

Needs and Questions the Panel May Handle

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 input from Member States and relevant stakeholders regarding the **needs** and **questions** the panel may handle in order to inform negotiations through the OEWG process (OEWG2 and OEWG3).

In support of this request, 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. Once complete, please submit this filled document to SPP-CWP@un.org. All submissions will be uploaded online and will be summarized in an INF document in order to inform the work undertaken at OEWG2 and OEWG3.

Please complete and submit this form by 5 September 2023.

Several documents prepared by the secretariat for OEWG1.2 are of relevance to this submission, including:

- The Mapping and Gap analysis that was presented at UNEA 4 ([UNEP/EA.4/INF.9](#))
- The UNEP report “Assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste” <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33808/OSSP.pdf>
- UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/INF/1 - [UNEA Resolution 5/8 entitled “Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution”](#)
- The stakeholder survey conducted between OEWG 1.1 and OEWG 1.2, which was summarized in Information document “Stakeholder Engagement Feedback” ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/INF/6](#))
- Reports of OEWG1.1 and OEWG1.2, available with all other meeting documents on the [OEWG website](#)

Contact information

What is your name/surname?

Khalifa Al-Dagher

Who are you submitting on behalf of?

Ministry of environment and climate change

Are you a national focal point?

yes

What is your country?

Qatar

What is your title?

Head of Hazardous Waste Department commissioned.

What is your gender?

Male

What is your email address?

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1. Please list and if appropriate briefly describe, your preference for which needs the panel may handle. (If possible, please rank your responses, where 1 indicates your top preference):

- **For the efficiency of our discussions and to avoid delays, we recommend that parties not go beyond the mandate laid out in UNEA Res. 5/8. We would like to stress the following:**

1. Functions of the panel have paid particular attention to developing countries, noting that 2 of the 4 mention the particularity of developing country needs

- i. **Functions** have stressed providing options; there is no one set approach. Instead, multiple options are needed for the consideration of policymakers.

2. Panel outputs must be conducted in a policy-relevant, non-prescriptive manner.

3. The decision-making process is driven by consensus and panel output.

4. Panel Financial resources shall be suitable to conduct its mandate without causing a burden on developing countries.

- **Needs:**

- 1) Assess, address & communicate the socio-economic impacts resulting from policy interventions, for developing countries.
- 2) Promote advanced technologies and explore ways to remove barriers in scaling up such technologies, particularly for developing countries.
- 3) Information-sharing to increase capacity needs in developing countries.
- 4) Advance policy-relevant advice towards the promotion of financial assistance to developing countries.

2. Please provide any relevant comments on the needs you have listed above:

3. Please list, and if appropriate briefly describe, your preference for which questions the panel may handle. (If possible, please rank your responses, where 1 indicates your top preference):

The panel must address questions directly related to its principal functions, identified in paragraph 2 of UNEA Resolution 5/8. It is imperative for the panel to ensure that principles, as stated in paragraph 6 of the same resolution, are strictly adhered to while proposing the questions.

(a) Undertaking “horizon scanning” to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them.

In this function, the panel proposes evidence-based options based on horizon scanning to address issues related to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. These are some specific questions to address this specific function:

Which **OPTIONS** are available for the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution? Taking into consideration that only options aligned with the principles in para 6 are considered; in that sense, only options which are transparent, credible, scientifically robust, cost-effective, inclusive, and complementary to other bodies’ work without duplication, only those options should be provided in the outputs of the panel in policy-relevant not policy prescriptive manner. Noting this requires a set of options, not a single approach.

- What OPTIONS are available to mitigate the socio-economic impacts resulting from Policy interventions?
- What are global OPTIONS, and have the potential to effectively manage the future consequences of policy interventions in the sound management of chemicals and waste, such as future cross-border implications?
- Which advanced technology OPTIONS has the potential for scaling up to further contribute to the sound management of waste chemicals?
- How do current investment levels compare with OPTIONS for future global efforts to address issues arising from the unsound management of chemicals and waste?

(b) 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

In this function, the panel identifies key gaps in scientific research, explains and disseminates findings for different audiences, and raises public awareness. These are some specific questions to address this function:

- What key gaps in scientific research on the sound management of chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention exist and need to be addressed by the scientific community and shared with different audiences? The principles in para 6 are considered.
- What are the key gaps in scientific research regarding assessing and quantifying the socio-economic impacts of policy interventions? How can scientists & policymakers communicate to address those gaps in research?
- What role do customized tools & methodologies play in providing up-to-date and relevant information in assessing and addressing the socio-economic impacts of policy interventions?
- Which platforms can be used to disseminate scientific research? What processes are used for scientific research?

(c) facilitating information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information.

In this function, the panel facilitates scientific information sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking information. These are some specific questions to address this function:

- What forms of information-sharing have the biggest impact on building the capacity needed and requested by developing countries?
- How can information-sharing on scaling up advanced technological options promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, particularly for developing country parties?

Which modalities of information-sharing are optimal for facilitating equitable access to scientific information, particularly for developing countries?

4. Please provide any relevant comments on the questions you have listed above: