

Eastern European Group Regional Consultation in preparation for the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG 3) on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

21 May 2024
09:00 – 12:00 GMT+2
Online

Meeting Summary

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

1. The (Co-) Chairs of the regional meeting, Alexandru Roznov and Roman Filonenko, opened the meeting, and welcomed the Chair of the SPP OEWG to provide opening remarks.
2. Ms. Gudi Alkemade, Chair of the SPP OEWG provided opening remarks, calling for focused discussions in order to make substantial strides at OEWG 3.
3. The meeting agenda was adopted without changes.

Agenda item 2: Recap of UNEA Resolution 5/8 and update on the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group process

4. The secretariat provided a brief recap of UNEA Resolution 5/8 and update on the OEWG process, including the intersessional work leading up to OEWG 3.

Agenda item 3: Organizational matters for the third session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group

5. The secretariat presented on the OEWG 3 provisional agenda ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1](#)), annotated provisional agenda ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Add.1](#)) and scenario note (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/1), including an overview of documentation.
6. Meeting participants provided a variety of comments on the documents presented:
 - Thanked the secretariat and Chair for facilitating the meeting.
 - Requested clarity on whether regions would be allocated time to meet prior to OEWG and for the secretariat to assist in organizing informal consultation for the regions.
 - Noted that some delegations may be smaller than others, not to organize more than 2 contact groups in parallel.
 - Called for the Scope, Objective, Functions and Institutional Arrangements to be discussed in one contact group.
 - Noted the limited time during the meeting, discouraging lengthy opening statements, noting that regional, rather than individual government views may be useful.
 - Discussed whether a regional draft statement is necessary and called for creation of regional position statement before the meeting to maximize time in the meeting.
 - Called for region members to be practical, disciplined, and more active in contact groups and on substantial issues to finalize the establishment of the panel by the end of OEWG 3 as this is the final meeting.
7. In response to the comments and questions, the secretariat and Chair provided clarification that:
 - On Sunday 16 June 2024 there is time allocated for regional meetings. Regions can decide if they want to provide general statements. Governments are encouraged to submit their statements in writing by 31 May 2024.
 - A maximum of 2 contact groups will run in parallel on unrelated topics. The discussion on foundational elements is under one contact group (Contact Group 1), which will run parallel to discussions on annexes and draft decisions to be considered at the intergovernmental meeting, ensuring no overlap with other issues and considering some governments have smaller delegations.
 - Regions wishing to make general statements will have time before Agenda Item 4, where there will be time provided for feedback on specific issues.

Agenda item 4: Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel

8. The secretariat provided an overview of the OEWG 3 working documents *Compilation of proposals for establishing a science-policy panel* ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2](#)).
9. Participants then provided comments and feedback on the presentation from the secretariat:
 - Suggested that countries with economies in transition should be taken into consideration in the text to continue promoting developing countries.
 - Suggested that further regional (internal) consultations are required to foster a common position. Suggestion to use for 16 June regional meeting to discuss this.
 - Further suggested that institutional arrangements take inspiration from previous examples such as IPCC and IPBES creating a light structure.
 - Noted that a policy committee will not be useful at this stage of negotiations.
 - Commented on the UN scale of assessment for voluntary contributions potentially causing Member States to feel obligated to donate and called the Secretariat to include it for illustrative purposes, allowing Member States to pay their fair share.
10. The secretariat presented the *Draft rules of procedure* ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.1](#)).
11. Participants provided comments on the presentation, including:
 - Appreciation for the draft document, noting the call for a signature by accredited organisation, and offered a comparison with IPBES where different government departments have to sign off.
 - Noted that care must be taken in choosing examples when drafting procedures.
12. The secretariat presented the *Draft financial procedures* ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.2](#)).
13. Participants provided comments on the presentation, including:
 - A question on whether there will be a joint secretariat with the WHO.
14. The secretariat presented the *Draft process for determining the work programme, including prioritization* ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.3](#)).
15. Participants provided comments on the presentation:
 - Commented on the prioritization process, suggesting edits to the information provided in paragraph 5, and suggested a similar presentation before the plenary would avoid duplication or repetition.
 - Requested for a timeline on when the information will be available depending on OEWG 3 discussions.
 - Called for further discussion on ranking the proposals, noting that it may be a sticky issue.
 - Suggested for avoiding additional bodies in the governance structure of the panel.
16. The secretariat presented the *Draft procedures for the preparation and clearance of panel deliverables* ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.4](#)).
17. Participants provided comments on the presentation, including:
 - Noted that a discussion on a more precise definition on the types of deliverables may be necessary.
 - Expressed appreciation for the drafting of the text, noting the representation of paragraph 32 in a visual. They stated clarification on the deliverables that may be necessary.
18. The secretariat presented the *Draft conflict-of-interest disclosure form* ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.5](#))
 - Expressed appreciation for the draft provided by the secretariat, believe it will be sufficient to avoid conflicts of interest.

Agenda item 5: Recommendations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel

19. The secretariat presented OEWG 3 working documents *Proposals on the establishment of the Panel to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting* ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/3](#)) and *Proposals to give effect to arrangements to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting* ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/4](#))
- Expressed appreciation for the structure of the documents and the intention to hold the first meeting of panel back-to-back with the intergovernmental meeting to save resources.

Agenda item 6: Logistical preparations for the third session of the Open-ended Working Group

20. The secretariat provided an overview of the OEWG logistical arrangements in preparation for OEWG 3.
21. The secretariat noted that badge pickup is available from (CIGC) from 9am on 16 June 2024, and regional meetings are scheduled for later that day.

Agenda item 7: Closed consultations

22. Governments held closed consultations.

Agenda item 8: Other matters

23. No other matters related to its work were raised.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the meeting

24. The Chair closed the meeting at 11:50AM.