

# 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](mailto: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?

Farhan R. Khan

Who are you submitting on behalf of?

NORCE- Norwegian Research Centre

Are you a national focal point?

No

What is your country?

Norway

What is your title?

Dr, Senior Researcher

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):**
- According to Wang et al., 2030 “over 350,000 chemicals and mixtures of chemicals have been registered for production and use, up to three times as many as previously estimated”. This is across 22 chemical inventories from 19 regions/countries. A priority should be a harmonized global inventory to ascertain the number of chemical entities currently being used.
  - In turn leading to harmonized global regulations.
  - Chemicals or “novel (chemical) entities” represent a threat to the Earth System and established Planetary Boundaries. Chemical entities need to be viewed as a global problem rather than local or regional issues of pollution.
  - The Novel Entity threat is recognized alongside Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss as a triple planetary crisis. The three threats are not independent and need to be approached holistically. Thus, the work of OEWS is connected to that of the IPCC and IPBES.
  - The panel needs to be first and foremost a scientifically led initiative meaning (i) expert participation is important and incentivized, (ii) conflicts of interest are minimized, and (iii) lobbyist activity at panel meetings is prevented.
- 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):**
- There is a gap between chemical usage, environmental release and presence, and toxicological impact. The former needs regulation; the latter needs to be assessed under frameworks that are fit for purpose. What are the appropriate frameworks?
  - Recognition that chemicals entering the environment are entering an environment under constant change, from the presence of other chemicals and from climate perturbation. How do lab studies on chemical effects capture this reality? How are exposure studies made more realistic?
- 4. Please provide any relevant comments on the questions you have listed above:**
- Chemical accumulation, defined as the balance of fluxes (influx and efflux) from different routes of entry (water and diet), is the fundamental link between environmental presence and toxicological effect. Accumulation assessment would form part of an effective framework.