

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?

The Ocean Foundation

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination (without duplication) / Complementarity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost-Effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

It is critically important that the new SPP is a transparent and independent body with a strong conflict of interest policy that will ensure the credibility and trustworthiness of the work of the panel. The principles should emphasize the need for a truly inclusive body reflecting gender, regional, geographic, multidisciplinary balances and indigenous representation.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing accessible outputs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

In regards to the promotion of innovation – I do not believe that the promotion of innovation should be a core mechanism of this panel. Much like avoiding to provide policy prescriptive findings to governments, the panel should not be tasked with the promotion of innovation since such activities could create unfair economic advantages to one technology over another. The panel could undertake scientific analysis to assess whether a technology is environmentally sound or does/does not pose a risk to human health or the environment, but its work should not be used to promote technologies. It should be scientifically based and may consider being used for measuring the effectiveness of a particular technology.

In regards to a consensus based approach – The panel, once established, should decide how it will reach decisions in a fair and just manner. The manner in which the panel reaches decisions should not be pre-arranged by the OEWG.

Please provide your written submission in the space below:

In response to the call for submission to the Science Policy Panel Operating Principles the Women’s Major Group propose the following which are collated excerpts from applicable principles from the IPCC, IPBES, IRP, GEO and webinar on the operating principles.

In addressing the need for gender equality and inclusiveness in all aspects of the operating principles, the process should be:

- Open and transparent with Integrity and a strong conflict of interest policy with a framework that provides independent monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensure geographical, regional and gender balance in its structure and throughout all its work. The process should respond to the need of all member states, recognize and respect the contribution of all, especially those of indigenous peoples and local knowledge, as well as youth.

At the national level we need to prioritize what data and actions are needed. There is a need for the integration of mapping exercises in national data systems to identify the local groups and all stakeholders who are actively engaging in chemicals, pollution plastics and waste streams for sharing in the SPP.

The mechanism for engaging local scientific and other expertise should be fit for purpose and adapted to learning lessons and best practices from other science processes. Environmental governance processes that ensure access to information, participation and effective information sharing will support the realization of human rights. Global Human rights defenders' information supported by data, case studies and knowledge management products also from marginalized and vulnerable groups should also be included.

In reflecting the Science Policy scope, it should take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach, and ensure contributions from experts with a broad range of disciplinary, including social sciences with other relevant field of sciences; and including the expertise of women's and gender organizations and indigenous people which could provide/contribute traditional and sustainable knowledge. An approach complimented with a sustainable system for reporting and reviewing of information within a specified time frame. A robust system which is aligned with applying the scientific process in accomplishing its mandate and that recognizes and actions the need for gender equality in all relevant aspects of its work.