

Operating Principles Governing the Work of the Panel

Request for Written Submissions from Member States and Relevant Stakeholders

Member states, during the resumed first session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG1.2), requested the Secretariat of the OEWG to solicit written submissions from Member States and relevant stakeholders regarding the operating principles governing the work of the panel.

In support of this request, the Secretariat conducted a webinar (on 26 April 2023) dedicated to the issue of operating principles. In advance of the webinar, the Secretariat released a background document which provides a comparative overview of operating principles of relevant, existing science-policy panels (IPCC, IPBES, IRP and GEO-7). The recording of the webinar can be found on [this website](#), when available, and the background document is available at [this link](#).

A variety of potential operating principles are presented below, based on the analysis performed for this [background document](#). The following questions in no way attempt to rank or preclude consideration of the operating principles of the future SPP, rather, they draw from the agreed text of Resolution 5/8 and other existing, relevant science-policy bodies, as well as the discussions at the OEWG. You may also suggest relevant potential operating principles that have not been identified yet.

Member States are invited to provide submissions through their respective national focal points (list of focal points available [at this link](#)). Non-government stakeholders are invited to submit their submissions on behalf of their organization or group. You are invited to respond to all or some of the questions below. Once complete, please submit this filled document to SPP-CWP@un.org. All submissions will be uploaded online and will inform a working document to be considered at OEWG 2.

Contact information

What is your name/surname?

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What is your title?

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Who are you submitting on behalf of?

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The following elements are included in Resolution 5/8. Please indicate by clicking on the box(es) where you believe these elements should be included (i.e., operating principles, rules of procedure, guidelines, or other relevant documents, or if they are not relevant). Some key terms have been grouped together for the purpose of this tabular analysis, there is inevitably some overlap across principles.

	Operating Principle	Rules of Procedure	Guidelines	Other	Not relevant
CREDIBILITY					
Robustness/Rigour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity/Objectivity / Independence/Impartiality/ Lack of Bias (avoiding conflicts of interest)	X	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary / Balance of disciplines	X	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RELEVANCE/SALIENCE					
Policy-relevant (and not policy prescriptive)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEGITIMACY					
Inclusivity/Balance	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- indigenous inclusivity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- geographic balance	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- regional balance	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- gender balance	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- balance of disciplines (see also Credibility/Interdisciplinary...)	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES					
Transparency	X	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination (without duplication) / Complementarity	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost-Effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

On Credibility:

- **Robustness:** we intend robustness as a principle that would not hamper the use of the precautionary principle as a guiding and cross-cutting element of the panel's work.
- **Conflict of interest:** we consider the *prevention* of the conflict of interest as a foundation for the effectiveness and credibility of the panel. Therefore, we believe it should be a cross-cutting element. We also suggest referring to the lessons learned from the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and its Article 5.3.

On Legitimacy:

- **Indigenous Inclusivity:** it's important to include not only indigenous and traditional knowledge but also the knowledge-holders: Indigenous Peoples.

Cross-cutting themes:

- **Transparency, preventing Conflicts of Interest, and the Precautionary Principle:** these elements should be considered essential throughout the work of the panel.

The following table includes other elements that may be considered. Please indicate by clicking on the box(es) where you believe these elements should be included (i.e., operating principles, rules of procedure, guidelines, or other relevant documents, or if they are not relevant). It is also possible to add additional potential operating principles to be considered.

OTHER	Operating Principle	Rules of Procedure	Guidelines	Other	Not relevant
Promotion of innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consensus based approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Providing accessible outputs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others [please add]	X	X	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Human rights	X	X	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Procedure for a balance between Global South and Global North scientists	X	X	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Engagement of early scientists and scientists from developing countries	X	X	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
• The information relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment should not be regarded as confidential	X	X	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

On Other Elements

- **Promotion of innovation:** we do not see this as a relevant principle of the panel. However, if so-called 'innovations' are included in the scope of the panel, we believe they should be assessed for their safety and sustainability.
- **Consensus based approach:** we warn against the use of consensus in the Rules of the panel as well as a way of considering scientific consensus as an operating principle of the panel. This would risk giving in practice a veto power and would not be scientific.

Please provide your written submission in the space below:

We suggest considering the addition of other elements for consideration, such as ways to include **Human Rights** (see e.g., UN Document A/HRC/48/61: *Right to science in the context of toxic substances* - the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Marcos Orellana); procedures to balance scientists from the Global North and the **Global South**, as well as ways of engaging **early scientists and scientists from developing countries**. Furthermore, it would be crucial for the panel to include safeguards for information relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment to make sure it is not regarded as **confidential**.