

# 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](mailto: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?

**CHILE**

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
<b>CREDIBILITY</b>					
Robustness/Rigour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary / Balance of disciplines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- geographic balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- regional balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- gender balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- balance of disciplines (see also Credibility/Interdisciplinary...)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CROSS-CUTTING THEMES</b>					
Transparency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination (without duplication) / Complementarity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost-Effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:**

Regarding credibility, we consider it necessary that it be strictly related to the precautionary principle, thus preventing decisions from being made until scientific research is available that proves the absence of adverse effects.

In relation to legitimacy, our country believes that the greatest possible participation should be granted, seeking that the establishment of the members of the scientific committees contain an equitable representation of the 5 regions of the United Nations and have a gender perspective, such as discussed in OEWG 1.2 contact groups.

Finally, in relation to cross-cutting issues, we understand that the main ones should be transparency and coordination with other existing MEAs, in order to coordinate the work with other subsidiary bodies with which they have other agreements and that serve as inputs for the creation of this instrument. You must also be flexible in relation to the negotiation that is taking place in the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee that seeks to create a legally binding instrument that comes to eliminate pollution by plastics, including the marine environment and that will be the main input for this Science-Policy 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.**

<b>OTHER</b>	Operating Principle	Rules of Procedure	Guidelines	Other	Not relevant
Promotion of innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consensus based approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing accessible outputs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identification of clear roles and responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human rights approach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender perspective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Precautionary principle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:**

Aware of the triple planetary crisis that humanity is currently facing and that interrelates the effects of climate change, the loss of biodiversity and pollution, it is necessary to coordinate the efforts that are being developed at a local, regional and international level. Just as intergovernmental initiatives linked to certain Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) currently coexist to contribute to the evaluation of the scientific information generated, for informed decision-making, such as the IPBES and the IPCC linked to biological diversity and climate change respectively. In this sense, the decision adopted in UNEA 5.2 on the establishment of a scientific-policy panel represents the possibility of making visible and proactively directing actions in these matters.

Given the international evidence and the constant renewals on issues of chemical use, waste generation and pollution prevention, it is necessary to have an intergovernmental initiative that complements and supports the work carried out with the current MEAS in these matters, addressing the concerns and emerging themes. that are being demonstrated, specifically related to the negotiation of plastics that is being carried out in the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee. In this sense, it is necessary to address the existing potential of having integrated approaches that generate co-benefits for environmental protection in its different dimensions, aligning them with the efforts that are being developed and have been successful, reaching a link with other expert structures that they exist, either through subsidiary bodies or scientific committees, in order not to duplicate efforts and to differentiate the roles and responsibilities between those groups that are linked to evaluation and public policies.

This scientific-policy panel must be in line with the resolution of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization, in which living in a safe, clean, healthy environment is enshrined as a human right. Likewise, this panel should direct its efforts to ensure that everyone has access to information, participates in decision-making and has access to justice in environmental matters, which allows them to contribute to guaranteeing the right to a healthy and sustainable environment for all present and future generations, as established in the Escazú Agreement.

Having an instance that facilitates communication between the different actors involved requires a great effort in the elaboration of a mechanism that allows recognizing and organizing its creation. In this sense, the operating principles on which this new Scientific-Policy Panel must be based should be the following:

- In terms of preponderance, the panel should be sure to assess basic science and scientific advances to support sound policy decisions, heavily on the principle of **relevance**, not being prescriptive. The applicability of this principle should be safeguarded through the development of procedural rules and the establishment of guidelines.
- Regarding legitimacy, the panel must base its operation on the principles of **inclusion and balance**, establishing through procedural rules the mechanisms to address the effective inclusion of women, youth, people with physical, mental, intellectual, sensory

disabilities, and native peoples. In addition to the establishment of a principle of **human rights approach**, highlighting the enjoyment of them, this is directly related to the geographical, regional, gender balance that is required to carry out this Panel. The foregoing will require the preparation of guides that provide the implementation of this principle and the minimum criteria that must be considered.

- Within the framework of credibility, it is essential to address the principles of **integrity, objectivity, independence and impartiality**, especially avoiding conflicts of interest that could arise. In this context, the applicability of these principles should be accompanied by clear rules of procedure, which address the strictness in the functioning of the Panel, together with the strength of the work to be carried out and the results it achieves. Likewise, credibility must consider a dialogue and an open discussion focused on reaching consensus on the issues that the Panel addresses, integrating actors from the required disciplines (multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary approach) that allow evidence of a balance in terms of knowledge.
- As transversal, the principle of **transparency** must be considered as a fundamental issue to achieve the trust of the stakeholders interested in these matters and guarantee the veracity of the sources of information, achieving learning, awareness and collective understanding. In this sense, flexibility, coordination with other instances to avoid duplication, complementarity and issues related to costs and effectiveness of the Panel, must be addressed through the establishment of procedural rules and guidelines that allow faithful compliance with this principle.

Along with the above, the **roles and responsibilities** of the different actors involved in the activities carried out by this Panel **must be clearly identified**. The **comprehensive, holistic or integrative approach** should be highlighted, showing a close relationship based on respect and trust between the actors involved, which considers the needs to keep knowledge available; **provide accessible products**, prevailing the commitment that all information related to the health of people and the environment is reliable and accessible, considering local knowledge and possible cultural biases; **with a consensus-based approach** that manages to identify needs on a global scale, considering the local particularities of each region. This scientific regulatory body must inform the plenary, so that it can make decisions and deliver instructions regarding the way forward, taking into account the realities presented by each of the United Nations regions, seeking to ensure that there is effective representation. geography of them. In addition, the precautionary principle must be taken into account in decision-making, since the lack of scientific certainty should not be used as an excuse to postpone decision-making that avoids affecting the environment.

Finally, we consider it necessary to demonstrate the independence that this Panel will have with respect to the states that entrust it, since it is the only way to obtain the expected results, thus generating a source of updating principles and measures for the other existing bodies.