

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
23 April 2024
20:15 - 21:45 (EAT; GMT+3)
Ottawa, 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. The meeting agenda was adopted without changes.
2. The Chair informed the Bureau of the conclusion of the silence procedure replacing Mr. Cyrus Mageria (Kenya) with Ms. Linda Kosgei (Kenya) to represent the African Group in the Bureau. She thanked Mr. Cyrus Mageria for his contribution to the Bureau, his friendship, and support for the process.
3. Mr. Mageria thanked the Bureau for the work done so far and informed the Bureau that he will continue to support the process as part of the Kenyan delegation.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the meeting summary

4. The Chair invited the Bureau members to endorse the summary of the Bureau meeting held on 31 January 2024 as prepared by the Secretariat. The Bureau endorsed the summary without any changes.

Agenda item 3: OEWG 3 preparations

5. The Secretariat presented an update on the [preparations for OEWG-3](#), taking into account the Chair's request to focus on intersessional work in the lead up to OEWG 3, the organization of work at OEWG 3, and regional meetings in preparation of OEWG 3.

a. Update on the intersessional work

6. The Secretariat provided an update on working and information documents.
7. The Secretariat reported back on the capacity building webinar that was conducted over two sessions on 11 April and provided an overview of the upcoming webinars on:
 - (a) Introduction to the Documentation Prepared for the OEWG 3, which will be held on 7 May;
 - (b) An overview of the establishment of the Science-Policy Panel, which will be held on 16 May;
 - (c) The Briefing on the Preparations for the OEWG 3, which will be held on 6 June.
8. A Bureau member queried whether there is a provisional agenda with expected outcomes for the pre-session webinar. The Secretariat noted that the pre-session webinar will be structured as a briefing similar to the one done prior to OEWG 2 providing a general overview of the preparations for the third session. The Secretariat also noted that in early June an OEWG 3 scenario note will be made available providing more information on the expected outcomes of OEWG 3.

9. A Bureau member highlighted the value of cooperating with the Geneva Environmental Network (GEN) in the OEWG process.

b. Organization of work of contact groups/contact group proposals

10. The Secretariat presented a proposal for potential contact groups and related organization of work. The Secretariat noted that the proposal is subject to change depending on discussions held prior to, and during the meeting.

11. The Chair called attention to the importance of building upon the work done at OEWG 1 and 2 and focusing on foundational documents (Sections A-D), with no more than two contact groups running in parallel.

12. Questions and comments from the Bureau members included the following:

- What work is anticipated between OEWG 3 and the intergovernmental meeting by the Secretariat?
- Highlighting the importance of flexibility in the proposed tentative schedule depending on progress made during OEWG 3.
- Noting that many of the text elements (e.g. Annexes 1-3) are based on standard language, so should be able to go through relatively quickly at OEWG 3.
- The need to ensure that the enabling work can be done by the first session of the governing body of the Science-Policy Panel, so that the second session of the governing body of the Panel can start its work.

13. In response to the questions and comments from the Bureau members, the Chair responded with the following:

- The anticipated work depends on the expected outcomes of the intergovernmental meeting, which is dependent upon the completion and adoption of the foundational documents at OEWG 3.
- Confirms that the tentative schedule to be presented in the scenario note will be less detailed, to maintain the flexibility required for the Bureau to decide on a day-by-day basis at OEWG 3 how to proceed depending on progress made.
- Need to finalize the discussions on the institutional arrangements before addressing the rules of procedure. Reaffirms the need to have critical elements (such as the process for developing the work programme, financial arrangements, and other arrangements) in place allowing the panel to start its work.

14. The Chair invited Bureau members to provide further comments on the proposed organization of work no later than 30 April.

c. Logistical Arrangements

15. The Secretariat briefly covered the registration figures for OEWG 3. Following the request by one Bureau member, the Secretariat will follow up with Madagascar on their registration.

16. The Chair subsequently requested the Secretariat to share the breakdown of registrations per region with the respective Bureau members for their follow-up.

d. Regional Meetings

17. The Secretariat provided an update on the upcoming regional meetings.

18. The Bureau members from WEOG will confer in the margins of INC4 and follow up with the Secretariat on the preferred date for the WEOG online consultations, tentatively scheduled for early May.
19. The Bureau members from EEG have selected the date of 21 May for their online regional meeting and will communicate this formally to the Secretariat.
20. A question was raised as to when the invitation for the GRULAC regional meeting, tentatively planned for 23-24 May, could be expected, to allow Member States to plan their travel and get internal Ministry approval. The Secretariat confirmed that as soon as arrangements with the host country are in place, the invitations will be sent.
21. Bureau members asked about the number of registrations so far, and whether the deadline for registrations for the Asia-Pacific regional meetings scheduled for 20-21 May could be extended.
22. The Secretariat confirmed that deadlines would be extended, noting low registration numbers for regional meetings and requested the Bureau members to encourage participation in their respective regions.
23. Upon the request of Bureau members, the Secretariat confirmed that interpretation will be available for the Africa and GRULAC regional meetings.
24. In response to a question of one Bureau member on possible guidance from the Bureau on the regional meetings, the Chair clarified that the regional meetings provide a platform for Governments to consult with the Secretariat on the working documents and on the organization of work, as well as – depending on how each region is organized – to consult amongst each other in preparation for OEWG 3.
25. The Chair further offered to make herself available for the opening session of each regional meetings, including to respond to any comment or question that may arise, as well as – upon request – at the close of the meeting in case regions would like to convey any messages to the Chair/Bureau in follow up to the regional meetings.

e. Budget

26. The Secretariat provided an overview of the budget, noting a funding gap against the approved 2024 budget of USD 969,375.
27. The Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to continue resource mobilization and Bureau members were encouraged to share the information with their respective region. The Bureau members were invited to provide any further comments to the Secretariat no later than 30 April.

Agenda item 4: Intergovernmental meeting provisional agenda

28. Secretariat presented the provisional agenda for the intergovernmental meeting, tentatively scheduled for February 2025 (see [slide 7, presentation Bureau meeting on 6 March](#)).
29. Following an exchange, and noting the mandate for the UNEP Executive Director to convene the intergovernmental meeting, the Bureau provided the following recommendations to the Secretariat for consideration:
 - (a) possibly merging agenda items 5 and 6,

- (b) clarify whether the intergovernmental meeting would adopt decisions, or also recommendations.

Agenda item 5: Planning for Bureau meetings

30. This agenda item was not discussed. The Secretariat will reach out to propose a date for the next Bureau meeting in May.

Agenda item 6: Other Matters

31. No other matters were discussed.

Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting

32. The Chair welcomed Ms. Linda Kosgei to the Bureau. Ms. Kosgei provided some brief remarks and thanked the Bureau for the work done thus far, and she looks forward to continuing the good work done by Mr. Mageria with the Bureau.
33. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the preparation for this Bureau meeting.
34. The Chair closed the meeting at 22:00 (EAT).

Participants

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

Observers

- Ms. Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, United Nation Environment Programme

SPP OEWG Secretariat

- Ms. Tessa Goverse
- Ms. Nalini Sharma
- Mr. Nasrudin Abdi Rashid

Regrets

- H.E. Saqlain Syedah, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany
- Ms. Lesley Onyon, World Health Organization (observer)