



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF  
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

## Written submission from the Government of Norway on views on the SPP OEWG 3 meeting documents

The Government of Norway would like to express appreciation for the important work UNEP is doing in support of the process to establish the new Science-Policy Panel for chemicals, waste and pollution prevention.

A strong and comprehensive science-policy interface to tackle the pollution pillar of the triple planetary crisis is needed, in line with the decision by UNEA-5 in 2022 to establish the Panel. The new Panel will play an essential role by agreeing on a global knowledge base for the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. Once operational, it will complete the similar scientific bodies designed to counter climate change and nature and biodiversity loss. We now have the full text proposals for the founding of the Panel and for the Panel's processes and procedures. There is a need for simplification to produce a clear and concise text. Furthermore, it will be highly beneficial with a process during OEWG 3 that ensures that a more processed text will be available early at this session, so that we will be able to finalise the necessary documents for the establishing of the Panel. Norway reiterates the importance of building upon already existing text from IPBES and IPCC, with the necessary adaptations. The documents we finish at OEWG 3 must be in line with the requests by UNEA in Resolution 5/8. The Secretariat's proposal for the processes and procedures is a good starting point and gives the direction for the content of the foundational documents.

Norway observes that the meeting documents give clear guidance on which elements to be adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting (Part A to D) and what could or must be left to the Panel itself to decide. We believe it would be beneficial to also finalise the Rules of Procedure at OEWG, to facilitate the first session of the Panel to be organised back-to-back with the Intergovernmental Meeting. Norway further notes that the discussions on rules of procedure is closely tied to the discussion on institutional arrangements. Norway therefore suggests discussing the Rules of Procedure in the same contact group as the foundational documents. It is also important that this contact group is given enough time to discuss these important subjects during OEWG3.

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Further, Norway would like the OEWG 3 to consider whether issues proposed to be included in the Operating Principles during OEWG 2 (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2 Section B) that are more related to the background, context or justification for establishing the panel, should rather be covered by the preambular paragraphs to the decision to establish the Panel (Annex I to document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/3), and that this would be an issue for contact group 1 to discuss.

Regarding the OEWG 3 outcome, we see the need to communicate clearly that we must come to an agreement at that session. We believe that common understanding of the road leading to the SPP OEWG negotiations, from the establishment of SAICM to UNEA 5, will help to facilitate this. We therefore appreciate that the Secretariat is preparing INF/6 *Towards a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution: an overview*.

Additionally, as a practical consideration, we would appreciate if word-versions of the documents could be made available to participants, especially the in-session versions that are published during the session.

Norway also takes the opportunity to share our views on the organisation of OEWG 3 and the Intergovernmental Meeting. We support the proposed timetable and the priority given to contact group discussions and to ensure sufficient time for informal consultations. Further that the contact group discussions on text proposals that have to be adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting will be given priority. The timing of the Intergovernmental Meeting (February 2025) and to organise the first session of the Panel back-to-back with this meeting, will be crucial for the starting up and progress of the Panel's work. The same applies to organising the second session of the Panel in February 2026, and the importance of adopting the first work programme at that meeting.