30 April 2025, hybrid

Towards a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

GRULAC regional meeting in preparation of the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG 3.2)

Tessa Goverse,
Principal Coordinator, SPP OEWG Secretariat

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

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Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Update on the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) process and the Intergovernmental Meeting
3. Organizational matters for the resumed third session of OEWG (OEWG 3.2)
4. Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel
5. Recommendations to the Executive Director of UNEP for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel
6. Logistical preparations for the OEWG 3.2 and Intergovernmental Meeting
7. Other matters
8. Closure of the meeting

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2. Update on the ad hoc OEWG process and the Intergovernmental Meeting

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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)

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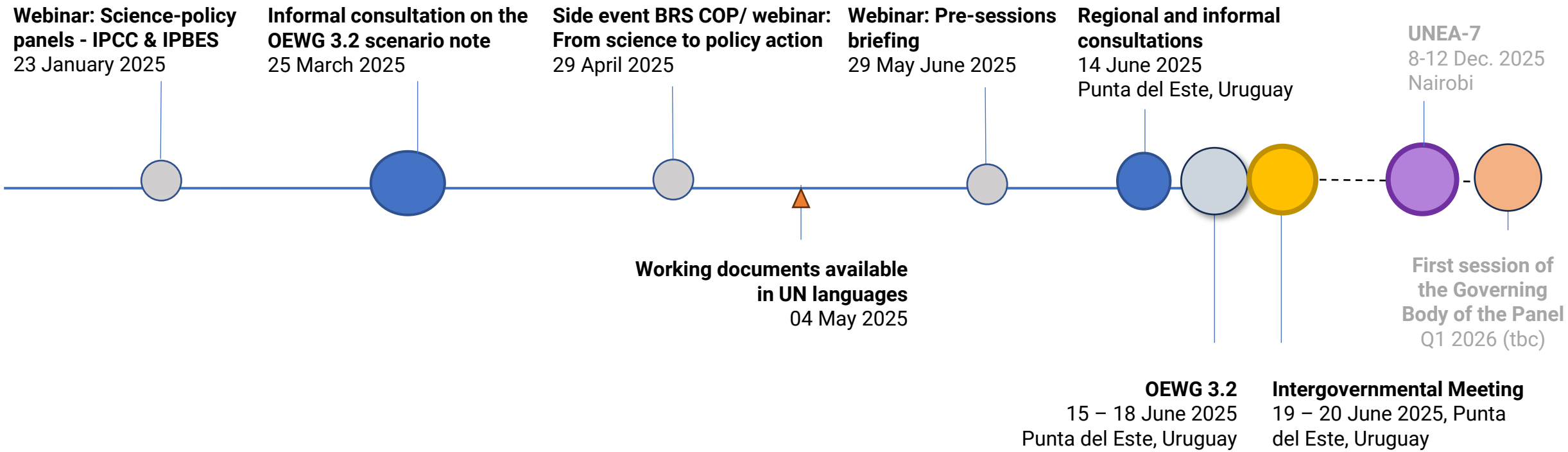
Roadmap for the establishment of the Panel



▲ OEWG 3.2 documents available in languages

Version: 30 April 2025

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Progress at OEWG 3.1

- **The meeting report of OEWG 3.1** that includes the main outcomes is available on the SPP OEWG 3 website:
  - UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5 - Report of the first part of the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to further contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

Overview | **Pre-Session Documents** | **Written Submissions** | **Statements** | **In-Session Documents**

Please see the meeting report below.

UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5 - Report of the first part of the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to further contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español

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Intersessional work: webinars and other events

Webinar on Strengthening Scientists Engagement: Shaping the Future of Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution Prevention (26 September 2024)

- Outlined how the broader scientific community from different disciplines can engage with the future panel

Information Session on Foundational Document and Rules of Procedure (10 October 2024)

- Informed governments and other stakeholders of the state of play at the close of OEWG 3.1

Webinar on 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 (23 January 2025)

- Shared relevant examples from IPCC and IPBES

Informal briefing on the OEWG 3.2 scenario note for Focal Points (25 March 2025)

Side event BRS COP / Webinar: From evidence to policy action (29 April 2025)

- Emphasized that such a panel can support international efforts to take action

Briefing on the Preparations for the Resumed 3rd Session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention

- Date: 29 May 2025

All recordings can be found at: https://www.unep.org/oewg-spp-chemicals-waste-pollution/webinar-series

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Intersessional work: working documents

Document #	Title
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Rev.1	**Agenda**
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/*Add.2*	**Annotated agenda**
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5	**Report of the first part of the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group** on a science-policy panel to further contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6	**Foundational document and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel**
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7	**Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the science-policy panel** to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution at its first session and **related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting**
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/8	**Proposal on interim arrangements to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel**

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Intersessional work: information documents

Document #	Title
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/8	**Scenario note for the resumed 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
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/9	**Draft Financial Procedures**
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/10	**Compilation of written submissions on OEWG 3.2 working documents**

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Opportunities for written comments

Please send the written comments to spp-cwp@un.org **no later than 16 May** on the following working documents for OEWG 3.2:

- UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6 Foundational document and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel;
- UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7 Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution at its first session and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting; and
- UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/8 Proposal on interim arrangements to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel.

➢ **Governments** are invited to submit through their national focal points.

➢ **Non-government stakeholders** are invited to provide submissions on behalf of their organization or group.

➢ All submissions will be uploaded online and will be the basis of an information document by the secretariat for consideration at OEWG 3.2.

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Intersessional work: documentation

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 (OEWG) has met for three sessions since UNEA resolution 5/8 was adopted in 2022.

OEWG 1.1: The group first met on 6 October 2022 for the first part of the first session in Nairobi. At this inaugural session, the group considered procedural matters, including the establishment of its Bureau. The OEWG adopted, *mutatis mutandis*, the UNEA rules of procedure for the conduct of its work.

OEWG 1.2: The first session resumed from 30 January-3 February 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. At this session, the group elected its Chair, Ms. Gudi Alkemade from the Netherlands, and agreed to establish dedicated contact groups to address (a) the organization of work of the OEWG; and (b) the scope and

- Overview
- Bureau
- Funding partners
- National Focal Points
- ▶ Sessions
  - OEWG 3.2
  - OEWG 3.1
  - OEWG 2
  - OEWG1.2

CONFERENCE

OEWG 3.2: Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

14 - 18 June 2025
Punta del Este, Uruguay

Overview | Pre-Session Documents

Working Documents

UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Rev.1 - Agenda (uploaded 28 March)

English advance

UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Add.2 - Annotated Agenda (uploaded 4 April)

English advance

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

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Update on the ad hoc OEWG process and the Intergovernmental Meeting

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3. Organizational matters for the resumed third session of the ad hoc OEWG (OEWG 3.2)

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Organizational matters

- UNEA rules of procedure apply *mutatis mutandis*.
- Opening of the session at **10 a.m. on Sunday, 15 June 2025**.
- OEWG 3.1 adopted the provisional agenda (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1)
- OEWG 3.2 will work according to the annotated agenda (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Add.2)
- Opening statements to be delivered by:
  - **High-level representative of the Government of Uruguay**
  - **Executive Director of UNEP**
- No general statements. Written submissions to be uploaded as in-session documents
- Regional and stakeholder group statements under agenda items 4 and 5

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Agenda

UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Rev.1 & UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Add.2

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.

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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.

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Proposed clustering of key topics for contact groups

1. **Membership and functions of the bodies of the panel, decision-making, and related rules of procedure**

2. **Other foundational elements and related rules of procedure, and the draft decision to establish the panel**

3. **Other rules of procedure, the draft decision to forward the draft rules, procedures and policies, and the draft decision for the interim period**

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Tentative Schedule for OEWG 3.2

	Saturday, 14 June	Sunday, 15 June		Monday, 16 June		Tuesday, 17 June		Wednesday, 18 June
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	CG	CG	
13:00-15:00		*Lunch break*		*Lunch break*		*Lunch break*		*Lunch break*
15:00-16:30		CG	CG	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	CG	CG	
20:30-21:00		*Break*		*Break*		*Break*		
21:00-22:30…		CG	CG	CG	CG	CG	CG	

Expected outcomes of OEWG 3.2

By the **end of OEWG 3.2**, we expect to have:

- ✓ The **draft decision** on the establishment of the panel, including a proposal for the name of the panel and the **foundational elements**, as set out in the foundation document contained in the annex to the draft decision.
- ✓ The **draft decision recommending the consideration and adoption of the rules of procedure by the governing body of the panel at its first session**, and the forwarding for further consideration and finalization at this session of the draft procedures and policies in their present form as set out in annexes 2–4 to the draft decision.
- ✓ The **draft decision on arrangements for the interim period** that are required for the operation of the panel, including the preparation of the first session of the governing body of the panel.

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Q&A

Organizational matters for the resumed third session of the ad hoc OEWG (OEWG 3.2)

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4. Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a Science-Policy Panel

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Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel

The OEWG 3.2 session will prioritize **finalizing**:

- The **draft decision on the establishment of the panel,** including a proposal for the name of the panel and the **foundational elements**, as set out in the foundational document contained in the annex to the draft decision (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6)
- The **draft decision** recommending the consideration and adoption of the **rules of procedure** by the governing body of the panel at its first session, and the forwarding for further consideration and finalization at this session of the draft procedures and policies in their present form as set out in annexes 2–4 to the draft decision (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7)

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Negotiation text at end of OEWG 3.1

[Draft decision [--] of the intergovernmental meeting: Establishment of the [insert full name of panel]

Proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel:

A. Scope, objective and functions of the Panel
B. Operating principles of the Panel
C. Institutional arrangements for the Panel
D. Evaluation of the operational effectiveness and impact of the Panel]

[Draft decision [--] of the intergovernmental meeting: Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the [insert full name of panel] at its first session

Rules of procedure for [sessions of] the governing body of the [insert full name of panel]

Process for determining the work programme

Procedures for the preparation and clearance of panel deliverables

Conflict-of-Interest policy]

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Proposed clustering of key topics for contact groups

1. **Membership and functions of the bodies of the panel, decision-making, and related rules of procedure**

2. **Other foundational elements and related rules of procedure, and the draft decision to establish the panel**

3. **Other rules of procedure, the draft decision to forward the draft rules, procedures and policies, and the draft decision for the interim period**

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Proposed clustering of topics - Contact group 1

Proposed clustering of topics	Specific topics assigned to each contact group
Membership and functions of the bodies of the panel, decision-making and related rules of procedure	**Decision making** • Foundational document: paragraph 4 (alt 1 and alt 2) and related paragraphs on consensus 2 (a) *ter*, and subparagraph 8 (j) • Rules of procedure: rules 35–45 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1), rule 49 **Institutional arrangements** • Foundational document: paragraph 3 **Functions of the Governing Body + Rule 2** • Foundational document: subparagraphs 8 (a), (c) (could also be discussed under participation of observers) and (j) (discussed under decision-making); and subparagraphs 8 (b), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) • Rules of procedure: rules 2 (f), (g) and (l) (“parked” at OEWG 3.1) **Membership of the Governing Body** • Foundational document: paragraphs 5 alt 1 and alt 2 • Rules of procedure: rules 2 (h), 5 and 6 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1)

Proposed clustering of topics - Contact group 1

Proposed clustering of topics	Specific topics assigned to each contact group
Membership and functions of the bodies of the panel, decision-making and related rules of procedure	**Participation of observers** • Foundational document: paragraphs 6, 6 alt and 7 • Rules of procedure: rules 2 (i), 7 and 8 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1). Annex to the rules of procedure (not yet considered by OEWG) **Bureau** • Foundational document: paragraphs 9–12 • Rules of procedure: rules 2 (a) (“parked” at OEWG 3.1), 13 (paragraphs 1–3 “parked” at OEWG 3.1), 14–18, 19 (first sentence “parked” at OEWG 3.1) and 20 **Interdisciplinary Expert Committee** • Foundational document: paragraphs 13–19 • Rules of procedure: rules 2 (m) (“parked” at OEWG 3.1), section 9, paragraphs 1 and 2 (first reading at OEWG 3.1), 21–23 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1), 24, 25–29 **Other subsidiary bodies** • Foundational document: paragraph 20 • Rules of procedure: rule 30 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1)

Proposed clustering of topics - Contact group 2

Proposed clustering of topics	Specific topics assigned to each contact group
Other foundational elements and related rules of procedure, and draft decision to establish the panel	**Name of the Panel** • Draft decision [--] of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the panel: establishment of the [insert full name of the panel] • Rules of procedure: rule 2 (j)*a* **Preamble** [placeholder] **Scope, objective and functions** • Foundational document: section A – Scope, objective and functions of the panel **Operating principles and approaches** • Foundational document: subparagraphs 2 (a)–(a) bis and 2 (b)–(l) **Secretariat** • Foundational document: paragraphs 21 and 22

Proposed clustering of topics - Contact group 2

Proposed clustering of topics	Specific topics assigned to each contact group
Other foundational elements and related rules of procedure, and draft decision to establish the panel	**Financial arrangements** • Foundational document: paragraphs 23–28 alt **Strategic partnerships** • Foundational document: paragraphs 29–34 **Evaluation of the operational effectiveness and impact of the Panel** • Foundational document: paragraph 35 **Establishment decision** • Draft decision [--] of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the panel: establishment of the [insert full name of the panel] • *[option to consider Preamble [placeholder] here]*

Proposed clustering of topics - Contact group 3

Proposed clustering of topics	Specific topics assigned to each contact group
Other rules of procedure, draft decision to forward the draft rules, procedures and policies, and draft decision on the arrangements for the interim period	**Other rules of procedure** • Rule 1 (Scope) • Rule 2 (b)–(e), (k) (Definitions) • Rules 3 and 4 (Venues, dates and notification of sessions) • Rules 9–11 (Agenda) • Rule 12 (Representation, credentials and accreditation) • Rules 31–34 (Conduct of business) • Rules 46–48 (Languages) • Rule 50 (in the event of conflicts between the foundational document and the rules of procedure) **Draft decision on recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the panel at its first session** **Draft decision on the arrangements for the interim period**

Q&A

Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a Science-Policy Panel

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5. Recommendations for the preparation of the Intergovernmental Meeting

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Recommendations to the Executive Director of UNEP for the Intergovernmental Meeting

The **ad hoc open-ended working group** has been invited to make recommendations to the **Executive Director of UNEP** on preparing the **intergovernmental meeting (IM)**, including:

- The draft decisions containing recommendations for the proposals for the science-policy panel for consideration and adoption at the IM, together with the proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel, under agenda item 4 will be considered.
- **Arrangements for the interim period**, ensuring the panel can start its work, including the provision of secretariat services to **facilitate the first session of the governing body of the panel**

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Q&A

Recommendations for the preparation of the Intergovernmental Meeting

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6. Logistical preparations for OEWG 3.2 and the Intergovernmental Meeting

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OEWG 3.2 and IM: Venue and dates

Venue:
Convention and Exhibition Centre, Punta del Este, Uruguay

Key Dates:
15 – 18 June 2025: OEWG 3.2
14 June 2025: Preceding meetings (informal, regional and stakeholder consultations)

OEWG 3.2 website can be found here

19 and 20 June 2025: IM
IM website can be found here

General logistics support:
natalia.Maciel[at]ccbasilea-crestocolmo.org.uy
Valentina.delgadozaccara[at]gmail.com

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Visa requirements

Participants should check whether they require a visa to enter Uruguay.

Exceptionally, and as a courtesy for the June 2025 meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Science-Policy Panel and the Global Framework on Chemicals, the Government of Uruguay has offered to issue visa exemption letters for eligible participants. **Requests for visa exemption letters will be accepted until 30 May 2025.**

Participants are solely responsible for requesting and obtaining their visa or visa exemption letter, as well as any transit visa.

In case of any questions, please contact the Ministry of Environment:

Maureen Bidart
Office of International Environmental Affairs
visasoewg.spp.gfc@ambiente.gub.uy

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Transportation

Transport options from Montevideo to Punta del Este are:

- Bus services operated by Copsa (https://lineaeste.copsa.com.uy/index.php) or Cot (https://cot.com.uy), running daily almost every hour. The bus journey between Montevideo (Aeropuerto Inter.Carrasco/Terminal Tres Cruces) and Punta del Este lasts approximately 2 hours.
- Taxis from the airport (http://www.taxisaeropuerto.com/)

Flights to Punta del Este

- Alternatively, the Capitán de Corbeta Carlos A. Curbelo International Airport (also known as Laguna del Sauce International Airport) is located in the neighbouring city of Maldonado, and receives regular commercial flights from Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

Local transport in Punta del Este

- Mobility platforms working in the city include Uber and Cabify, whereas traditional cab drivers use a similar app (A Punta Taxi, Voy en Taxi), which allows participants to order a car and pay for it through a personal cell phone.

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Accommodation

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations.

- Online booking platforms are recommended as well as information provided by “Centro de Hoteles Punta del Este” to contact directly the hotel of their choice. Participants can access the list of the recommended hotels here: https://www.puntadelestehoteles.com

- For more information:

  Centro de Hoteles Punta del Este
  asesor.chpe@hotmail.com
  +598 4244 0512

- Participants are encouraged to seek accommodation near the center of Punta del Este to facilitate easy access to Uber and taxi services to commute to and from the Conference and Exhibition Center.

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Catering

- Participants may purchase food and drink through the catering services available at the Convention centre.
- Please note there are no restaurants or shops in the vicinity of the Convention centre.
- Food ordered through a delivery service cannot be brought into the Convention centre.

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OEWG 3.2 registration status

Registration (as of 30 April 2025)	
Total no. of approved registrants	502
No of approved registrants from governments (including REIO and observer states)	237
Different governments represented (including REIO and observer states)	117
Africa	40
Asia Pacific	20
Eastern Europe	13
GRULAC	23
WEOG	16
No of other approved registrants (Relevant MEAs, NGOs, other UN organisations, etc)	265

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Intergovernmental Meeting registration status

Registration (as of 30 April 2025)	
Total no. of approved registrants	373
No of approved registrants from governments (including REIO and observer states)	180
Different governments represented (including REIO and observer states)	90
Africa	23
Asia Pacific	17
Eastern Europe	14
GRULAC	17
WEOG	14
No of other approved registrants (Relevant MEAs, NGOs, other UN organisations, etc)	193

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Q&A

Logistical preparations for OEWG 3.2 and the Intergovernmental Meeting

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7. Other matters

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8. Closure of the meeting

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Thank you

Secretariat of the OEWG on a science-policy panel 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