

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?

G Lenn/GOMAH

What is your country?

LIBERIA

What is your title?

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT/OEWG

What is your email address?

glenngomah@gmail.com

Who are you submitting on behalf of?

LIBERIA

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 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 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"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

All the proposed elements should be considered

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
Others [Accessibility]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others [Periodic revision]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

Apart from the provision of accessible outputs, the panel itself should also be established on the principle of accessibility to ensure regional and specific response. The rule of procedures should set a ways of implementing the Consensus-based approach since it is a process relating to decision making. Periodic revision of the rule of procedure and other documents should also be considered.

Please provide your written submission in the space below:

Honorable OEWG Secretariat,

The Government of Liberia extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to you for your continuous support, hard work, and diligence in leading consolidated global efforts to promote sustainable chemical and waste management. We are of the conviction that establishing this panel will enhance the global efforts to combat improper chemical and waste management and prevent associated pollution, for the protection of human health and the environment.

It can be recalled that at OWEG 1.2 in Bangkok, the contact group on scope and functions, of which Liberia was a member, agreed that operating principles be developed further during the intersessional period to complement the proposed objectives and functions of the panel.

The group proposed that the following elements, among others, should be considered when developing the operating principles:

1. The delivery of policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive, as seen in UNEA Res. 5/8 paragraph 3;
2. The Contribution of Indigenous and traditional knowledge UNEA Res. 5/8 paragraph 6;
3. The adoption of human rights approach;
4. The promotion of innovation, transparency, inclusivity, and complementarity.

As supported by several delegates in the contact group, Liberia supports these elements. Further, Liberia proposes that the operating principles, among others, include concepts such as scientific independence, reliance, credibility, objectivity, and gender equity.

Additionally, like the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the principles of the panel should set the basis and provide the latitude for periodic revision and amendment of the rule of procedures and other working documents of the panel.

Furthermore, since the panel is policy-relevant, there is a need for collaboration with existing conventions on chemical and waste, including, for example, the BRS conventions and other relevant bodies and scientific networks, to collectively tackle and prevent pollution arising from improper chemical and waste management for the protection of human health and the environment.

As we work toward OEWG 2, we want to thank and appreciate those who are contributing their financial and technical assistance to the success of the meeting and the establishment of the panel.

Thank you!