

**Written submission from the European Union and Its Members States  
on the working documents for OEWG 3**

The EU and its Members States would like to stress the importance of the establishment of the Science-Policy Panel for chemicals, waste and pollution prevention, with a wide scope and in accordance with the timeline indicated in UNEA resolution 5/8. With the existing science-policy panels covering Climate Change by IPCC and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services by IPBES, the creation of this new panel will close a significant knowledge gap, enabling a comprehensive approach to addressing the Triple Planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

We extend our gratitude for the invaluable work carried out by the secretariat of the OEWG thus far. We particularly appreciate the timely release of the documentation, the clear and concise briefings provided, and the opportunity to engage in regional consultations. Additionally, we commend the Secretariat for their efforts in providing new and revised text in the addenda to the working documents, drawing from the best practices of existing initiatives, including other science-policy panels such as IPBES.

The EU and its Member States would like to stress the importance of finalizing the foundational elements for the future Panel during OEWG3, as outlined in UNEA-resolution 5/8, in order to conclude the negotiations and have proposals for the establishment of the Panel ready in 2024.

Given the extensive remaining workload for the OEWG, the success of the meeting relies largely on an efficient organization of the work. We expect the Scenario Note to prioritize the elements necessary for establishing the Panel and outline how this will be integrated within the negotiation timeframe at OEWG3. We advocate for the most effective use of meeting time from day one, emphasizing the establishment of necessary contact groups early in the process and avoiding lengthy opening statements.

As regards the Conflict of Interest Policy, the EU and its Member States strongly support an efficient mechanism that ensures identification and management of all forms of conflicts of interest, including past interests and covering also financial interests. The mechanism should ensure that all experts who participate in the work of the panel are subject to the Conflict of interest Policy with a focus on those experts who have leading roles in the preparation of the products of the panel. The evaluation of potential conflicts of interest should be carried out by a specific committee mandated by the plenary to undertake the evaluations. The committee should also decide on which actions should be taken following the result of the evaluation.

In terms of outcomes, we envision the new Panel becoming an authoritative global scientific body to deliver policy-relevant knowledge to countries and international agreements and other international instruments and frameworks to enable evidence informed policy in the area of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention. The Panel will provide scientific information and assessments to strengthen existing MEAs and other international instruments and frameworks in the field of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention. This includes responding to requests and complementing their work.

We foresee the future Panel working in close collaboration with MEAs, and other international instruments and frameworks, existing panels and other UN bodies to share best practices and avoid duplication of work, while seeking synergies. It is crucial that within the proposed text, elements are built for these collaborations to happen, while ensuring sufficient independence. By leveraging the expertise and resources of existing initiatives, the new Panel can optimize its resources and maximize its impact. EU and its Member States will therefore support secretariat services from more Intergovernmental Organizations.

In terms of membership in the Plenary (Governing body) of the Panel, we strongly advocate for the inclusion of REIOs (Regional Economic Integration Organizations)/the European Union. The European Union is a specific Regional Economic Integration Organization with legal personality, constituted by 27 sovereign UN Member States. These Member States have, in some areas, transferred their competencies to the European Union to act on their behalf. Therefore, the European Union can make a significant contribution to the work of the plenary, including by enhancing the scientific foundation of policymaking.

To make the most efficient use of the time we support that the discussions in OEWG3 build on what was agreed in OEWG 1.2 and OEWG 2. In this regard, we support the current text of the scope, objectives, and functions as it is, except for function e) for which there are two proposals which need further discussion. We will also suggest aligning OP a) with IPBES and deleting OP g), j) to m).

The EU and its Member States look forward to the future Panel delivering the necessary knowledge in a timely manner and adhering to the principle of being policy relevant but not prescriptive, but we do not see the benefits of establishing a policy committee. During OEWG3, it will be important to ensure that all the necessary elements (including the process for determining and prioritization of the work programme) are included in the text to establish a well-functioning interface between the policy and scientific communities. This will enable the Science-Policy Panel for chemicals, waste and pollution prevention to fulfill its mandate, develop a work program with balanced inputs from relevant communities and make significant contributions to environmental and health challenges.

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