



Written Submission of the **Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG)**  
 on the Operating Principles Governing the Work of the Science-Policy Panel on  
 Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention

Name of the entity	<b>Children and Youth Major Group</b> (the mandated youth constituency to United Nations Environment Programme)
Contact persons and contact information for the submission	<u>Submitted on behalf of the constituency by</u> Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik & Gyubin Hwang Global Focal Points  <a href="mailto:zakowshik@gmail.com">zakowshik@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:gyubin.hwang@youthenvironment.org">gyubin.hwang@youthenvironment.org</a>
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*Children and Youth Major Group to United Nations Environment Programme (CYMG) is the mandated official, formal and self-organised space for children and youth to contribute to and engage in intergovernmental and allied policy processes at UNEP and relevant environmental governance and conservation processes in the broader UN system. CYMG has the role of the official youth engagement mechanism to UNEP. The process of preparing this submission was led by the Science-Policy Working Group and Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Working Group that entailed several weeks of consultations, online meetings and written inputs. We appreciate the voluntary contributions of individuals and member organisations within the youth constituency to UNEP to participate in the submission process.*



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**Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG) believe that these elements should be included as operating principles of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention.**

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



**Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG) also believe that these elements should be included as operating principles of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention and propose additional potential operating principles to be considered.**

<b>OTHER</b>	Operating Principle	Rules of Procedure	Guidelines	Other	Not relevant
Promotion of innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consensus-based approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing accessible outputs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multistakeholderism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity-building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accountability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outreach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG) provide their visions and ideas on proposed operating principles.**

Principle	Description
<b>Objectivity</b>	Be scientifically independent, undertake critical, unbiased reports and assessments grounded in expertise and evidence-based research and follow robust methodologies and peer review processes. Ensure panel members have access to the latest scientific findings and engage with experts when necessary.
<b>Interdisciplinarity</b>	Take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach incorporating all relevant disciplines, including social and natural sciences.
<b>Policy-relevant</b>	Deliver policy-relevant scientific evidence non-prescriptively while recognising that policy issues are complex and evolving.



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<b>Inclusivity</b>	Ensure geographical, regional, <b>intergenerational</b> and gender balance in all relevant aspects of its structure and work. Adopt a human rights approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution that recognises and respects the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge.
<b>Transparency</b>	Ensure open and transparent decision-making processes that support scientific credibility and encourage public engagement.
<b>Flexibility</b>	Have the flexibility to respond to the needs of Member States and stakeholders and to fulfil its principal functions while adopting an iterative approach that allows for continuous learning, adaptation, and updates to recommendations based on new evidence or changing circumstances.
<b>Complementarity</b>	Complement the work of relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies and collaborate on existing initiatives to fill gaps and build upon their work while avoiding duplication.
<b>Cost-effectiveness</b>	Use human and environmental resources efficiently to ensure that policymaking results in sustainable and resilient outcomes for the benefit of Member States and other stakeholders.
<b>Comprehensive approach</b>	Adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses all forms of pollution, including pollution related to chemicals and waste and pollution released into the air, water (including oceans) and soil; is forward-looking by anticipating emerging trends, risks, and opportunities; and is integrative by incorporating youth and indigenous perspectives into all relevant aspects of the panel's work.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Ensure accessibility of its outputs and underlying methodologies to Member States and stakeholders to support policymaking, decision-making and strengthening the science-policy interface.
<b>Outreach</b>	Ensure active outreach and awareness raising to inform and educate outside audiences about the work of the panel and the impact of the main findings.
<b>Multistakeholderism</b>	Seek collaboration and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including academia, industry, civil society, and intergovernmental and government bodies, to enhance knowledge sharing, foster innovation, and strengthen collective action.



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<b>Capacity-building</b>	Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work, targeting and understanding the specific needs of Member States and other stakeholders.
<b>Accountability</b>	Account for the need to ensure contributions from experts are multidisciplinary and inclusive of the participation in data collection and output production leading to credible and scientifically robust assessments.

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For additional information, the following thematic facilitators from CYMG could be contacted:

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