

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
Monday, 3 June 2024
16:30 - 18:00 (EAT), virtual

Meeting Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair, Ms. Gudi Alkemade, opened the meeting and introduced the provisional agenda. On organization of work she suggested discussing Agenda item 3(d) *Regional meetings* after 3(a) *Update on intersessional work*. The Bureau adopted the agenda and agreed to the proposed organization of work.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the meeting summary

2. The Chair invited the Bureau members to endorse the summary of the [Bureau meeting held on 26 April 2024](#) as prepared by the Secretariat. The Bureau endorsed the summary without any changes.

Agenda item 3: OEWG 3 preparations

(a) Update on the intersessional work

3. The Secretariat presented an [update on the intersessional work](#) undertaken to date and indicated most [Information Documents](#) are available online. No further comments were made.

(b) OEWG 3 Chair's scenario note

4. The Chair presented the OEWG 3 scenario note, highlighting that similar to OEWG 2, there will be no opening statements made, however, regional, political, and stakeholder groups will be able to make general statements under Agenda item 4. Individual Member States wanting to provide general statements are encouraged to submit them for publication on the website.
5. She furthermore presented the envisioned outcomes of the meeting, the contact groups to be established, and the organization of work including the anticipated schedule, highlighting, accounting for small delegations participating in the meeting, no more than 2 group meetings in parallel are anticipated. It is intended to continue the same practice for participation of stakeholders in the plenary and contact groups.
6. The Chair also emphasized that the proposed organization of work is tentative and that she expects the bureau to discuss daily the organization of work based on the progress made during the meeting. She invited the bureau for feedback on the proposed organization of work and to reflect on whether the contact groups on the draft texts of the annexes may possibly be merged.
7. Bureau members in reflecting on the draft scenario note and the presentation of the organization of work emphasized the following points:
 - The importance of providing clarity of what to finalize at OEWG 3;
 - The importance of remaining within the guidance/mandate set out in Resolution 5/8 and build upon the (tentative) agreements reached earlier;

- To ensure that in the organization of work parallel discussions on similar topics are avoided;
 - One bureau member, supported by another, suggested considering including the draft text on Rules of Procedures in contact group 1 on the Foundational Document. Alternatively, it should be made sure that the same group discussing the Institutional Arrangements discusses the Rules of Procedures.
 - Suggestion to establish a small legal group with representatives from the region that would then meet with the institutional arrangements group to ensure alignment between texts.
8. Following the ensuing discussion, the Chair indicated the Scenario Note would be finalized with the organization of work in 4 contact groups as presented, further reflecting the proposal of the placement of the draft Rules of Procedures in contact groups.

(c) Logistical arrangements

9. The Secretariat presented a brief update on the registrations and other logistical arrangements for OEWG3, highlighting – following up on a point raised at the GRULAC regional meeting - that for 16 delegates the tickets are being processed. No further comments were raised.
10. The African Group requested the possibility of the Secretariat organizing an online exchange for them.
11. The Secretariat replied that while is no funding available for interpretation services, they can facilitate virtual meeting rooms for the regional group.

(d) Regional meetings

12. Bureau members provided feedback from the regional meetings, which took place in May 2024, highlighting appreciation from all regions for the presentations made by the Secretariat. Based on the feedback from the regions and the ensuing exchange, the Chair highlighted the common key points emerging from the regions:
- Importance to keep in mind the mandate set out in resolution 5/8 and build upon what has been previously agreed;
 - Key discussions anticipated include: the capacity building function of the panel, institutional arrangements, and ensuring clear division of tasks between the relevant bodies;
 - Possible discussions could emerge on scope, operating principles and membership of the panel;
 - Importance of considering small delegations and maintaining flexibility in the organization of work, and that the daily schedule should be clear.

Agenda item 4: Other Matters

13. Ms. Lesley Onyon (WHO) inquired about the possibility of organizing informal consultations on health-related issues on Sunday 16 June. Possible timeslots include the lunch break as well as between 5 – 7 pm. The Secretariat will reach out to advise on the best possible timing.

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting

14. The meeting closed at 18:38 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
- Ms. Linda Kosgei, Rapporteur of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Head of MEAs, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry of Kenya

Observers

- Ms. Lesley Onyon, World Health Organization
- Ms. Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, United Nations Environment Programme

SPP OEWG Secretariat

- Ms. Tessa Goverse
- Ms. Nalini Sharma
- Mr. Ulf Bjornholm
- Mr. Nasrudin Abdi Rashid
- Mr. Zhanyun Wang
- Mr. Richard Miesen
- Ms. Viviane Treves
- Mr. Shiv Shah

Regrets

- 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
- H.E. Saqlain Syedah, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany