

Preparations for the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention (OEWG 3.2)

Briefing to the Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives
25 February 2025

Tessa Goverse, Principal Coordinator, SPP OEWG Secretariat

UNEA resolution 5/8: Science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention

Adopted by UN Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022

"Decides that a **science-policy panel should be established** to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution" (para 1)

"Decides to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an **ad hoc open-ended working group** that will begin work in 2022, with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024" (para 4)

"Also decides that the ad hoc open-ended working group will **prepare proposals for the science-policy panel** to consider..." (para 5)

"Further requests the Executive Director, upon completion of proposals prepared by the ad hoc open-ended working group, to **convene an intergovernmental meeting** for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel" (para 10)

OEWG 3.2: Resumed third session of OEWG

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/oewg-32-science-policy-panel-contribute-further-sound-management-chemicals-and>

First part of the third session of OEWG took place in Geneva, 17-21 June 2024 (**OEWG 3.1**).

It was agreed to resume the third session (**OEWG 3.2**) back-to-back with the Intergovernmental Meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of the science-policy panel.

Key documents for negotiation at OEWG 3.2:

- Foundational document
- Draft Rules of Procedure

Expected outcome:

- Foundational document for the science-policy panel finalized
- Draft rules of procedure finalized
- Draft decisions for the Intergovernmental Meeting finalized

OEWG 3.2: Venue and dates

OEWG 3.2:

Resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group hosted by the Government of Uruguay

Venue:

Convention and Exhibition Centre, Punta del Este, Uruguay

Dates:

15 – 18 June 2025: OEWG 3.2

14 June 2025: Preceding meetings (informal, regional and stakeholder consultations)



“Road to OEWG 3.2” webinar series and other events

Webinar: Strengthening Scientists Engagement: Shaping the Future of Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution Prevention

- Outlined how the broader scientific community from different disciplines can engage with the future panel
- Date: 26 September 2024

Webinar: Information Session on Foundational Document and Rules of Procedure

- Informed governments and other stakeholders of the state of play at the close of OEWG 3.1
- Date: 10 October 2024

Webinar: Relevant Examples from Other Panels for the Establishment of a Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution

- Shared relevant examples from IPCC and IPBES for the establishment of the science-policy panel
- Date: 23 January 2025

Briefing on the OEWG 3.2 scenario note for Focal Points

- Date: 25 March 2025 (tbc)

Side event BRS COP / Webinar: From science to policy action

- Date: April/May 2025 (tbc)

Pre-sessions briefing

- Date: End May / Early June 2025 (tbc)

Provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organizational matters.
4. Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel.
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.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the session.
8. Closure of the session.

Proposed clustering of key topics

1. Decision-making and institutional arrangements + related rules of procedure
2. Name, scope, functions and operating principles, other institutional arrangements (secretariat, financial arrangements, strategic partnerships and evaluation) + decision to establish the panel
3. Other rules of procedure + other decisions

Modality of work at OEWG 3.2

- Contact groups and informal groups will be established as needed. Contact groups are open to participation by all governments and stakeholders, unless otherwise decided by the Chair or the co-facilitators of contact groups.
- Contact group meetings may be held in parallel, while avoiding, to the extent possible, parallel meetings on closely related issues.
- Contact group meetings will not be scheduled concurrently with a plenary meeting and efforts will be made so that no more than two contact or informal group meetings are scheduled at the same time.
- Contact groups and informal groups will be provided with a clear and concise mandate.
- Given the anticipated limited time available and the limited size of delegations, the OEWG may wish to facilitate an iterative process and limit the time of contact group sessions working on specific issues.
- Contact groups and other informal groups will work in English, and, accordingly, documents and non-papers considered at their meetings will be in English.
- Contact groups will continue to build upon what was already agreed, including in UNEA resolution 5/8 and previous sessions of the OEWG.

Tentative schedule for OEWG 3.2

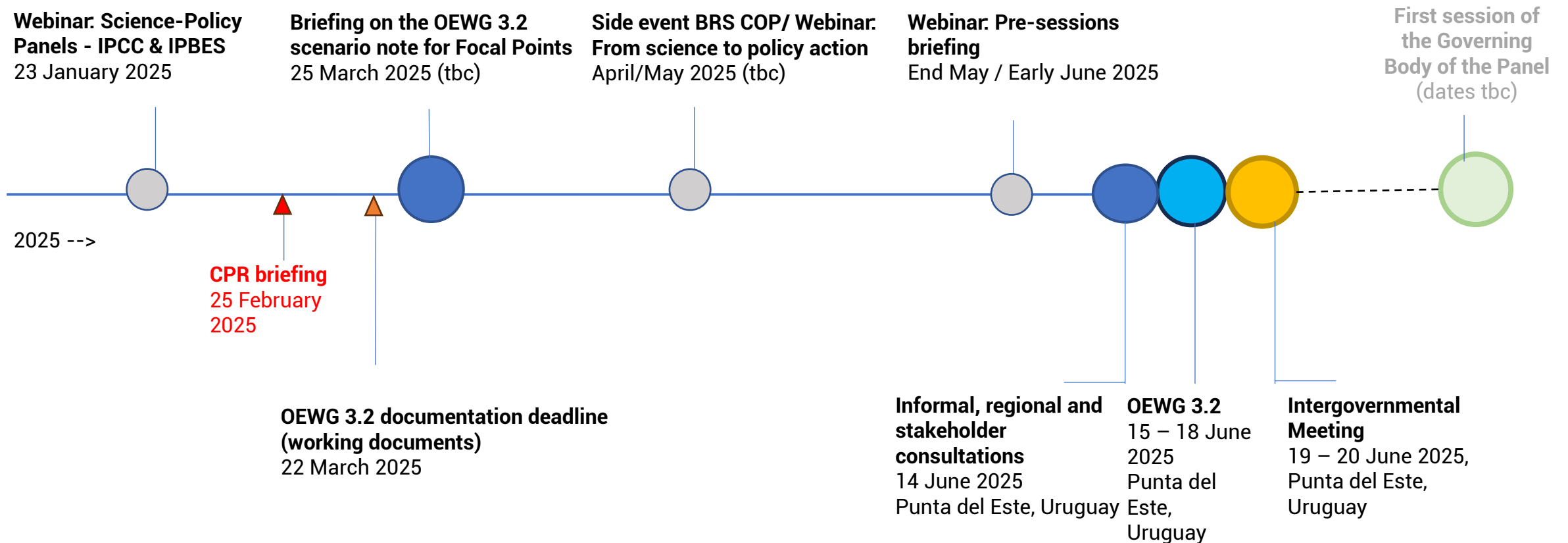
	Preparatory Day 14 June 2025	Day 1 15 June 2025	Day 2 16 June 2025	Day 3 17 June 2025	Day 4 18 June 2025	
8:00-9:00		Bureau	Bureau	Bureau	Bureau	
9:00-10:00	Registration and badge pick-up	Regional meetings/ stakeholder groups	Regional meetings/ stakeholder groups	Regional meetings/ stakeholder groups	Regional meetings/ stakeholder groups	
10:00-11:30	Regional meetings/ stakeholders and informal consultations	Opening Plenary	Plenary Stocktake (tbc)	Plenary Stocktake (tbc)	Plenary	
11:30-13:00		CG	CG	CG		CG
13:00-15:00		Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	
15:00-16:30		CG	CG	CG	CG	Plenary
16:30-17:00		Break	Break	Plenary stocktake		
17:00-18:30		CG	CG	CG	CG	
18:30-19:00			Break	Break	Break	
19:00-20:30		Bureau	CG	CG	CG	CG
20:30-21:00		Break	Break	Break		
21:00-22:30...		CG	CG	CG	CG	

Main focus of OEWG 3.2

- **Foundational document:**
 - Scope, objective and functions of the Panel
 - Operating principles and approaches of the Panel
 - Institutional arrangements for the Panel
 - Evaluation of the operational effectiveness and impact of the Panel
- **Rules of procedure**
- Process for determining the work programme
- Procedures for the preparation and clearance of panel deliverables
- Conflict of interest policy
- **Decisions:**
 - Draft decision on the establishment of the panel as specified in the foundational document
 - Draft decision to transmit the draft rules of procedure, policies, processes and guidance to the first session of the governing body of the science-policy panel and
 - Draft decision on arrangements in the interim period

Note: Financial procedures were not considered at OEWG 3.1 and will be forwarded to OEWG 3.2 as an information document

Draft roadmap for the establishment of the Panel



Thank you

Tessa Goverse, Principal Coordinator

Secretariat of the OEWG on a SPP on chemicals, waste and
prevention of pollution

spp-cwp@un.org

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30552 – 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

www.unep.org