

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.

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 These have not changed](#)

Contact information

What is your name/surname?

Paige Robinson

Who are you submitting on behalf of?

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK Government

Are you a national focal point?

Yes

What is your country?

United Kingdom

What is your title?

Senior Scientific Officer

What is your gender?

Female

What is your email address?

Paige.Robinson@defra.gov.uk

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):**
 - The UK defines “needs” as the tools, policies and processes that the panel will need to do its work, ensuring that barriers are removed and risks to product outputs are identified during the OEWG process.
 - The UK supports the list of policies and procedural documents needed to establish a functioning panel developed by member states and observers during OEWG1.2. They represent the elements needed for the panel to begin its work from an administrative and product producing capacity, without delaying the establishment of the panel more than necessary. The secretariat has used this information to form the OEWG2 agenda and shared a document which summarises these discussions, listing the “must have” or “nice to have” policy documents.
 - From this list, the UK would like to draw particular attention to the importance of creating policies for engaging multidisciplinary stakeholders in the panel, and highlighting knowledge gaps and opportunities for innovation within the chemicals and waste sector when tackling an issue.
 - Understanding the perspectives and expertise of the different stakeholders is important, balancing their interests and biases while producing evidence-based assessment reports. We need to be able to engage openly with experts from across the chemicals and waste sector without conflict of interests to ensure policy-relevant advice is practical.
 - For example, the One Health Quadripartite was created without industry involvement, which led industry to create their own network and could limit the practicality of recommendations from the Quadripartite. A robust Conflict of Interest Policy is therefore essential for a successful panel.
 - The panel should also have a policy for safeguarding commercially sensitive information whilst not restricting data sharing.
 - Finally, the inclusion of audit procedures, transparency, robust quality assurance of process and peer-review are important elements to include within the panel proposal as the panel needs to provide credible information for policymaking.
 - The panel will need to consider global perspectives and differences in priorities when determining a work programme. Balancing the need for sharing knowledge on legacy issues with raising awareness of emerging issues will require a series of conceptual and prioritisation frameworks to assist the panel.
2. **Please provide any relevant comments on the needs you have listed above:**

See Q1.

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):**
 - To avoid pre-empting the work of the panel, the UK does not believe it is the right time in the Open-Ended Working Group process to detail the specific questions or issues of concern within the chemicals, waste and pollution landscape the panel could address.
 - However, we support the OEWG process developing a prioritisation approach for the range of different issues that may be proposed. This will require the development of evaluation criteria and a systematic process for sifting and ranking issues of concern in an open, auditable process to ensure the panel can effectively determine its work programme within the broad, currently undefined scope.
 - The panel will also require a method to highlight and understand emerging risks (in addition to regular horizon scanning activities) that includes a range of criteria and defines the level of risk. Besides evaluating the available evidence, there will need to be a clear indication of the level of uncertainty and additional data needs when it comes to these emerging risks.
 - An agile, flexible and progressive framework is essential for the panel to tackle questions around the triple planetary crisis and other cross-cutting issues impacted by pollution. There is opportunity to improve integration and coordination working between the panel, IPCC, IPBES and MEAs. Lessons learnt from existing panels should be considered to improve sharing of

interdisciplinary knowledge and harmonise sectors as we tackle these global crises simultaneously.

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

See Q3.