

Western European and Others Group Regional Consultation of the third session 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

8 May 2024

15:00 - 17:00 (EAT; GMT + 3)

Online meeting

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. Ms. Gudi Alkemade, Chair of the OEWG and regional consultation, opened the meeting, and welcomed all participants.
2. The Chair gave opening remarks, calling for focussed discussion and effective use of time in this meeting following the [webinar introducing the documentation prepared for the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group](#) organized by the secretariat and the Geneva Environment Network on 7 May 2024.
3. The Chair explained the format for the meeting, which would start by an open discussion with stakeholders, followed by a closed exchange of views between the government representatives.

#### **Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda**

4. The meeting agenda was adopted without changes.
5. The Chair provided a background on the organization of work for OEWG 3, stating the intention to hold a maximum of 2 parallel contact groups, in order to focus on foundational documents and strive to finalise the proposal to establish the panel. She then recalled the Bureau would maintain a level of flexibility in the organization of work, adjusting as required and stated the scenario note would provide more information on this topic.
6. The Chair noted stakeholders are able to take the floor during informal consultations, as well as make statements in plenary, however, proposals made must be supported by a Member State.

#### **Agenda item 3: OEWG 3 comments and questions**

7. The Secretariat presented an overview of the documentation prepared for OEWG 3.
8. One member State highlighted the usefulness of having discussions on documents
9. The member state asked questions to clarify the status of section A to D of the foundational document ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2](#)). They also requested clarification on Draft financial procedures ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.2](#)) and whether this document had been drafted considering that only UNEP would host the secretariat of panel or if other configuration had been taken into account.
10. One member state also sought clarification on how the call for submissions on OEWG3 would be handled, and more specifically how the information document compiling these written submissions would be drafted.

11. One member state asked for explanation on the outcome of OEWG 2 and whether this text would be used as a basis for negotiations for OEWG 3.
12. The secretariat first took the floor to answer to some of these questions. They recalled that the [webinar](#) co-organized on 7 May 2024 with the Geneva Environment Network on “Introduction to the documentation Prepared for the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on the Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution” aimed at clarifying the linkages between the documents and that the recording was available online. They clarified that the outcome of OEWG 2 had been forwarded directly to OEWG 3 without changes, in document [UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2](#), and that the OEWG 2 meeting report ([UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/8](#)) was available on the website in all six official languages.
13. The Chair also stressed that the outcome of OEWG 2 would be the basis for negotiations at OEWG 3. It will be up to the contact groups to decide how to finalize those texts. She recalled that she thought the common understanding was that government representatives would try to build upon what was already written.
14. The Chair then recalled that the foundational elements need to be agreed at the Intergovernmental Meeting in order to establish the panel. The Annexes represent procedures or processes that the Intergovernmental Meeting may wish to recommend for adoption to the panel itself.
15. The secretariat then clarified how document [UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.2](#) on Draft financial procedure was drafted. The secretariat is currently hosted by UNEP and functions under UNEP rules. The financial arrangements refer to management of the trust fund by UNEP. However, the discussion for a joint secretariat with WHO is open. If it is decided to set up a joint secretariat, it will be possible to draft agreements between the two organizations.
16. The Chair further elaborated on the call for submissions on OEWG 3. She stressed that it would be a useful channel for Member States and stakeholders to provide their views, and that the Secretariat would produce a compilation of written submissions (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF.7).

#### **Agenda item 4: Closed Consultations**

17. The Member States had closed consultations.

#### **Agenda item 5: Closure of the Meeting**

18. The Chair closed the meeting at 17.00 EAT.
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