

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?

Sara Brosché

Who are you submitting on behalf of?

IPEN (The International Pollutants Elimination Network)

Are you a national focal point?

No

What is your country?

Global NGO network registered in Sweden

What is your title?

Science Advisor

What is your gender?

Female

What is your email address?

sarabrosche@ipen.org

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):

Priority 1: Horizon scanning to provide an early warning about chemicals and chemical-related issues of concern that needs to be addressed.

Priority 2: Identify chemicals and chemical-related issues of concern that are not addressed (adequately) under any of the existing international agreements.

Priority 3: Facilitating information sharing and access to independent science as well as traditional and Indigenous knowledge about already known chemicals and chemical-related issues of concern, including their safe alternatives.

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

Overall comment: In order to meet these needs of the panel, it is important to have a clear policy on disclosure of conflict of interests of its members. It also needs to be adequately funded with sustainable, predictable, and accessible financing.

Comment, Priority 1: This will enable governments to act early to prevent pollution and harm to human health and the environment.

Comment, Priority 2: This will enable governments to include these under the relevant agreement, or initiate consideration of new agreements if such are needed. However, the SPP should not be tied to already existing policy frameworks but have a separate process to provide support upon request.

Comment, Priority 3: This will enable governments and industries to take effective action to ban and phase out the use of these.

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):

Q1: Which are chemicals of concern on the horizon that needs to be addressed to protect human health and the environment?

Q2: How can current global, regional and national regulatory gaps on chemicals currently not adequately addressed be remedied in order to protect human health and the environment?

Q3: How can access to science and information about hazardous chemicals and chemical-related issues of concern be improved and facilitated, ensuring free access to all?

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

To effectively answer these questions, assessments must be made based on the precautionary principle and require policy-relevant guidance to governments to be aligned with the best available scientific evidence.

Assessment of these should include known hazard properties such as Persistent, Bioaccumulative, Toxic (PBT) as well as Persistent, Mobile and Toxic (PMT) substances; Carcinogenic, Mutagenic, Reprotoxic substances; Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs); Respiratory or skin sensitizing substances; Neurotoxicants.