard commercially sensitive information;
 - (g) Has the flexibility to respond, to the extent possible, to the needs identified by stakeholders and agreed

to by its member Governments, and to fulfil its principal functions, as set out in the present resolution; (h)
Is cost-effective, with the leanest structure consistent with achieving the highest impact;

7. *Decides* that the ad hoc open-ended working group should include Governments and regional economic integration organizations and be open to observers from United Nations entities, relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, including those that are members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and stakeholder representatives;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations and bodies, as appropriate;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to convene meetings of the ad hoc open-ended working group and invite the World Health Organization to play a role, as appropriate;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director, upon completion of proposals prepared by the ad hoc open-ended working group, to convene an intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the outcomes of the ad hoc open-ended working group to the United Nations Environment Assembly and to relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies;

12. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the present resolution, in particular to enable the full participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the ad hoc open-ended working group;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide a secretariat for the ad hoc open-ended working group and prepare the analytical and summary reports necessary for its work;

14. *Invites* the governing bodies of relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies to consider the present resolution, as appropriate.

Annex II: Principles Governing IPCC Work

Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/09/ipcc-principles.pdf>

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING IPCC WORK

Approved at the Fourteenth Session (Vienna, 1-3 October 1998) on 1 October 1998, amended at the Twenty-First Session (Vienna, 3 and 6-7 November 2003), the Twenty-Fifth Session (Mauritius, 26-28 April 2006), the Thirty-Fifth Session (Geneva, 6-9 June 2012) and the Thirty-Seventh Session (Batumi, 14-18 October 2013)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as the IPCC or, synonymously, the Panel) shall concentrate its activities on the tasks allotted to it by the relevant WMO Executive Council and UNEP Governing Council resolutions and decisions as well as on actions in support of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change process.

ROLE

2. The role of the IPCC is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. IPCC reports should be neutral with respect to policy, although they may need to deal objectively with scientific, technical and socioeconomic factors relevant to the application of particular policies.

3. Review is an essential part of the IPCC process. Since the IPCC is an intergovernmental body, review of IPCC documents should involve both peer review by experts and review by governments.

ORGANIZATION

4. Major decisions of the IPCC will be taken by the Panel in plenary meetings.

5. The IPCC Bureau, the IPCC Working Group Bureaux and the Bureaux of any Task Forces of the IPCC shall reflect balanced geographic representation with due consideration for scientific and technical requirements.

6. IPCC Working Groups and any Task Forces constituted by the IPCC shall have clearly defined and approved mandates and work plans as established by the Panel, and shall be open-ended.

PARTICIPATION

7. Participation in the work of the IPCC is open to all WMO and UN Member countries.

8. Invitations to participate in the sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups, Task Forces and IPCC workshops shall be extended to Governments and other bodies by the Chairman of the IPCC.

9. Experts from WMO and UN Member countries or international, intergovernmental or nongovernmental organisations may be invited in their own right to contribute to the work of the IPCC

Working Groups and Task Forces. Governments should be informed in advance of invitations extended to experts from their countries and they may nominate additional experts.

PROCEDURES

10. In taking decisions, and approving, adopting and accepting reports, the Panel, its Working Groups and any Task Forces shall use all best endeavours to reach consensus. If consensus is judged by the relevant body not possible: (a) for decisions on procedural issues, these shall be decided according to the General Regulations of the WMO; (b) for approval, adoption and acceptance of reports, differing views shall be explained and, upon request, recorded. Differing views on matters of a scientific, technical or socioeconomic nature shall, as appropriate in the context, be represented in the scientific, technical or socioeconomic document concerned. Differences of views on matters of policy or procedure shall, as appropriate in the context, be recorded in the Report of the Session.

11. Conclusions drawn by IPCC Working Groups and any Task Forces are not official IPCC views until they have been accepted by the Panel in a plenary meeting.

12. Invitations to participate in the sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups, Task Forces and IPCC workshops should be extended at least six weeks in advance of the opening of the session.

13. Major reports, including Assessment Reports, Special Reports and Methodology Reports, basic documentation and other available reports for consideration at the sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups shall normally be made available by the IPCC Secretariat at least four weeks in advance of the session and, to the extent possible, in all official UN languages.

14. Interpretation into all official UN languages shall be provided for all sessions of the IPCC meeting in plenary, of its Bureau and its Working Groups. Should members of the IPCC Bureau or government representatives participate in a session of the Bureau via video conferencing or other electronic means the interaction with these members of the Bureau and government representatives may be in English only. Such arrangements will be subject to agreement by the Bureau, in advance of the meeting, and availability of technical facilities.

15. The scheduling of the sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups and Task Forces shall be co-ordinated, to the extent possible, with other related international meetings.

16. These Principles shall be reviewed at least every five years and amended as appropriate.

17. Procedures for the preparation, review, acceptance, approval, adoption and publication of IPCC reports are given in Appendix A. 18. Financial procedures for the IPCC are given in Appendix B. 19. Procedures for the Election of the IPCC Bureau and Any Task Force Bureau are given in Appendix C.

Annex III: IPBES Operating Principles

Available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/resource-file/2675>

Operating principles of the Platform, extracted from:

Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Adopted by the second session of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for IPBES, held from 16 – 21 April 2012 in Panama City, Panama

II. Operating principles of the Platform

2. In carrying out its work the Platform will be guided by the following operating principles:

(a) Collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environment agreements, United Nations bodies and networks of scientists and knowledge holders, to fill gaps and build upon their work while avoiding duplication;

(b) Be scientifically independent and ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy through peer review of its work and transparency in its decision-making processes;

(c) Use clear, transparent and scientifically credible processes for the exchange, sharing and use of data, information and technologies from all relevant sources, including non-peer-reviewed literature, as appropriate;

(d) Recognize and respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems;

(e) Provide policy-relevant information, but not policy-prescriptive advice, mindful of the respective mandates of the multilateral environmental agreements;

(f) Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work according to priorities decided by the Plenary;

(g) Recognize the unique biodiversity and scientific knowledge thereof within and among regions and the need for the full and effective participation of developing countries and balanced regional representation and participation in its structure and work;

(h) Take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that incorporates all relevant disciplines, including social and natural sciences;

(i) Recognize the need for gender equity in all relevant aspects of its work;

(j) Address terrestrial, marine and inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interactions;

(k) Ensure the full use of national, subregional and regional assessments and knowledge, as appropriate, including by ensuring a bottom-up approach.

3. The Platform's efficiency and effectiveness will be independently reviewed and evaluated on a periodic basis as decided by the Plenary, with adjustments to be made as necessary.

Annex IV: IRP Guiding Principles

Policies and Procedures document available at: <https://www.resourcepanel.org/policies-andprocedures-irp>

And version from "About Us" on website: <https://www.resourcepanel.org/about-us>

Ref:

IRP-PP-2016

Policies and Procedures of the International Resource Panel

Approved at the Nineteenth Meeting of the International Resource Panel (Paris, 15-18 November 2016)

Under: SECTION I. OBJECTIVE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

4. The work of the IRP is guided by the following principles:

(a) Policy relevance. The IRP provides scientific knowledge and science-based policy options in a nonprescriptive manner responding to requests from its Steering Committee as well as from intergovernmental bodies including the United Nations Environment Assembly, the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other institutions as deemed relevant and appropriate by the Steering Committee.

(b) Independence. Panel members carry out their research with impartiality; Steering Committee members provide input to IRP scientists so as to enhance policy relevance without compromising the independent nature of the research.

(c) Inclusiveness. The IRP aims at striking and maintaining a balanced and diverse composition of the Panel, Steering Committee and Working Groups in terms of expertise, gender, and regional representation.

(d) Objectivity. The IRP undertakes critical, unbiased studies and assessments of best available science, follows robust methodologies and peer review processes, and ensures open and transparent decision-making processes.

(e) Integrity. Panel members maintain the integrity of the scientific process and avert any conflicts of interest as per Annex II of this document.

Annex V: GEO Operational Principles

From Final GEO Procedures Document, available at: <https://www.unep.org/events/online-event/virtual-adhoc-open-ended-meeting-procedures-and-supporting-functions-seventh>

2.3 Operational principles

The GEO procedures have been drafted to ensure:

- (a) Mandate consistency and comparability across editions of GEO;
- (b) The relevance (or salience) of GEO in terms of responding flexibly to the needs of Member States and stakeholders, for example for improving the effectiveness of environmental policy;
- (c) The legitimacy of GEO, as an assessment accepted by Member States and stakeholders as authoritative, produced through unbiased, representative and defensible procedures,
- (d) The credibility of GEO as a robust and rigorous assessment based on scientifically accepted methods and analysis, from multiple official sources; To ensure team compositions that are balanced with respect to geography, gender and discipline;
- (e) The accessibility of GEO, meaning that its outputs and the underlying methodologies, knowledge base and environmental data are accessible by Member States and stakeholders to support policymaking, decisionmaking and strengthening of the science-policy interface;
- (f) The added value of GEO, in terms of ensuring that it responds to UNEP's mandate, that it avoids duplication with other global assessment processes, while addressing interlinkages and cross-cutting issues and identifying gaps and emerging issues;
- (g) The overall feasibility of GEO, including continuity of operations for the periodic production of the report and in terms of the implications for administrative, financial and collaborative structures and other initiatives across the UNEP science-policy interface;
- (h) Transparency of the GEO process, to support the scientific credibility and legitimacy criteria. Key tools to increase transparency can be incorporated into the process through the digital transformation efforts for GEO-

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- (i) All assessment products are strongly evidence-based and supported by authoritative data and knowledge. Data and knowledge tools can be incorporated into the process through the digital transformation of the GEO7 assessment; and
- (j) Active outreach and awareness raising to inform outside audiences about the key steps in the GEO process and the impact of the main findings. GEO supporting services can serve as outreach and awareness raising activities.