

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?

Khalifa S. Al Dagher

What is your country?

Qatar

What is your title?

Deputy Head of Hazardous Waste Department

What is your email address?

KSALDAGHER@mecc.gov.qa

Who are you submitting on behalf of?

Ministry of Environment & Climate Change

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEGITIMACY					
Inclusivity/Balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- indigenous inclusivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- geographic balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- regional balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- gender balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- balance of disciplines (see also Credibility/Interdisciplinary...)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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:

Click or tap here to enter text.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Please provide your written submission in the space below:

Following are the suggested operating principles that should guide the Science-Policy Panel on Chemical, Waste and Pollution Prevention:

1. Must be an intergovernmental expert-led body that produces assessments and other reports at regular intervals of time that are **policy relevant** by providing scientific knowledge and science-based options **without being policy prescriptive** in a way that is critical or evaluates the specific scientific policies of regions or countries.
2. Undertakes unbiased studies and assessments of best available science, follows **robust methodologies** and peer review processes to ensure an **open and transparent** decision-making process.
3. Takes an **interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach** that incorporates all relevant disciplines including social and natural sciences.
4. Enables to carry out research with impartiality, provides guidance to the scientists and members of the panel to enhance policy relevance **without compromising the independent nature** of the research.
5. **Legitimate** that is produced through inclusiveness by striking and maintaining a balanced and diverse composition of the panel and working group in terms of **expertise, gender, indigenous and regional representation**.

6. Facilitate use of **clear, transparent, and scientifically credible** processes for the exchange, sharing and use of data, information, and technologies from all relevant sources.
7. Should be **salient and flexible**, that is the assessments and reports be relevant to the needs of the end users like governmental bodies etc. so that policy matters can be taken up by the governments, enterprises, and regions, where people can become agents of change.
8. Should play an important role in **checking the biases** that the scientists may have in reporting and analysing the data by engaging governments and the scientific community so that the key findings and recommendations can be adopted and implemented.
9. Enable **independent, coherent, and authoritative scientific studies** and assessments by being inclusive of the scientific community in terms of authorship, and equity in gender. The SPP enables full use of the regional and indigenous knowledge and assessments as appropriate.
10. Should enable the **integrity in the assessments and reports** by identifying and averting the possible **conflicts of interests** that the working group of scientists may have and foster alignments in work plans so that the coordination is carried out **without the duplication** of the efforts made.
11. **Integrates capacity building** into all the relevant aspects of its work according to the priorities decided by the Plenary.
12. Promotes **innovation, comprehensiveness, and integrity** in its principles and policies through consensus, where decisions are undertaken in a concerted manner and moving from status quo, but not leaving anyone (region, state, people) behind.
13. All the major reports and the assessments should be accessible well in advance (at least four weeks) of the Plenary.
14. The outcomes and the reports should be accessible in all the UN languages in advance of the meetings.
15. Interpretation of all the meetings for all the sessions of the SPP should be made available in all the UN languages, including during the online webinars and online meetings.
16. The SPP principles may be reviewed and modified as needed on a periodic basis as determined by the Plenary.