

Towards a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

Regional briefing on the second session of the OEWG on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution for the Group of Eastern European States

21 November 2023 from 9:00 – 12:00 (GMT +1) (online)

1

Opening of the briefing and adoption of
the agenda

Agenda

1. Opening of the briefing and adoption of the agenda
2. Recap of UNEA Resolution 5/8 and summary of OEWG 1
3. Organizational matters for OEWG 2
 - a) OEWG 2.7: Intersessional work, budget, expenditure and provisional workplan
 - b) OEWG 2 agenda, annotated agenda and scenario note
 - c) OEWG 2 working documents:
 1. OEWG.2.2: Proposed skeleton outline
 2. OEWG.2.3: Scope and objective, functions and operating principles
 3. OEWG.2.4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure of the plenary
 4. OEWG.2.5: Relationships with relevant key stakeholders
 5. OEWG.2.6: Work-related processes and procedures
4. Logistical arrangements for OEWG 2
5. Other matters
6. Closure of the meeting

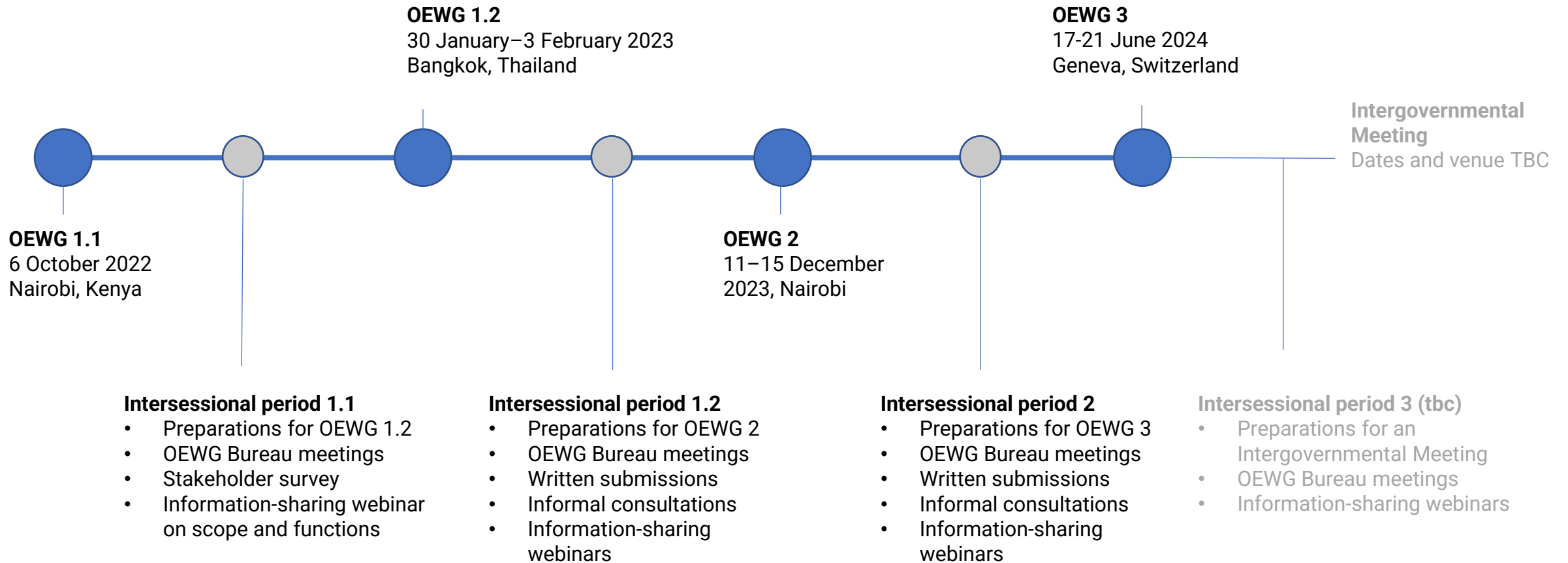
2

Recap of UNEA Resolution 5/8 and
summary of OEWG 1

UNEA Resolution 5/8: Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution

- In March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session (UNEA-5.2) decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.
- UNEA further decided to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel, to begin work in 2022 with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024.

OEWG Process: Overall Timeline



OEWG 1 Outcomes: Election of Officers

	Officer	Country	Region
Rapporteur	Oumar Diaoure Cisse	Mali	Africa
	Cyrus Mageria	Kenya	Africa
	Jinhui Li	China	Asia Pacific
	Saqlain Seydah	Pakistan	Asia Pacific
	Linroy Christian	Antigua and Barbuda	LAC
Chair	Valentina Sierra	Uruguay	LAC
	Gudi Alkemade	The Netherlands	WEOG
	Michel Tschirren	Switzerland	WEOG

OEWG 1 Outcomes: Objective

[The objective of the panel is to strengthen the science policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution for the protection of human health and the environment, with the following functions:]...

The text on objective has been left in brackets with the understanding that future discussions of the OEWG may continue to inform the objective.

OEWG 1 Outcomes: Principal Functions

- a) Undertaking “**horizon scanning**” to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them;
- b) Conducting **assessments** of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address, where possible, those issues, in particular those relevant to developing countries;
- c) Providing up-to-date and relevant information, identifying **key gaps** in scientific research, encouraging and supporting **communication** between scientists and policymakers, explaining and **disseminating findings** for different audiences, and raising **public awareness**;
- d) Facilitating **information-sharing** with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information;
- e) **Capacity building**

3

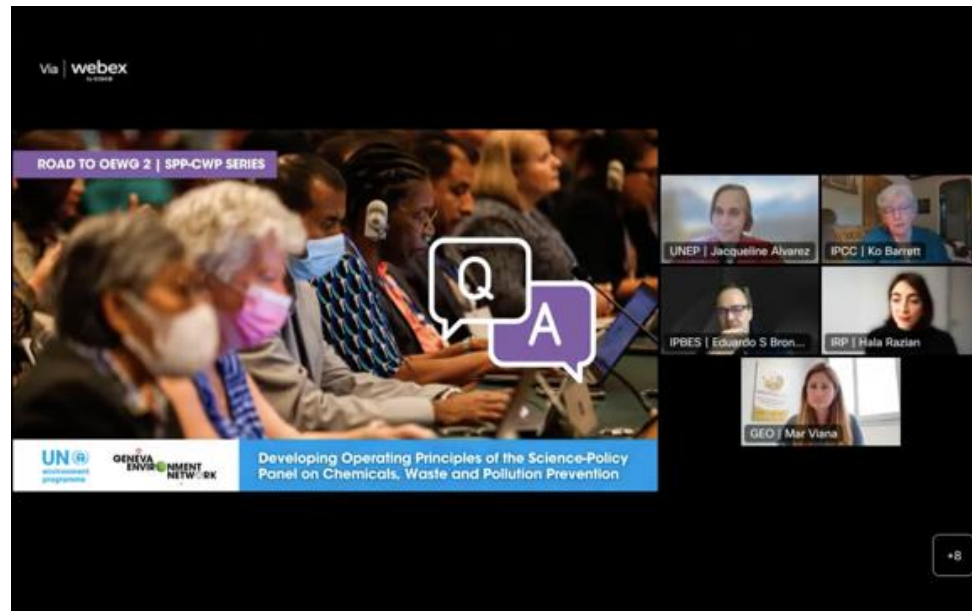
Organizational matters for the second session of the Open-ended Working Group

OEWG 2, Doc 7: Intersessional work, budget, expenditure and provisional workplan

The OEWG Secretariat is preparing a set of proposals for consideration at OEWG 2, building on insights and lessons learned from existing science-policy interfaces, including the:

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- International Resource Panel (IRP)
- Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process
- Assessment panels of the Montreal Protocol
- Others

Outreach initiatives



Webinars and other events in the series have focused on the process for establishing a science-policy panel, substantive matters to be considered by the OEWG, lessons learned from existing science-policy interfaces, and exchanges on how stakeholders can contribute to the OEWG process.

Revised budget

Proposed budget and expenditures for the ad hoc open-ended working group process (United States dollars)

Cost category	Code	Subcategory	2022	2023	2024	
			Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure ^a	Budget
Secretariat staff and travel						
Personnel	1100	Secretariat staff	214 458	636 881	265 992	668 745
	1200	Consultants	238 242	280 841	208 218	286 958
	1300	Secretariat support staff	–	–		
Travel	1600	Travel	116 538	167 000	100 249	158 000
	1999	Subtotal	569 238	1 084 722	574 458	1 113 703
Meetings and training events						
Meetings and conferences	3100	Virtual platforms		100 000		100 000
		Regional meetings (conference services and travel) ^b		242 351	88 610	242 351
		Bureau meetings		25 000		25 000
		Webinars		50 000		50 000
		OEWG 1-1 (Nairobi)	93 175	–	–	–
		OEWG 1-2 (Bangkok)	89 359	1 123 000	907 185	–
		OEWG 2 (Nairobi)	–	1 153 451	461 793	–
		OEWG 3 (Geneva) ^c	–	–	–	1 620 000
		3999	Subtotal	182 533	2 693 802	1 457 588
Premises and other						
Fixed operating costs	4100	Operational costs for secretariat staff ^d	317	–	8 000	38 000
	4999	Subtotal	371	–	8 000	38 000
		Total	752 089	3 778 524	2 040 046	3 189 054
5999		Programme indirect support cost	61 517	456 440	233,849	414 577
		Total general	813 606	4 234 965	2 273 896	3 603 631

^a Expenditures as at 31 October 2023.

^b Placeholder in case stand-alone regional meetings are requested in 2024.

^c Subject to change, depending on the conference services requirements for the third session.

^d Full fair share of secretariat staff operational costs for 2024.

SPP OEWG Bureau and Regional Meetings

The work of the OEWG Secretariat has been guided by the workplan and the SPP OEWG Bureau.

Bureau meetings:

- SPP OEWG Bureau has met 12 times since its establishment.
- 10 December 2023 – Next session of the Bureau (Nairobi)

Regional meetings:

- 7 September – Asia Pacific regional meeting (Bangkok, hybrid)
- 14 September – Africa regional meeting (Nairobi)
- 7 October – GRULAC regional meeting (Brasilia)
- 8 and 9 November – WEOG regional briefings (online)
- 21 November – EEG regional briefing (online)

Q&A

OEWG 1 - 2: Recap OEWG 1, Intersessional work, budget, expenditures and provisional workplan (Doc 7)

OEWG 2 documents

OEWG 2: Provisional agenda

Item 1: Opening of the session

Item 2: Election of officers

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Item 4: Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel

Item 5: Options for the timetable and organization of the future work of the OEWG

Item 6: Provisional agenda for the third session of the OEWG

Item 7: Other matters

Item 8: Adoption of the report of the session

Item 9: Closure of the session

OEWG 2: Scenario note

1. **Organization of work**
2. **Election of officers**
3. **Proposed objective and in-session work at the second session**
 1. Skeleton outline of a science policy panel
 2. Scope and objective, functions, and operating principles of a science policy panel
 3. Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure of the panel
 4. Relationships with relevant key stakeholders
 5. Work-related processes and procedures
 6. Options for the timetable and organization of work of the ad hoc open-ended working group
 7. Organization of work at the second session
4. **Possible outcomes of the second session of the ad hoc open-ended working group**

Q&A

OEWG 2 provisional agenda (Doc 1), scenario
note (INF 1)

OEWG 2, Doc 2: Proposed skeleton outline

A. Scope and functions of the Panel – Capturing Annex II of UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/7

B. Operating principles of the Panel

C. Institutional arrangements of the Panel

Annex 1. Rules of procedure

Annex 2. Financial arrangements

Annex 3. Relationships with relevant key stakeholders

Annex 4. Process for determining and executing the work programme, including the prioritization criteria

Annex 5. Procedures for the review and adoption of reports

Annex 6. Arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts

Annex 7. Conflict of interest policy

Linkages between OEWG 2 documents

Other INF documents:

OEWG.2/INF.1: Scenario Note

Elements of "Skeleton Outline" of OEWG Proposal (OEWG.2/2)	Corresponding Working Documents	Corresponding INF Documents
Name/Scope/Objective	OEWG.2/3: Scope and objective, functions, and operating principles	OEWG.2/INF2: Background document on operating principles
Functions	OEWG.2/4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary	OEWG.2/INF3: Mapping of capacity-building activities on chemical, waste and pollution prevention related to the science-policy interface across Conventions and UN agencies
Operating Principles	OEWG.2/5: Relationship with relevant key stakeholders	OEWG.2/INF4: Background document on institutional arrangements of existing science policy interfaces
Institutional Arrangements	OEWG.2/6: Work-related processes and procedures	OEWG.2/INF5: Supporting information relevant to the panel's relationships with relevant key stakeholders
Arrangements for Secretariat Support		OEWG.2/INF6: Documents and decisions relevant to the process for determining and executing the work programme of the panel, including prioritization framework
Plenary: Rules of Proc.		OEWG.2/INF7: Documents and decisions relevant to the arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel and procedures for the review and adoption of reports and assessments produced by the panel
Financial Procedures		OEWG.2/INF8: Documents and decisions relevant to conflict of interest
Preparation of Deliverables/ Delivery of Functions:		OEWG.2/INF9: Responses to needs and questions the panel may handle
<i>-process for determining and executing work programme, including prioritization framework</i> <i>-identifying/engaging experts</i> <i>-review and adoption of reports and assessments</i> <i>-conflict of interest procedures</i> <i>-relationship with relevant key stakeholders</i>		

Q&A

OEWG 2: Proposed skeleton outline (Doc 2)

OEWG 2, Doc 3: Scope and objective, functions and operating principles

Scope and objective

Draft text at the close of OEWG1.2:

- [The objective of the panel is to strengthen the science policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution for the protection of human health and the environment, with the following functions:]

The OEWG may wish to:

- Continue the discussion on scope, and notably consider whether the wording in the draft objective requires updating based on its continued discussions.
- Consider how submissions on needs and questions the panel may handle (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/9) and consideration of other issues before it may inform its continued discussion on scope.

OEWG 2, Doc 3: Scope and objective, functions and operating principles

Principal functions

At the close of OEWG 1.2, the following draft text on functions of the future panel was agreed:

- (a) Undertaking “horizon scanning” to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them;
- (b) Conducting assessments of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address, where possible, those issues, in particular those relevant to developing countries;
- (c) Providing up-to-date and relevant information, identifying key gaps in scientific research, encouraging and supporting communication between scientists and policymakers, explaining and disseminating findings for different audiences, and raising public awareness;
- (d) Facilitating information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information;
- (e) Capacity building

OEWG 2, Doc 3: Scope and objective, function and operating principles

Operating principles

The OEWG may wish to employ a two-step approach to drafting operating principles text:

- 1) Look to text adapted from resolution 5/8 (Annex I)
- 2) Consider principles adapted from principles of other science-policy interfaces (Annex II)

Q&A

OEWG 2: Scope and objective, functions and operating principles (Doc 3)

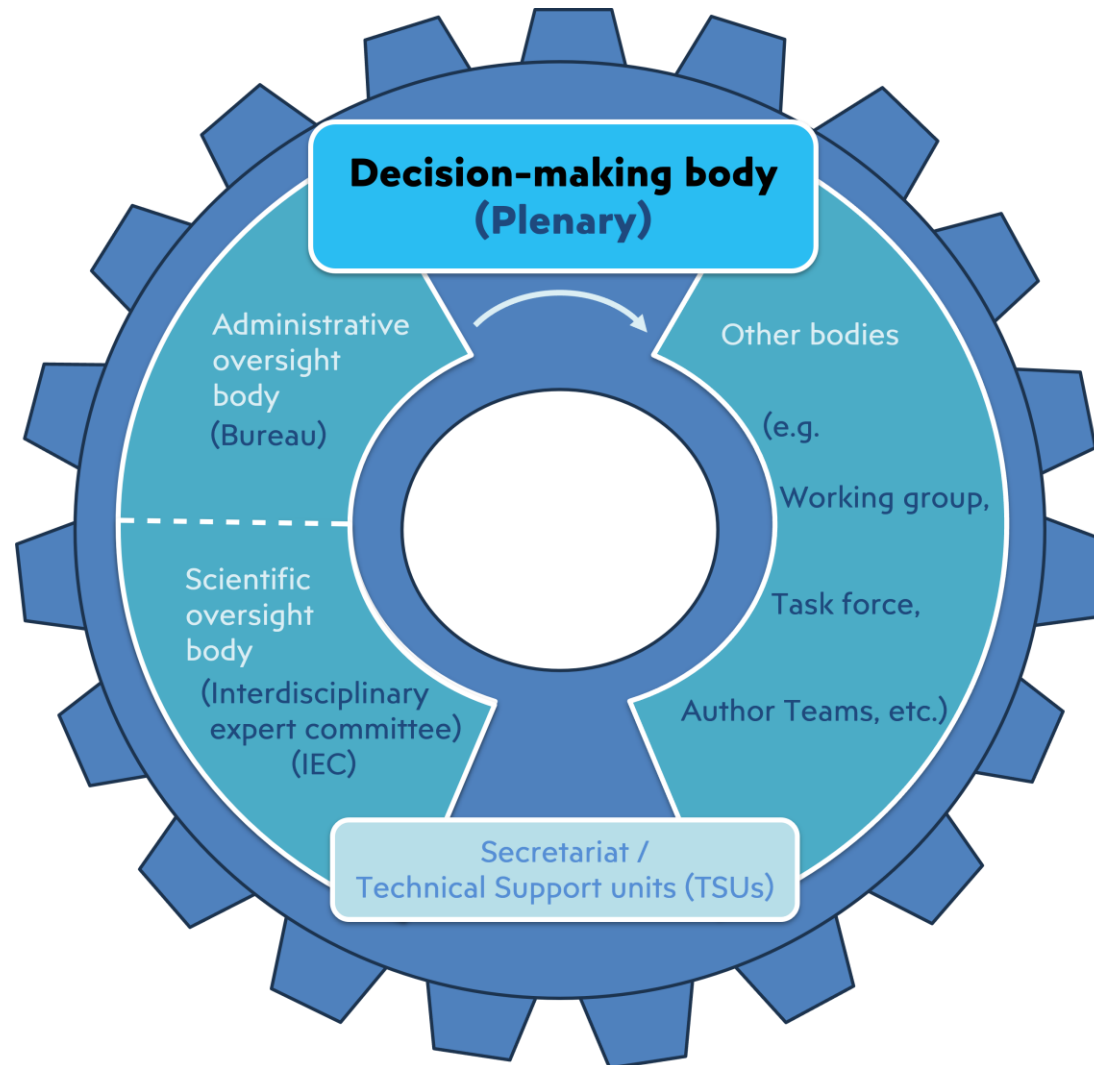
OEWG 2, Doc 4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary

Institutional arrangements

Common features:

- Decision-making body
- One or more bodies providing administrative and scientific oversight
- Other bodies undertaking or supporting the science-policy interface's work
- Secretariat
- Financial arrangements

OEWG 2, Doc 4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary



OEWG 2, Doc 4: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary

Rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary

- a) Scope
- b) Definitions
- c) Venues, dates and notice of sessions
- d) Members and observers
- e) Admission of observers
- f) Agenda
- g) Representation, credentials and accreditation
- h) Members and operation of the Bureau and/or equivalent structure(s)/institution(s)
- i) Election of members of the Bureau and/or equivalent structure(s)/institution(s)
- j) Nominations
- k) Subsidiary bodies (members, operation, election of members...)
- l) Conduct of business
- m) Decision-making
- n) Languages
- o) Modifications to the rules of procedure

Q&A

OEWG 2: Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary (Doc 4)

OEWG 2, Doc 5: Relationships with relevant key stakeholders



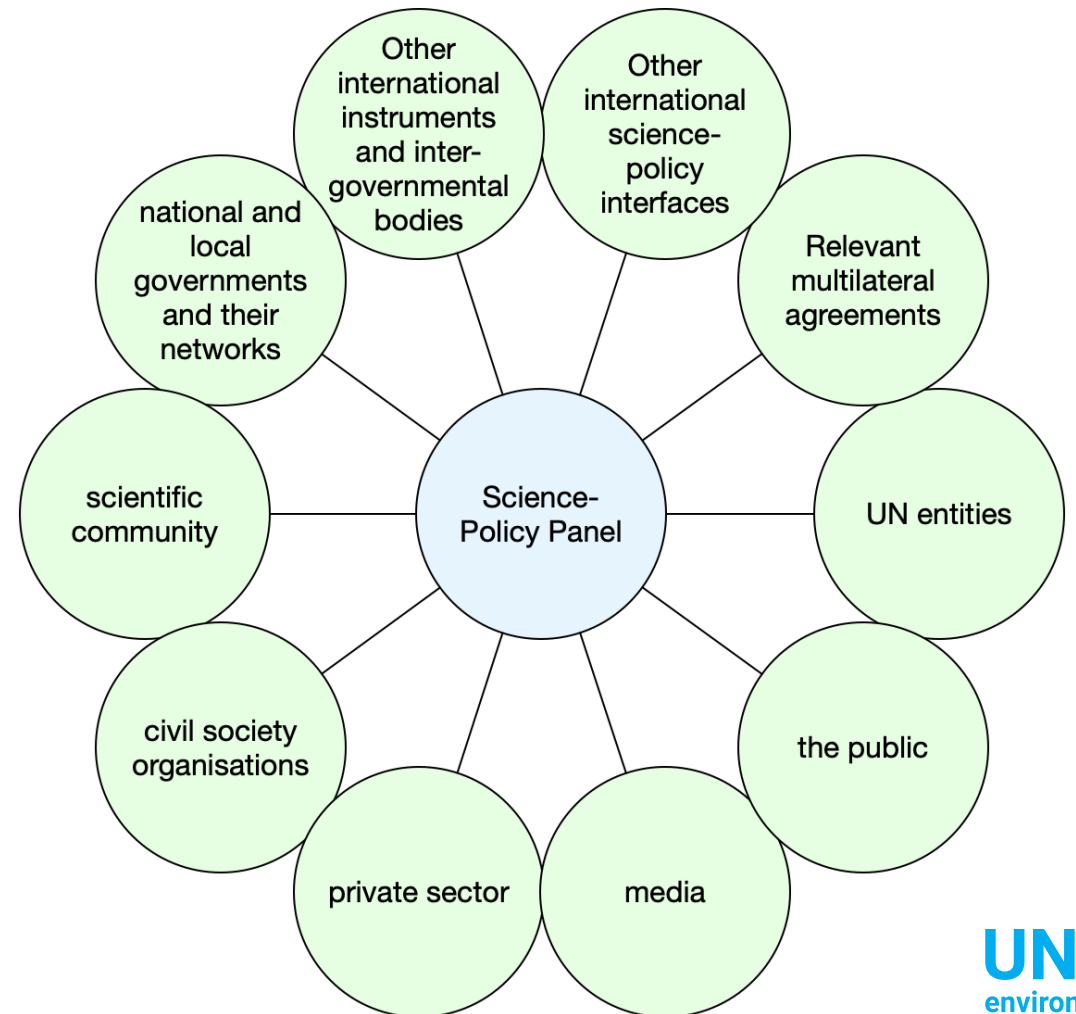
The document aims to address:

- Who are stakeholders to the panel?
- What roles may stakeholders generally undertake in the panel's operation?
- How can stakeholders participate in the panel, i.e., approaches to stakeholder participation, building upon lesson learned from existing interfaces?
- Proposal on the way forward

Who are the stakeholders of the science-policy panel?

Relevant stakeholders to the panel may be:

1. **Contributors** to the panel
2. **End users** of the panel's deliverables, e.g. policy- and decision-makers
3. **Those that may be impacted** by the panel's deliverable and ensuing policy outcomes, e.g. vulnerable and at-risk populations



What roles may stakeholders may generally undertake?

Institutional engagement at the level of the panel, e.g.:

- Participate at the meetings and in focal point network
- Provide support to fundraising and resource mobilization*
- Provide financial and/or in-kind support*
- Contribute to expanding the expert pool for the panel's work*

Participation in work programme development and execution, e.g.:

- Propose new activities and express views: other proposals
- Express views on the scoping of specific work
- Nominating and express views on selecting experts
- Provide data, knowledge and perspectives
- Review drafts of the panel's deliverables
- Disseminate the panel's deliverables at all levels and beyond the six UN languages*
- Foster uptake by policy- and decision-makers*
- Conduct joint work such as joint assessments*
- Undertake delegated work on specific aspects*

* Text in blue

Typically **NOT** captured in institutional arrangements, rules of procedure, and work-related processes and procedures

How can stakeholders participate in the panel's operation?

- **Incorporate certain roles in institutional arrangements, rules of procedure, and work-related processes and procedures, e.g:**
 - accreditation and participation at the meetings
 - providing inputs to the development and execution of work programmes
- **Establish formal strategic partnerships, e.g.,**
 - supporting work programme implementation
 - hosting technical supporting units and/or collaborating centres
- **Promote involvement through informal arrangements, e.g.,**
 - guidance documents to stakeholders
 - self-organized stakeholder networks
 - open-to-all stakeholder days prior to each Plenary session
 - a secretariat-maintained stakeholder registry

OEWG 2, Doc 5: Relationships with relevant key stakeholders

The OEWG may wish to consider:

- A **description** of stakeholders in the context of the panel
- **Approaches** to pursue as the panel builds relationship with relevant key stakeholder
- Mandates to the secretariat on **intersessional activities**

Q&A

OEWG 2: Relationships with relevant key stakeholders (Doc 5)

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Several work-related processes and procedures described, building on examples from existing science-policy interfaces:

- Processes for **determining and executing the work programme** of the panel, including prioritization
- Procedures for the **review and adoption of reports and assessments** produced by the panel
- Arrangements for identifying and **engaging with experts** to contribute to the work of the panel
- **Conflict of Interest** policy

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Process for determining the work programme of the panel

Consideration of the submission of inputs, scoping and prioritization, and bodies/entities involved

The OEWG may wish to consider:

- a. Fixed time frame or a rolling work programme
- b. A process for receiving and prioritizing requests/submissions on topics/areas for possible inclusion in the panel's work programme, specifically:
 - i. Who can submit requests, inputs or suggestions?
 - ii. What information will be required to support submissions?
 - iii. Who will screen and review submissions and prioritize them if needed and according to what timeline?
- c. Guidance to the secretariat for preparing a draft procedure for receiving and prioritizing inputs and requests to the work programme for discussion and finalization at OEWG 3.

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel

Consideration of expertise, type of work experts are engaged for, geographic representation, gender balance, scope of work etc.

The OEWG may wish to:

Provide guidance to the secretariat on preparing a draft procedure for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel for discussion and finalization at OEWG 3.

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Procedures for the review and adoption of reports and assessments produced by the panel

Consideration of stages of review (e.g., expert, government, other), tasks of the reviewers, acceptance, adoption, approval of deliverables, protocols for addressing errors.

The OEWG may wish to:

- Provide guidance to the secretariat for preparing a draft procedure for the preparation, approval and tracking of use of the panel's deliverables for discussion at OEWG-3.

OEWG 2, Doc 6: Work-related processes and procedures

Conflict of Interest policy

Considerations of conflict of interest approaches, declarations of conflicts of interest and implementation/oversight (conflict of interest committee).

The OEWG may wish to consider:

- Definition of conflict of interest and the objective of a conflict of interest policy for the panel; and
- Mandate to the secretariat to prepare a draft conflict of interest policy for discussion and finalization at OEWG 3.

Q&A

OEWG 2: Work-related processes
and procedures (Doc 6)

4

Logistical arrangements

OEWG 2

Changed venue and revised deadline

The second session of the OEWG will take place from 11 to 15 December 2023, in **Nairobi, Kenya**. Preceding meetings will take place from 9 to 10 December, at the same venue. New deadline for registration was updated following the change of venue to **20 November 2023**. The meeting is hosted by the Hashemite Government of Jordan.

The OEWG will:

- Consider the election of the remaining bureau members.
- Engage in substantive discussions on proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel, including on issues outlined in paragraph 5 and 6 of UNEA resolution 5/8.

Documents uploaded on the event page in all UN languages.

More details to be found at the event page:

<https://www.unep.org/oewg-spp-chemicals-waste-pollution>



Provisional schedule for OEWG 2

	Saturday & Sunday 9 & 10 December 2023	Monday 11 December 2023	Tuesday 12 December 2023	Wednesday 13 December 2023	Thursday 14 December 2023	Friday 15 December 2023
8.00 – 9.00 am	Regional and other Groups meetings		OEWG Bureau meeting	OEWG Bureau meeting	OEWG Bureau meeting	OEWG Bureau meeting
9.00 - 10.00 am		Regional and other Groups meetings	Regional and other Groups meetings	Regional and other Groups meetings	Regional and other Groups meetings	Regional and other Groups meetings
10.00 am - 1.00 pm		Agenda Item 1 Agenda Item 2 Agenda Item 3	Agenda Item 4 <i>continued</i>	Plenary stock take <i>Contact groups</i>	Plenary stock take <i>Contact groups</i>	Plenary stock take Agenda Item 6 Agenda Item 7
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break <i>Contact groups/ Informal groups</i>	Lunch break <i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	Lunch break <i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	Lunch break <i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>
3.00 pm - 6.00 pm	Regional and other Groups meetings OEWG Bureau meeting	Agenda Item 5 Agenda Item 4	Agenda Item 4 <i>Continued/ Contact Groups</i>	Contact groups	<i>Contact groups</i>	Agenda Item 8 Agenda Item 9
6:30 pm - onwards		<i>Reception (if any, to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	<i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	<i>Contact groups/ informal groups</i>	

Q&A

OEWG 2: Logistical arrangements

5

Other matters

6

Closure of the meeting

Thank you



Secretariat of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to further the sound management of chemicals, waste and to prevent pollution

spp-cwp@un.org

www.unep.org