

Meeting of the Bureau of the Ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution
Tuesday, 14 November 2023
13:00 - 15:00 (EAT; GMT + 3)
GAO Boardroom and online
Hybrid meeting

Agenda item 5: Outcomes of the OEWG process

Options for the process and timing for the preparation of draft text for the decisions/resolutions necessary to be adopted at the intergovernmental meeting for the establishment of a science policy panel

Secretariat Note

UNEA Resolution 5/8 mandates the OEWG to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel, considering the issues outlined in paragraph 5 and taking into account the need to ensure those aspects outlined in paragraph 6 of Resolution 5/8.

Such proposals would be recommended by the OEWG to be considered for approval by the Intergovernmental Meeting mandated to establish the panel, to be organized by the ED.

Following up on the outcomes of OEWG1.2, including Annex III ‘Outcome of the contact group on organization of work of the OEWG setting out guidance to the secretariat for the preparation of working and information documents for the OEWG sessions’, the secretariat has proposed a draft Skeleton Outline that sets out the key substantive proposals for which it is envisioned that texts will be developed by the OEWG.

The proposed Skeleton Outline outlines the key elements describing the panel as well as its procedures and work processes:

- In line with the resolution the Skeleton Outline includes a proposal describing the panel (sections A Scope[, objective] and Functions of the Panel, B Operating Principles and C Institutional Arrangements) – the foundational document.
- The Skeleton Outline furthermore includes in its annexes (Annex 1. Rules of procedure, Annex 2. Financial arrangements, Annex 3. Relationships with relevant key stakeholders and Annex 4. Process for determining and executing the work programme, including prioritization criteria) the documents to be recommended to be submitted for consideration by the panel, once established, to be adopted at its first meeting (or alternatively to guide the further work of the panel on the related issues, once it is established).

Member States may wish to consider that the Outcomes of the OEWG as set out in the proposed Skeleton Outline would need to be recommended to the Intergovernmental Meeting for its consideration.

In order to organize the work of the OEWG as efficient as possible, it is suggested that OEWG-2 will focus its discussions on the substantive outcomes, and that the recommendation of the OEWG to the

Intergovernmental Meeting in the form of a recommendation of a draft decision for consideration by the Intergovernmental Meeting will be discussed at OEWG-3.

In line with the above, such draft decision would need to include the following elements:

Recommendation of the SPP OEWG to the Intergovernmental Meeting for a draft decision for consideration by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the establishment of an SPP [name], that includes:

- a) Preambular paragraphs, including reference to the outcome document of the OEWG
- b) Decision to establish an SPP [name] as set out in outcome document OEWG (sections A, B, C), annexed to the decision
- c) Forward and recommend for consideration of the panel [at its first meeting] the documents set out in the annexes of the outcome document of the OEWG, annexed to the decision

The draft decision to be recommended by the OEWG may also include a proposal for a decision for an interim secretariat for the transitional period to set in place the secretariat in line with the recommendations of the OEWG.

The Bureau may wish to consider:

- a) To mandate the chair of the OEWG to present on the Skeleton Outline at the planned webinar on 22 November, including an overview of the outcomes expected from the OEWG process.
- b) To request the Secretariat to develop – for presentation under item 5 – a roadmap for the establishment of the Panel
- c) To propose to the OEWG 2 to request the secretariat to develop a draft recommendation for a draft decision to be adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting.