

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  
6 March 2024  
16:00 - 17:30 (EAT; GMT + 3)  
Online meeting

### **Draft Bureau Meeting Summary**

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

1. Ms. Gudi Alkemade, Chair of the OEWG, opened the meeting, and welcomed all participants.
2. The meeting agenda was adopted without any changes.

#### **Agenda item 2: Adoption of the meeting summary**

3. The Chair invited Bureau Members to endorse the [summary of the Bureau meeting held on 31 January 2024](#) as prepared by the Secretariat.
4. The Bureau endorsed the summary without any changes.

#### **Agenda item 3: OEWG 3 preparations**

5. Recalling the discussions held at the Bureau meeting in January 2024, the Chair invited the Secretariat to present an update on the preparation work for OEWG 3, in particular on the overview of the documents of the meeting, the outline for working documents 3 and 4 on the proposals to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting and on interim arrangements respectively, and on the tentative timeline leading up to the OEWG 3 and beyond.
6. Following a [presentation](#) from the Secretariat, Bureau members provided the following feedback on the overview of the documents:
  - At the request of the Bureau, the Secretariat clarified the timelines for the preparation and submission of the meeting documents as follows:
    - 18 March – final working documents to be sent to UNON for editing and translation;
    - Early April – availability of advance English versions of the working documents;
    - 19 April – final information documents to be send for editing;
    - 6 May – availability of working documents in all 6 UN languages.
  - One member emphasized the importance of working document 2 to include all the relevant proposals, in order to provide a comprehensive overview of all the proposals for the establishment of a panel to be finalized at OEWG 3.
  - Following a question by WHO, it was clarified that the title of information document 5 on the engagement of the health community will be changed to reflect the content of the document to be developed jointly by UNEP and WHO, including on the possible roles of WHO.
  - Bureau members expressed general support for the overview of documentation, including the proposed information documents.
7. The Bureau tentatively agreed that the Secretariat can continue to develop the proposed documents as presented, while allowing Bureau members time to reach out with their regions to provide further feedback by 13 March 2024.
8. On the tentative timeline for OEWG 3 and beyond:
  - In response to a question by the Chair on the procedural aspects to establish the Secretariat of the Panel, the Secretariat clarified that the advantage of holding the Intergovernmental Meeting back to back with the first session of the panel (P1) focusing on the essential decisions to enable the panel to start its work, is that there would be no need for interim arrangements to be established for an interim Secretariat.

- The Secretariat also confirmed that the Intergovernmental Meeting, in line with Resolution 5/8, may direct its invitations to a wider audience than UNEA, e.g. to include the health sector and that they will engage with WHO on how to organize that.
- One member emphasized the importance of ensuring that all governments be involved in the OEWG 3 and beyond.
- Another member emphasized the importance of ensuring that the draft resolutions to be adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting are prepared as far as possible.
- Members expressed general support for the proposed timeline, including the envisaged back-to-back meeting with the first session of the panel (P1) focusing on the essential decisions to enable the panel to start its work, with the following understanding:
  - The need to ensure sufficient progress is made during OEWG 3 on all proposals.
  - The need to ensure that the proposals on working procedures focus on the relevant (high level) guidance for the panel to start its work.
  - That the proposed timelines between the OEWG 3 and the Intergovernmental Meeting provide sufficient time, including the flexibility to ensure the OEWG finalizes the proposals.
  - For the establishment of the Secretariat of the Panel there is a need to distinguish between the decision on the organization to host the Secretariat and where it would be located, which could be decided at a later stage (by the panel).

9. While recognizing the mandate of the Executive Director to convene the Intergovernmental Meeting, the Bureau appreciated the outreach by the Secretariat on the tentative planning of the intergovernmental meeting and agreed that any further reflections from governments can be shared through the Bureau members with the Secretariat by next week, 13 March 2024.

#### **Agenda item 4: OEWG 3 overall schedule**

10. The Secretariat presented an update on the logistical preparations for OEWG 3, including the deadlines for registration and requests for travel support, as well as a first provisional structure for the organization of work at OEWG 3, including the proposed modalities.

11. Following a brief exchange, the Bureau agreed with the following guidance to further detail the organization of work:

- To encourage participants to provide general statements through their regional and political groups and the group of stakeholders under agenda items 4 and 5, to maximise the time for contact groups at OEWG 3 to finalize the proposals.
- To reconfirm the principles for the organization of work and related modalities agreed in advance of OEWG 2, including:
  - provide clear mandates to the contact groups, that may be proposed well ahead of the meeting;
  - facilitate an iterative process, including focused 90 minutes discussions in the contact groups, as relevant;
  - continue the practice of ensuring that no more than two contact group meetings are held concurrently;
  - to continue to build upon what has been agreed, including in UNEA resolution 5/8 and previous sessions of the OEWG.
- To limit the number of proposed daily stocktaking plenaries.

12. The Bureau further agreed that during the next meeting, once the documentation is available, the Bureau will be in a better position to further discuss the clustering of the work in contact groups as well as to further detail the organization of work.

13. Bureau members were invited to share initial views in advance of its next meeting in April 2024.

#### **Agenda item 5: Regional meetings**

14. The Secretariat provided an overview of the planned period for regional consultations in the lead up to OEWG 3.

15. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to reach out to the respective Bureau members from each region on potential dates, venues and format for the regional consultations.

**Agenda item 6: Planning for Bureau meetings**

16. The Bureau agreed to schedule upcoming meetings as follows:
- Monday, 22 April 2024 (hybrid meeting in Ottawa, in the margins of INC 4)
  - Wednesday, 22 May 2024 (online)
  - Sunday, 16 June 2024 (in-person in Geneva, prior to OEWG 3)

**Agenda item 7: Other Matters**

17. The Secretariat presented an overview of the approved and available budget for 2024, highlighting a funding gap of USD 1.35 million, noting that the actual funding gap may change depending on the modalities for the regional meetings (in-person vs. hybrid vs. online).

18. The Bureau agreed to discuss the budget in more detail once the Secretariat provides further information on the funding gap based on registrations for OEWG 3, regional meetings, etc.

19. Finally, the Chair thanked Prof. Li for providing opening remarks at the webinar on “Creation of a Science-Policy Panel to contribute to the sound management of chemicals, waste and to prevent pollution” organized by WHO and UNEP as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Global Chemicals and Health Network, 20 February 2024, indicating that she would continue to reach out to Bureau members to provide a face to the Bureau in future side events and webinars organized to raise awareness on the process to establish the SPP.

**Agenda item 8: Closing of the meeting.**

20. The Chair closed the meeting at 18:00 (EAT).

**Participants**

Ms. Gudi Alkemade, Chair of the SPP OEWG and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations Environment Programme  
Mr. Cyrus Mageria, Ag. Director MEAs, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya  
Mr. Oumar Diaouré Cisse, Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Assainissement et du Développement Durable, Mali  
Prof. Jinhui Li, Professor, School of Environment, Tsinghua University, China  
Mr. Alexandru Roznov, Assistant Counsellor, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Romania  
Mr. Roman Filonenko, Senior Specialist of the Environmental Safety Division of the Government of Ukraine  
Ms. Judith Torres, International Relations and Cooperation Office of the Ministry of the Environment, Uruguay  
Mr. Linroy Christian, Director of Department of Analytical Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Barbuda  
Mr. Michel Tschirren, Senior Policy Advisor at the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland

**Observers**

Ms. Lesley Onyon, World Health Organization

**UNEP**

Ms. Tessa Goverse  
Mr. Stadler Trengove  
Ms. Nalini Sharma  
Ms. Irene Galan  
Mr. Nasrudin Abdi Rashid  
Mr. Alvin Gachie  
Mr. Richard Miesen  
Ms. Pia Kohler  
Ms. Kaai Tung Chan  
Mr. Zhanyun Wang  
Ms. Viviane Treves

**Regrets**

H.E. Saqlain Syedah, Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany