

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?

Mr.

What is your email address?

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Who are you submitting on behalf of?

Munansi Green Initiative

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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity/Objectivity / Independence/Impartiality/ Lack of Bias (avoiding conflicts of interest)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary / Balance of disciplines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

- Robustness/Rigour: This element is essential to ensure the credibility of the panel's work and should be included in the guidelines.
- Integrity/Objectivity/Independence/Impartiality/Lack of Bias: These principles are crucial for maintaining the panel's credibility and should be incorporated into the rules of procedure.

- Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary/Balance of disciplines: This principle contributes to the credibility and effectiveness of the panel's work and should be part of the guidelines.
- Policy-relevant: The relevance and salience of the panel's work should be emphasized in the operating principles.
- Inclusivity/Balance: Ensuring inclusivity and balance in representation is important for the legitimacy of the panel and should be included in the operating principles.
- Cross-cutting themes (Transparency, Flexibility, Coordination, Cost-Effectiveness): These themes have implications for the panel's functioning and should be addressed in the rules of procedure to ensure transparency, flexibility, efficient coordination, and cost-effectiveness.

Overall, it is important to carefully consider and incorporate these elements into the relevant documents to establish a robust framework for the panel's work.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others [please add]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusivity	<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:

- Promotion of innovation: This element, which encourages the exploration of new ideas and approaches, should be included in the operating principles to foster a culture of innovation within the panel.
- Comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach: This approach, considering the interconnectedness of various aspects, should be reflected in the guidelines to guide the panel's work.
- Consensus-based approach: A consensus-based decision-making process is essential to ensure inclusivity and balance. It should be outlined in the rules of procedure.
- Providing accessible outputs: Ensuring that the panel's outputs, such as reports and assessments, are easily accessible to different stakeholders should be included in the guidelines.

- **Inclusivity:** Inclusivity, which ensures the involvement of diverse stakeholders, should be explicitly mentioned in the operating principles.

Additional potential operating principle:

- **Scientific Integrity:** Ensuring scientific integrity, including research ethics, data quality, and transparency, should be considered as an additional operating principle.

These considerations will contribute to the effectiveness and credibility of the panel's work, promoting innovation, inclusivity, and holistic decision-making processes while making outputs accessible to a wide range of users.

Please provide your written submission in the space below:

Subject: Written Submission - Operating Principles Governing the Work of the Panel

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our written submission regarding the operating principles governing the work of the panel. As an organization deeply committed to advancing science-policy collaboration, we believe that the following operating principles should be considered:

1. **Transparency and Inclusivity:** The panel should operate with a high level of transparency, ensuring that its activities, processes, and decisions are accessible to all stakeholders. It should actively engage with a diverse range of relevant stakeholders, including scientists, policymakers, civil society, and Indigenous peoples, to promote inclusivity and enable a wide range of perspectives to be considered.
2. **Independence and Impartiality:** The panel should maintain its independence and act impartially, free from any undue influence or conflicts of interest. This includes ensuring that its work is driven by scientific evidence, avoiding undue influence from political or commercial interests.
3. **Scientific Excellence:** The panel should strive for scientific excellence in its work, adhering to rigorous methodologies, peer-reviewed research, and consensus-building processes. It should also continuously assess and integrate the latest scientific findings and advancements into its assessments and reports.
4. **Policy Relevance:** The panel's work should be policy-relevant, providing clear and actionable recommendations to inform decision-making processes at various levels. It should collaborate closely with policymakers to understand their needs and ensure that its assessments and reports address the most pressing policy challenges.
5. **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Given the complex nature of global challenges, the panel should embrace an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on expertise from various scientific disciplines, as well as indigenous and local knowledge systems. It should foster collaboration across disciplines to promote a holistic understanding of issues and enhance the effectiveness of its work.

6. **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** The panel should prioritize capacity building, particularly in developing countries, to strengthen their scientific and technical capabilities related to the panel's areas of work. It should also actively promote knowledge sharing and collaboration among member states, stakeholders, and relevant scientific communities, facilitating the exchange of best practices, methodologies, and data.
7. **Timeliness and Flexibility:** The panel should operate with a sense of urgency, delivering timely and relevant assessments and reports to address emerging issues and policy needs. It should be responsive and adaptable, capable of addressing new and cross-cutting challenges in a timely manner, while also maintaining the quality and rigor of its work.

In conclusion, we believe that incorporating these operating principles will help ensure the effectiveness, credibility, and impact of the panel's work. We thank you for considering our submission and remain committed to supporting the panel's endeavors in bridging the gap between science and policy.