

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?

Raleigh Davis

Who are you submitting on behalf of?

ICCA – International Council of Chemical Associations

Are you a national focal point?

No

What is your country?

International Organization registered in Belgium

What is your title?

Director, Global Affairs

What is your gender?

Female

What is your email address?

Raleigh_davis@americanchemistry.com

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 SPP should look at the issues/questions from a **broad and science-based perspective**, including consideration of **socio-economic impacts** etc.
- The work and the evaluations of the SPP need to be anchored in **risk-based assessments**.
- The SPP needs to **follow a consensus-driven approach** for its evaluations and recommendations. Such approach is customary with other MEAs and similar bodies, and would serve to promote acceptance and visibility of the work of the SPP globally. There are examples with other Science Policy Panels on how run a consensus driven process.
- The SPP needs to have a **prioritization process for identifying** topics of global relevancy to the panel, including criteria.
- The panel needs to be **inclusive/balanced**. The composition of the panel should include an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that incorporates all relevant disciplines, including natural and social sciences. This includes **experts independent of their affiliation**, chosen based on scientific rigor and proven expertise in the field.
- The panel need **ROBUST science** while acknowledging the need to consider additional (non-scientific) perspectives, including indigenous knowledge, gender perspectives etc. This science should to be based on a **“comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach”**. It will be key that an integrative approach includes expertise independent of the affiliation. We also recommend referencing examples of integrative approaches from professional scientific organizations like SETAC and the RSC. .
- The call **for opportunities for industry input** into the scientific evaluation of specific issues. It is vital that the aforementioned comprehensive approach does not exclude industry expertise, given the multitude of scientific information and knowledge industry has about chemicals, waste and pollution
- The **promotion of innovation** was brought up by stakeholders during the OEWG 1.2. Such principle needs to be considered by the future SPP. Innovation allows for a solution oriented and forward-looking mindset to be incorporated into the work of the panel.

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

Integrated into section 1

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 **questions the panel may handle should not duplicate** with existing science bodies while ensuring linkages with their efforts to inform science on new “Emerging Policy Issues” (EPIs) under the SPP.
 - For example, there is an open and transparent procedure under SAICM for receiving nominations for EPIs and preparing them for future consideration. We believe that this

process as identified under the Beyond 2020 Instrument could provide a good model for the SPP regarding how to identify Emerging Policy Issues.

- **Existing Emerging Policy Issues** (e.g., under current SAICM instrument) could, if relevant, be **carried over into SPP** and be addressed in a scientific environment.
- Policy relevant recommendations by the SPP on the EPIs should then be reverted to the body (e.g. SAICM/ICCM)
- On the future work of the SPP, there should be a balance between dealing with existing EPIs and **nominating new issues/topics**, otherwise the SPP won't be able to cope.
- The newly nominated topics/questions need to be rigorously identified following a **prioritization and relevancy procedure**.

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

Integrated into section 3