

Towards a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

Regional meeting on the second session of the OEWG on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

Asia Pacific: 7 September 2023, Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid)

Africa: 14 September 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

GRULAC: 7 October 2023, Brasilia, Brazil

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Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Recap of UNEA Resolution 5/8 and summary of OEWG 1**
- 3. Organisational matters for OEWG 2**
 - a) OEWG 2.7: Intersessional work, budget, expenditure and provisional workplan**
 - b) OEWG 2 agenda, annotated agenda and scenario note**
 - c) OEWG 2 working documents:**
 - 1. OEWG.2.2: Proposed skeleton outline**
 - 2. OEWG.2.3: Scope and objective, functions and operating principles**
 - 3. OEWG.2.4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure of the plenary**
 - 4. OEWG.2.5: Relationships with relevant key stakeholders**
 - 5. OEWG.2.6: Work-related processes and procedures**
- 4. Logistical arrangements for OEWG 2**
- 5. Other matters**
- 6. Closure of the meeting**

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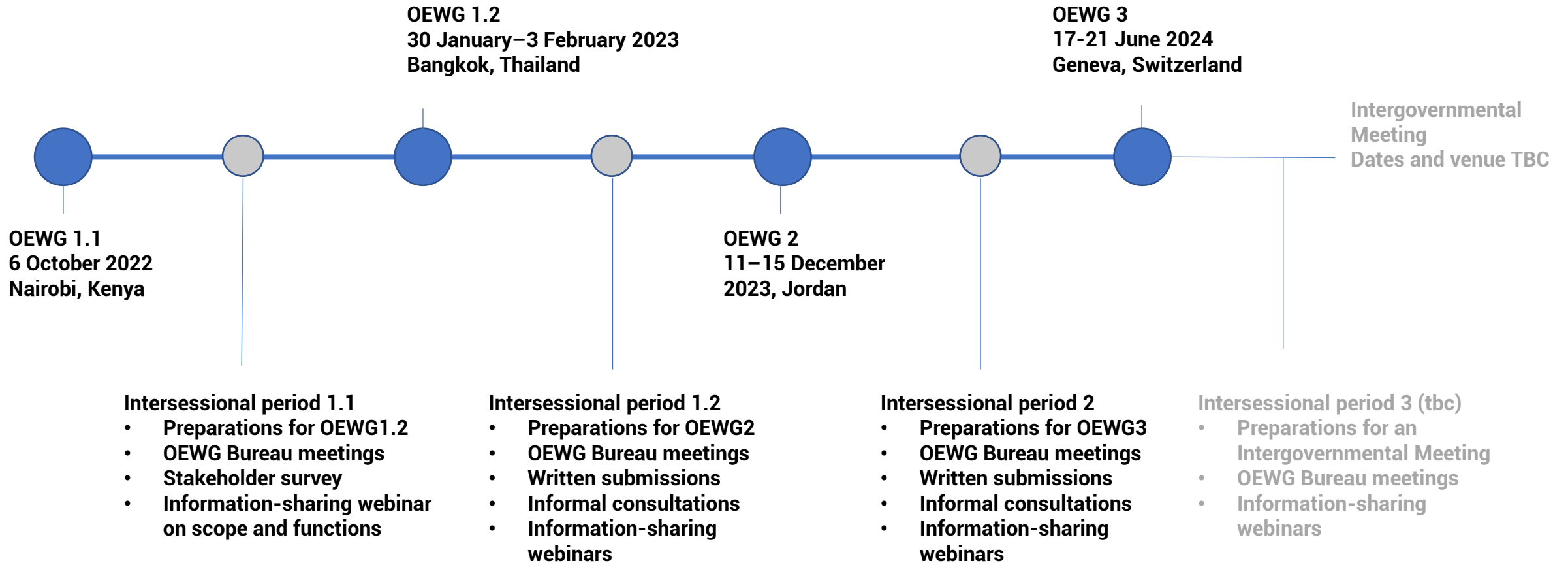
**Recap of UNEA Resolution 5/8 and
summary of OEWG 1**

UNEA Resolution 5/8:

Science-policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution

- In March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session (UNEA-5.2) decided to establish a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.
- UNEA further decided to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel, to begin work in 2022 with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024.

OEWG Process: Overall Timeline



OEWG 1.1

OEWG 1.1: 6 October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya and online

OEWG 1.2: 30 January - 3 February 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

Outcomes

- **Officers elected to serve on the Bureau of the OEWG representing Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and other groups.**
- **Rules of Procedure of UNEA adopted for the OEWG process**
- **Confirmation on the development of documents for the resumed first session, namely on scope and function**

OEWG 1.2

OEWG 1.2: 30 January-3 February 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

Outcomes

- The OEWG Chair was elected by secret ballot.
- Initial discussions on scope, function and objective held.
- Confirmation on the development (with guidance provided by the Bureau) of documents for the second session, namely on operating principles, institutional arrangements, relationship with key stakeholders, determining and executing the work programme (and other work-related processes).

OEWG 1 Outcomes: Election of Officers

	Officer	Country	Region
Rapporteur	Oumar Diaoure Cisse	Mali	Africa
	Cyrus Mageria	Kenya	Africa
	Jinhui Li	China	Asia Pacific
	Saqlain Seydah	Pakistan	Asia Pacific
	Linroy Christian	Antigua and Barbuda	LAC
Chair	Valentina Sierra	Uruguay	LAC
	Gudi Alkemade	The Netherlands	WEOG
	Michel Tschirren	Switzerland	WEOG

OEWG 1 Outcomes: Objective

[The objective of the panel is to strengthen the science policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution for the protection of human health and the environment, with the following functions:]...

The text on objective has been left in brackets with the understanding that future discussions of the OEWG may continue to inform the objective.

OEWG 1 Outcomes: Principal Functions

- a) **Undertaking “horizon scanning” to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them;**
- b) **Conducting assessments of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address, where possible, those issues, in particular those relevant to developing countries;**
- c) **Providing up-to-date and relevant information, identifying key gaps in scientific research, encouraging and supporting communication between scientists and policymakers, explaining and disseminating findings for different audiences, and raising public awareness;**
- d) **Facilitating information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information;**
- e) **Capacity building**

Q&A

Recap of UNEA Resolution 5/8 and summary of OEWG 1

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Organizational matters for the second session of the Open-ended Working Group

OEWG 2, Doc 7: Intersessional work, budget, expenditure and provisional workplan

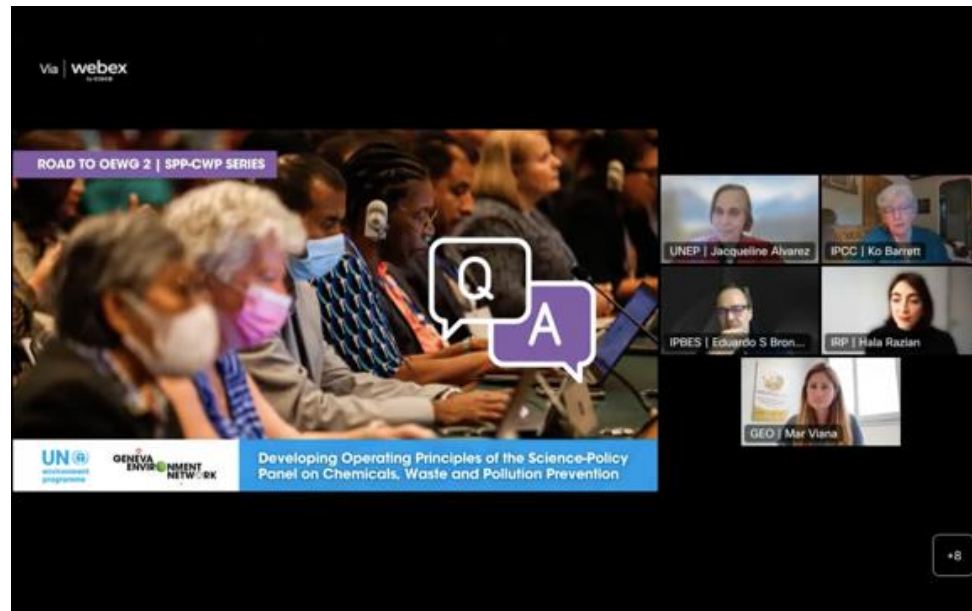
The OEWG Secretariat is preparing a set of proposals for consideration at OEWG 2, building on insights and lessons learned from existing science-policy interfaces, including the:

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- International Resource Panel (IRP)
- Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process
- Assessment panels of the Montreal Protocol
- Others

Bureau and Regional Meetings

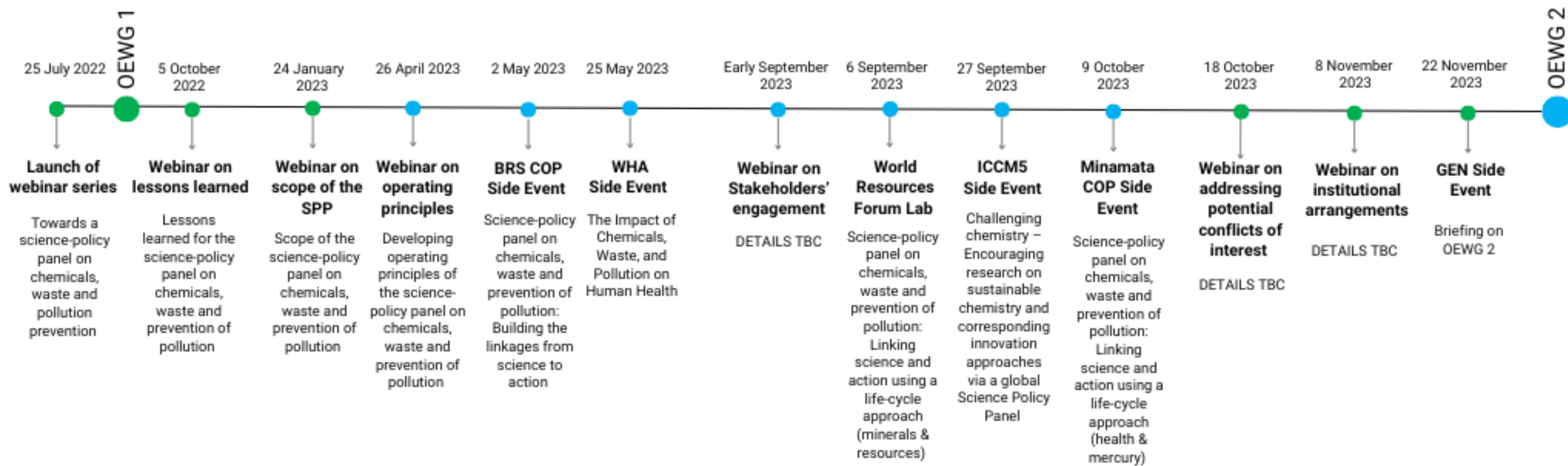


Outreach initiatives



Webinars and other events in the series have focused on the process for establishing a science-policy panel, substantive matters to be considered by the OEWG, lessons learned from existing science-policy interfaces, and exchanges on how stakeholders can contribute to the OEWG process.

Intersessional outreach activities



Revised budget

2023 – 2024 Indicative budget

<i>Cost category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>Total</i>
Secretariat staff and travel				
Personnel	Secretariat staff	636 881	668 745	1 305 626
	Consultants	280 841	286 958	567 799
Secretariat travel		167 000	158 000	325 000
Subtotal				2 198 425
Consultations				
	Virtual platforms	100 000	100 000	200 000
	Regional meeting (Conference services and travel)	242 351	242 351 ^a	484 702
	Bureau meetings	25 000	25 000	50 000
	Webinars	50 000	50 000	100 000
Subtotal				834 702
Second session	UNON conference services	415 820		415 820
	Meeting venue (Dead Sea, Jordan) ^b	450 000		450 000
	Travel support	650 000		650 000
	ENB reporting	50 000		50 000
Subtotal				1 565 820
Third session	UNON conference services ^c		450 000	450 000
	Meeting venue (Geneva, Switzerland) ^d		250 000	250 000
	Provision of hybrid facilities		150 000	150 000
	Travel support		720 000	720 000
	ENB reporting		50 000	50 000
	Subtotal			
Total				
	Subtotal			6 218 947
	PSC (13 per cent)			808 463
	Subtotal 2			7 027 410
	Coordination levy (1 per cent)			70 274
Total				7 097 684

Q&A

**OEWG 2: Intersessional work,
budget, expenditures and provisional
workplan (Doc 7)**

OEWG 2 documents

OEWG 2: Provisional agenda

Item 1: Opening of the session

Item 2: Election of officers

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Item 4: Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel

Item 5: Options for the timetable and organization of the future work of the OEWG

Item 6: Provisional agenda for the third session of the OEWG

Item 7: Other matters

Item 8: Adoption of the report of the session

Item 9: Closure of the session

OEWG 2: Scenario note

1. Organization of work
2. Election of officers
3. Proposed objective and in-session work at the second session
 1. Skeleton outline of a science policy panel
 2. Scope and objective, functions, and operating principles of a science policy panel
 3. Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure of the panel
 4. Relationship with relevant key stakeholders
 5. Work-related processes and procedures
 6. Options for the timetable and organization of work of the ad hoc open-ended working group
 7. Organization of work at the second session
4. Possible outcomes of the second session of the ad hoc open-ended working group

OEWG 2, Doc 2: Proposed skeleton outline

A. Scope and functions of the Panel – Capturing Annex II of UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/7

B. Operating principles of the Panel

C. Institutional arrangements of the Panel

Annex 1. Rules of procedure

Annex 2. Financial arrangements

Annex 3. Relationships with relevant key stakeholders

Annex 4. Process for determining and executing the work programme, including the prioritization criteria

Annex 5. Procedures for the review and adoption of reports

Annex 6. Arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts

Annex 7. Conflict of interest policy

Question for OEWG to consider: Which parts of the proposed skeleton need to be finalized by the ad hoc OEWG for establishing the SPP at the intergovernmental meeting, and which part(s) may be finalized by the SPP itself once established?

Linkages between OEWG 2 documents

Other INF documents:

OEWG.2/INF.1: Scenario Note

Elements of “Skeleton Outline” of OEWG Proposal (OEWG.2/2)	Corresponding Working Documents	Corresponding INF Documents
Name/Scope/Objective	OEWG.2/3: Scope and objective, functions, and operating principles	OEWG.2/INF2: Background document on operating principles
Functions		OEWG.2/INF3: Mapping of capacity-building activities on chemical, waste and pollution prevention related to the science-policy interface across Conventions and UN agencies
Operating Principles		
Institutional Arrangements	OEWG.2/4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary	OEWG.2/INF4: Background document on institutional arrangements of existing science policy interfaces
Arrangements for Secretariat Support		
Plenary: Rules of Proc.		OEWG.2/INF5: Supporting information relevant to the panel’s relationships with relevant key stakeholders
Financial Procedures		
Preparation of Deliverables/ Delivery of Functions:	OEWG.2/5: Relationship with relevant key stakeholders	OEWG.2/INF6: Documents and decisions relevant to the process for determining and executing the work programme of the panel, including prioritization framework
<i>-process for determining and executing work programme, including prioritization framework</i>		
<i>-identifying/engaging experts</i>		
<i>-review and adoption of reports and assessments</i>		
<i>-conflict of interest procedures</i>	OEWG.2/6: Work-related processes and procedures	OEWG.2/INF7: Documents and decisions relevant to the arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel and procedures for the review and adoption of reports and assessments produced by the panel
<i>-relationship with relevant key stakeholders</i>		
		OEWG.2/INF8: Documents and decisions relevant to conflict of interest
		OEWG.2/INF9: Responses to needs and questions the panel may handle

Discussion

OEWG 2 provisional agenda (Doc 1), scenario note (INF 1) and proposed skeleton outline (Doc 2)

OEWG 2, Doc 3: Scope and objective, functions and operating principles

Scope and objective

Draft text at the close of OEWG1.2:

- **[The objective of the panel is to strengthen the science policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution for the protection of human health and the environment, with the following functions:]**

The OEWG may wish to:

- **Continue the discussion on scope, and notably consider whether the wording in the draft objective requires updating based on its continued discussions.**
- **Consider how submissions on needs and questions the panel may handle (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/9) and consideration of other issues before it may inform its continued discussion on scope.**

OEWG 2, Doc 3: Scope and objective, functions and operating principles

Principal functions

At the close of OEWG1-2, the following draft text on functions of the future panel was agreed:

- (a) Undertaking “horizon scanning” to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them;
- (b) Conducting assessments of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address, where possible, those issues, in particular those relevant to developing countries;
- (c) Providing up-to-date and relevant information, identifying key gaps in scientific research, encouraging and supporting communication between scientists and policymakers, explaining and disseminating findings for different audiences, and raising public awareness;
- (d) Facilitating information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information;
- (e) Capacity building

OEWG 2, Doc 3: Scope and objective, function and operating principles

Operating principles

The OEWG may wish to employ a two-step approach to drafting operating principles text:

- 1) Look to text adapted from resolution 5/8 (Annex I)
- 2) Consider principles adapted from principles of other science-policy interfaces (Annex II)

Discussion

OEWG 2: Scope and objective, functions and operating principles (Doc 3)

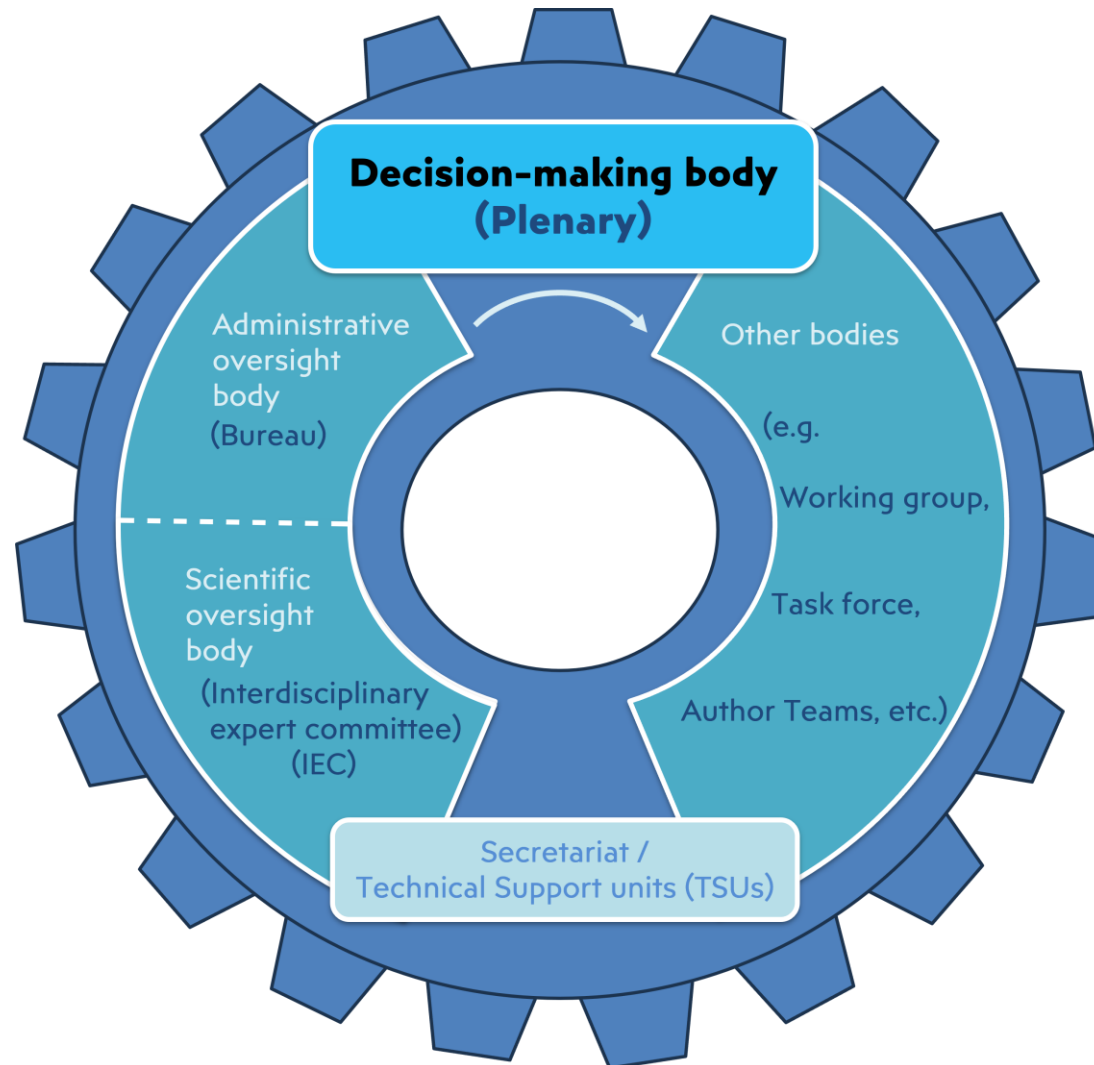
OEWG 2, Doc 4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary

Institutional arrangements

Common features:

- **Decision-making body**
- **One or more bodies providing administrative and scientific oversight**
- **Other bodies undertaking or supporting the science-policy interface's work**
- **Secretariat**
- **Financial arrangements**

OEWG 2, Doc 4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary



OEWG 2, Doc 4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary

Rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary

- a) Scope
- b) Definitions
- c) Venues, dates and notice of sessions
- d) Members and observers
- e) Admission of observers
- f) Agenda
- g) Representation, credentials and accreditation
- h) Members and operation of the Bureau and/or equivalent structure(s)/institution(s)
- i) Election of members of the Bureau and/or equivalent structure(s)/institution(s)
- j) Nominations
- k) Subsidiary bodies (members, operation, election of members...)
- l) Conduct of business
- m) Decision-making
- n) Languages
- o) Modifications to the rules of procedure

Discussion

OEWG 2: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary (Doc 4)

OEWG 2, Doc 5: Relationships with relevant key stakeholders



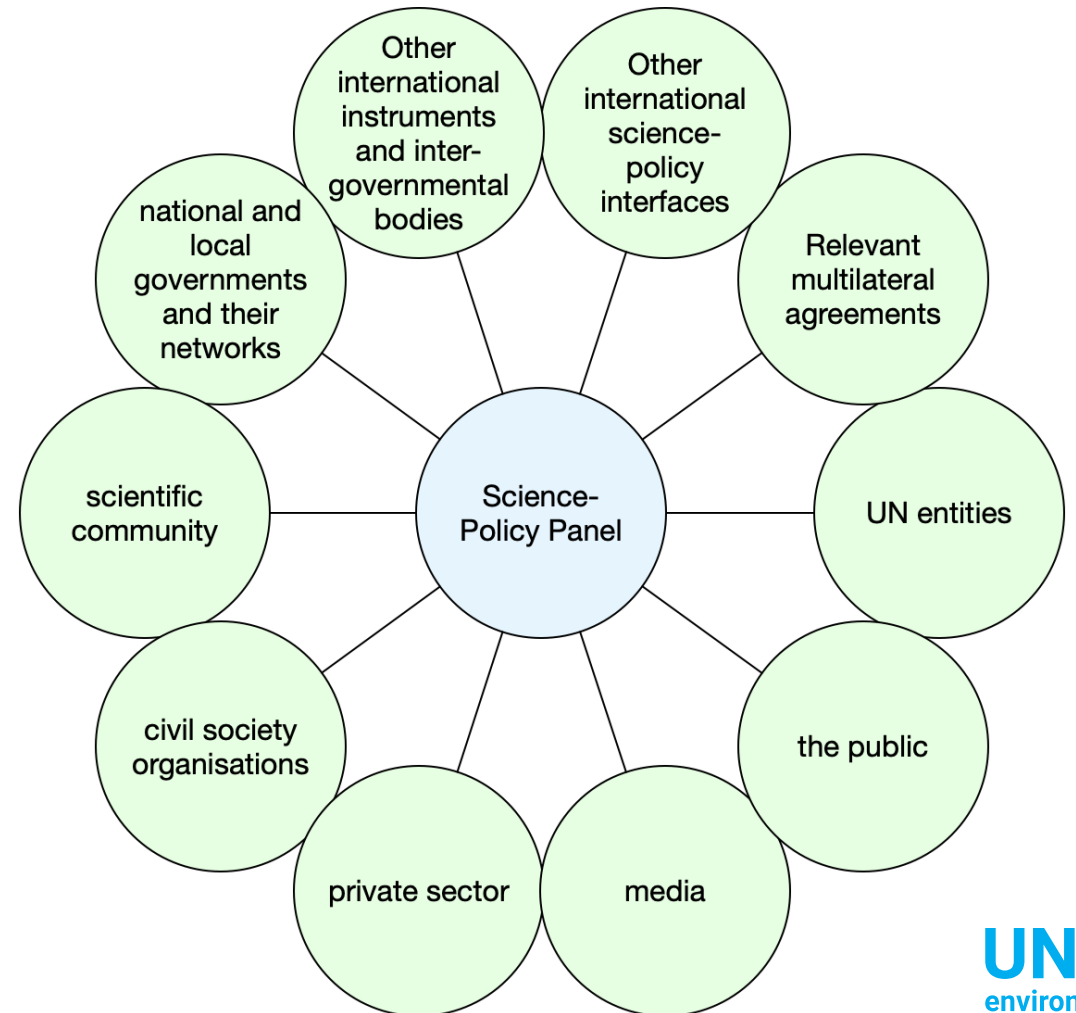
The document aims to address:

- Who are stakeholders to the panel?
- What roles that stakeholders may generally undertake in the panel's operation?
- How can stakeholders participate in the panel, i.e., approaches to stakeholder participation, building upon lesson learned from existing interfaces?
- Proposal on the way forward

Who are the stakeholders of the science-policy panel?

Relevant stakeholders to the panel may be:

1. Contributors to the panel
2. End users of the panel's deliverables, e.g. policy- and decision-makers
3. Those that may be impacted by the panel's deliverable and ensuing policy outcomes, e.g. vulnerable and at-risk populations



What roles may stakeholders may generally undertake?

Institutional engagement at the level of the panel, e.g.:

- **Participate at the meetings and in focal point network**
- **Provide support to fundraising and resource mobilization***
- **Provide financial and/or in-kind support***
- **Contribute to expanding the expert pool for the panel's work***

Participation in work programme development and execution, e.g.:

- **Propose new activities and express views on other proposals**
- **Express views on the scoping of specific work**
- **Nominating and express views on selecting experts**
- **Provide data, knowledge and perspectives**
- **Review drafts of the panel's deliverables**
- **Disseminate the panel's deliverables at all levels and beyond the six UN languages***
- **Foster uptake by policy- and decision-makers***
- **Conduct joint work such as joint assessments***
- **Undertake delegated work on specific aspects***

* Text in blue

Typically NOT captured in the institutional arrangements, rules of procedure, and work-related processes and procedures

How can stakeholders participate in the panel's operation?

- Incorporate certain roles in institutional arrangements, rules of procedure, and work-related processes and procedures, e.g:
 - accreditation and participation at the meetings
 - providing inputs to the development and execution of work programmes
- Establish formal strategic partnerships, e.g.,
 - supporting work programme implementation
 - hosting technical supporting units and/or collaborating centres
- Promote involvement through informal arrangements, e.g.,
 - guidance documents to stakeholders
 - self-organized stakeholder networks
 - open-to-all stakeholder days prior to each Plenary session
 - a secretariat-maintained stakeholder registry

OEWG 2, Doc 5: Relationships with relevant key stakeholders

The OEWG may wish to consider:

- A description of stakeholders in the context of the panel
- Approaches to pursue as the panel builds relationship with relevant key stakeholder
- Mandates to the secretariat on intersessional activities

Discussion

OEWG 2: Relationships with relevant key stakeholders (Doc 5)

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Several work-related processes and procedures described, building on examples from existing science-policy interfaces:

- **Processes for determining and executing the work programme of the panel, including prioritization**
- **Procedures for the review and adoption of reports and assessments produced by the panel**
- **Arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel**
- **Conflict of Interest policy**

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Process for determining the work programme of the panel

Consideration of the submission of inputs, scoping and prioritization, and bodies/entities involved

The OEWG may wish to consider:

- a. **Fixed time frame or a rolling work programme**
- b. **A process for receiving and prioritizing requests/submissions on topics/areas for possible inclusion in the panel's work programme, specifically:**
 - i. **Who can submit requests, inputs or suggestions?**
 - ii. **What information will be required to support submissions?**
 - iii. **Who will screen and review submissions and prioritize them if needed and according to what timeline?**
- c. **Guidance to the secretariat for preparing a draft procedure for receiving and prioritizing inputs and requests to the work programme for discussion and finalization at OEWG 3.**

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel

Consideration of expertise, type of work experts are engaged for, geographic representation, gender balance, scope of work etc.

The OEWG may wish to:

Provide guidance to the secretariat on preparing a draft procedure for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel for discussion and finalization at OEWG 3.

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Procedures for the review and adoption of reports and assessments produced by the panel

Consideration of stages of review (e.g., expert, government, other), tasks of the reviewers, acceptance, adoption, approval of deliverables, protocols for addressing errors.

The OEWG may wish to:

- **Provide guidance to the secretariat for preparing a draft procedure for the preparation, approval and tracking of use of the panel's deliverables for discussion at OEWG-3.**

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Conflict of Interest policy

Considerations of conflict of interest approaches, declarations of conflicts of interest and implementation/oversight (conflict of interest committee).

The OEWG may wish to consider:

- **Definition of conflict of interest and the objective of a conflict of interest policy for the panel; and**
- **Mandate to the secretariat to prepare a draft conflict of interest policy for discussion and finalization at OEWG 3.**

Discussion

OEWG 2: Work-related processes and procedures (Doc 6)

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Logistical arrangements

OEWG 2

The Second Session of the OEWG will take place from 11 to 15 December 2023, in Dead Sea, Jordan. Preceding meetings will be hosted from 9 to 10 December, at the same venue.

The OEWG will:

- **Consider the election of the remaining bureau members.**
- **Engage in substantive discussions on proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel, including on issues outlined in paragraph 5 and 6 of UNEA resolution 5/8.**

More details to be found at the event page:

<https://www.unep.org/oewg-spp-chemicals-waste-pollution>

[Click here](https://www.unep.org/oewg-spp-chemicals-waste-pollution)



Provisional schedule for OEWG 2

	Saturday & Sunday 9 & 10 December 2023	Monday 11 December 2023	Tuesday 12 December 2023	Wednesday 13 December 2023	Thursday 14 December 2023	Friday 15 December 2023
8.00 – 9.00 am	Regional and other Groups meetings		OEWG Bureau meeting	OEWG Bureau meeting	OEWG Bureau meeting	OEWG Bureau meeting
9.00 - 10.00 am		Regional and other Groups meetings	Regional and other Groups meetings	Regional and other Groups meetings	Regional and other Groups meetings	Regional and other Groups meetings
10.00 am - 1.00 pm		Agenda Item 1 Agenda Item 2 Agenda Item 3	Agenda Item 4 <i>continued</i>	Plenary stock take <i>Contact groups</i>	Plenary stock take <i>Contact groups</i>	Plenary stock take Agenda Item 6 Agenda Item 7
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break <i>Contact groups/ Informal groups</i>	Lunch break <i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	Lunch break <i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	Lunch break <i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>
3.00 pm - 6.00 pm	Regional and other Groups meetings OEWG Bureau meeting	Agenda Item 5 Agenda Item 4	Agenda Item 4 <i>Continued/ Contact Groups</i>	Contact groups	<i>Contact groups</i>	Agenda Item 8 Agenda Item 9
6:30 pm - onwards		<i>Reception (if any, to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	<i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	<i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	

OEWG 2

Invitations sent out early September 2023.

Soon happening

Documents will be uploaded on the event page in all UN languages.

Deadlines:

- **10 October – Funded travel**
- **31 October – All other registrations**

Q&A

OEWG 2: Logistical arrangements

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Other matters

6

Closure of the meeting

Thank you



Secretariat of the ad-hoc open ended working group on a science policy panel on chemicals, waste and prevention of pollution

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