

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). 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 country?

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What is your title?

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Who are you submitting on behalf of?

International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)

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 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 checked="" 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"/>
RELEVANCE/SALIENCE					
Policy-relevant (and not policy prescriptive)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEGITIMACY					
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES					
Transparency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination (without duplication) / Complementarity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

CREDIBILITY

Integrity/ Objectivity/ Independence/Lack of Bias: We suggest replica existing procedures with IPBES and IPCC. Suggest to cover “Objectivity” with operating principles. The IPCC

provides a sound basis for operating principles when addressing this topic: “The role of the XXX 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 [insert topic of the SPP CWP]”. We recommend that the SPP have a comprehensive Conflict of Interest policy/guideline, mirroring the policy under the Montreal Protocol, IPBES and IPCC.

We support an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that incorporates all relevant disciplines, including natural and social sciences. **This includes experts independent of their affiliation solely based on scientific rigor and proven expertise in the field (see also para on LEGITIMACY).**

RELEVANCE/SALIENCE

Policy relevance: We support language similar to the one used by the IPCC and IPBES and propose the following merge:

“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 and need to be mindful of the respective mandates of the multilateral environmental agreements.”

LEGITIMACY

Inclusivity/Balance: We support the inclusion of all aspects provided here and as already mentioned in Res 5/8:6 (b). **Additionally, we want to emphasize an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that incorporates all relevant disciplines, including natural and social sciences. This includes experts independent of their affiliation solely based on scientific rigor and proven expertise in the field (see also para on CREDIBILITY).**

Numerous professional organizations and scientific bodies already utilize this method when choosing their scientific experts, allowing for expertise from a wide range of backgrounds. ICCA would like to caution the SPP against excluding one affiliation and its unique expertise by default. We recommend that potential conflicts of interests are handled by rules or procedure and/or guidelines (as within IPBES and IPCC).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing accessible outputs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others: procedures for the preparation, review, acceptance, approval, adoption and publication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

The **promotion of innovation** was brought up by stakeholders during the OEWG 1.2. We support inclusion into the operating principles. Innovation allows for a solution oriented and forward-looking mindset to be incorporated into the work of the panel. ICCA also recommends that comprehensive impact assessments be included into any potential suggestions that the panel makes, putting all of the decisions in important socio-economic contexts.

A “**comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach**” is important to the process and we suggest including language signifying such in the Operating Principles. It will be key that an integrative approach includes expertise independent of the affiliation. The SPP should use IPBES, IPCC and the Montreal Protocol as role models. We also recommend referencing examples of integrative approaches from professional scientific organizations like SETAC and the RSC. It is vital that the comprehensive approach does not exclude industry expertise, given the multitude of scientific information and knowledge industry has about chemicals, waste and pollution.

It is imperative that the SPP has a **consensus driven approach**, as is customary with other MEAs and similar bodies.

Additionally, we support “**procedures for the preparation, review, acceptance, approval, adoption and publication** of [insert name of the new SPP on CWP] reports” to be laid out in “rules of procedure”.

Please provide your written submission in the space below:

Click or tap here to enter text.