

## Operating Principles Governing the Work of the Panel

### Request for Written Submissions from Member States and Relevant Stakeholders

Member states, during the resumed first session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG1.2), requested the Secretariat of the OEWG to solicit written submissions from Member States and relevant stakeholders regarding the operating principles governing the work of the panel.

In support of this request, the Secretariat conducted a webinar (on 26 April 2023) dedicated to the issue of operating principles. In advance of the webinar, the Secretariat released a background document which provides a comparative overview of operating principles of relevant, existing science-policy panels (IPCC, IPBES, IRP and GEO). The recording of the webinar can be found on [this website](#), when available, and the background document is available at [this link](#).

A variety of potential operating principles are presented below, based on the analysis performed for this [background document](#). The following questions in no way attempt to rank or preclude consideration of the operating principles of the future SPP, rather, they draw from the agreed text of Resolution 5/8 and other existing, relevant science-policy bodies, as well as the discussions at the OEWG. You may also suggest relevant potential operating principles that have not been identified yet.

Member States are invited to provide submissions through their respective national focal points (list of focal points available [at this link](#)). Non-government stakeholders are invited to submit their submissions on behalf of their organization or group. You are invited to respond to all or some of the questions below. Once complete, please submit this filled document to [SPP-CWP@un.org](mailto:SPP-CWP@un.org). All submissions will be uploaded online and will inform a working document to be considered at OEWG 2.

**Contact information**

What is your name/surname?

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What is your country?

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What is your title?

OEWG NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

What is your email address?

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Who are you submitting on behalf of?

MADAGASCAR

The following elements are included in Resolution 5/8. Please indicate by clicking on the box(es) where you believe these elements should be included (i.e., operating principles, rules of procedure, guidelines, or other relevant documents, or if they are not relevant). Some key terms have been grouped together for the purpose of this tabular analysis, there is inevitably some overlap across principles.

	Operating Principle	Rules of Procedure	Guidelines	Other	Not relevant
<b>CREDIBILITY</b>					
Robustness/Rigour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity/Objectivity / Independence/Impartiality/ Lack of Bias (avoiding conflicts of interest)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary / Balance of disciplines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RELEVANCE/SALIENCE</b>					
Policy-relevant (and not policy prescriptive)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>LEGITIMACY</b>					
Inclusivity/Balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- indigenous inclusivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- geographic balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- regional balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- gender balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- balance of disciplines (see also Credibility/Interdisciplinary...)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CROSS-CUTTING THEMES</b>					
Transparency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination (without duplication) / Complementarity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost-Effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:**

## **CREDIBILITY**

### ***Robustness***

According to other experts in other intergovernmental groups such as IPCC (on climate), IPBES (on biodiversity), they think that our planet is tending towards an increasingly unstable and fluctuating world due to human activity which has gradually unbalanced the biosphere and the physics of the globe. That's why some of them believe that it is necessary now to redefine the notion of human progress changed axis to switch from a quest for performance to a quest for robustness. In this case, the future group of experts of the sound management of chemicals and waste and pollution prevention must work on the principle of robust operation in order to accomplish its missions.

### ***Integrity / Objectivity / Independence / Impartiality / Absence of bias (avoiding conflicts of interest)***

The Group's role requires careful attention to issues of independence and bias in order to maintain the integrity of their products and processes and the public's trust. It is essential that the work of the Group is not compromised by any conflict of interest.

To assist members, guidelines have been developed in the form of a code of conduct to be followed by members of the Group. This Code of Conduct aims to protect the members of the Group against conflicts of interest related to their participation. Thus, it should be useful to:

1. Establish clear guidelines regarding conflicts of interest and disclosure during and after membership.
2. Minimize the possibility of conflicts between the private interest and the public duties of members and provide for the resolution of such conflicts, in the public interest, if they arise.

### ***Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary / Balance of disciplines***

The Group of Experts and the boarder should work within the framework of the UN regions and across the boundaries of the UN regions, as appropriate, it would ensure regional and sub-regional assessments that are intellectually and biogeographically coherent , and facilitate other activities related to the implementation of the program of work. For example, a regional assessment carried out in the Africa region. In order to ensure a balanced composition of the future Panel of Experts, it is proposed that the members of the Bureau represent each of the regions of the United Nations to choose a balanced list of possible members of the Panel of Experts.

## **RELEVANCE/SALIENCE**

### ***Policy relevant (not policy prescriptive)***

The need of the policy integration is understood to be very important. In this sense, vertical integration concerns the different levels of governance: national, regional, local, while horizontal integration takes place between stakeholders at all levels. Integration is also understood from a thematic point of view. The concept of sustainable development is not limited to the environmental dimension; it also includes the social and economic aspect. Indeed, economic growth must be inclusive and in harmony with nature and the implementation of the SDGs must therefore meet this requirement for integrated public interventions to ensure the exploitation of synergies identified by target group.

## **LEGITIMACY**

### ***Inclusiveness/Balance /Indigenous inclusiveness***

The 2030 Agenda advocates universality, integration and inclusiveness to leave no one behind. However, universality does not mean uniformity; it also involves differentiations. Thus each country, on the basis of objective criteria, is called upon to make trade-offs and maximize the synergies between the targets for their integration into national, regional and local policies in order to benefit from the SDGs.

The participation of indigenous peoples and local communities can contribute to the development of each of the assessments and other activities of the expert group. Its local and indigenous knowledge has been widely considered in each assessment, which has influenced how science and indigenous knowledge can be combined to influence decision-making. In addition to that, it can support the working group on its indigenous and local knowledge in its work on development approaches and methods as well as in awareness-raising and communication activities.

### ***Geographical balance / regional balance***

Madagascar, like all the Member States of the African Union, is therefore faced with the need to converge its priority choices around a common set of objectives and targets to be pursued for the achievement of the management of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention. The integrating virtues of common objectives pursued together by all States involve a collective approach making it possible to advocate together, collaboration to mobilize the resources for the achievement of specific objectives of the SDGs throughout the continent in 2030.

### ***Gender balance***

Indeed, issues of inequality that should be reviewed in order to promote equal opportunities for everyone, especially vulnerable people. The recommendations relate to the establishment of a social protection policy. Concerning the reduction of inequalities, even if the country has a document referring to it, with regard to income, the application remains very weak. The devices

concerning human capital being one of the priorities of the country, health, education as well as employment is an integral part of the areas to achieve this objective of sound management of chemicals, wastes and prevention of pollution. Reducing inequalities is a vast and complex problem. This is why several areas and targets are involved in achieving the objectives.

***Balance of disciplines (see also Credibility/Interdisciplinarity Balance of disciplines (see also Credibility/Interdisciplinarity)***

The multidisciplinary expert group should be ensured a balanced representation in geographical and intellectual terms, as well as a fair balance between the sexes, the different disciplines (e.g.: natural and social sciences, economics, local knowledge and indigenous communities) and multidisciplinary and experience-based considerations (corresponding to the four functions of the Platform

**CROSS-CUTTING THEMES**

***Transparency / Coordination (without duplication) / Complementarity***

Group members are expected to uphold high standards of conduct in accordance with the principles of transparency, predictability, accountability, reliability, integrity, accountability and disclosure in the performance of their duties.

***Flexibility***

It also noted that it would be important for the expert group to retain the flexibility required to meet requirements in the thematic areas of chemicals, waste and pollution once approved, and to carry out assessments and other activities that would support its implementation at all levels, including with different stakeholder groups.

**The following table includes other elements that may be considered. Please indicate by clicking on the box(es) where you believe these elements should be included (i.e., operating principles, rules of procedure, guidelines, or other relevant documents, or if they are not relevant). It is also possible to add additional potential operating principles to be considered.**

<b>OTHER</b>	<b>Operating Principle</b>	<b>Rules of Procedure</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Not relevant</b>
Promotion of innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consensus based approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing accessible outputs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Capacity building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthen communication and engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:**

***Promotion of innovation***

It is essential to have appropriate tools to measure the impact and dependence of companies so that they can evaluate and monitor these parameters with a view to reducing the harmful effects of their activities, the material risks they entail and the dangers to their reputation, and develop a case for their long-term sustainability. Such tools are also important for promoting corporate public responsibility, informing regulatory authorities and guiding financial investments. Products in this area include analysis of business impact and dependence on biodiversity and human health, as well as work on criteria and indicators to measure dependence and impact, considering ways to integrate these measures into other aspects of sustainability.

**Global, holistic or integrative approach**

As stated above, the global, holistic or integrative approach and the consensus-based approach are in guidelines in order to achieve the goal of sustainable development, a holistic and integrated approach, with the participation of all stakeholders, was necessary to achieve genuine and sustainable development results. Diverse human experiences and capacities had to be taken into account, including scientific evidence, nature-based solutions, traditional ecological knowledge and the capacity of indigenous communities to rehabilitate ecosystems. To this end, partnerships should preferably include contributions from public authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, intergovernmental organizations, academia, communities and individuals,

***Provide accessible exits***

This product is intended to provide expert advice to expert groups assessing the use of existing models and scenarios, and to promote the development of new scenarios and models for future Platform work.

***Build capacity***

Individual and institutional capacities to strengthen the science-policy interface for the sound management of chemicals and wastes and pollution prevention. Capacity building and technology transfer were essential to support and assist partners with limited resources, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. To do this, it includes efforts to encourage the establishment of science-policy platforms, networks and assessments for sound management of chemicals and waste and pollution prevention at the national, regional and, where appropriate, sub-regional levels, in particular to facilitate the development of

guidelines for such initiatives. Therefore, the group will draw heavily on the experience of strategic partners and collaborating supporters. Direct technical and financial support for national and regional capacity building will be provided by actors other than the expert group.

### ***Strengthen communication and engagement***

It is essential to strengthen the communication of the continued implementation of the Group of Experts' communication and awareness strategy in order to increase the visibility of the group and its products and the use of these by governments and stakeholders; in addition to engaging them.

### **Please provide your written submission in the space below:**

Further to your request, we have the honor to send you Madagascar's proposal relating to the operating principles of the future group of experts on the science-policy for the sound management of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention. This group must evaluate without prejudice and in a methodical, clear and objective way, the scientific, technical and socio-economic information which is necessary for us to better understand the scientific bases of the risks related to chemicals, waste in order to prevent to pollution. For this purpose, the group must be multidisciplinary and respect the following principles:

- Objectivity - critical and unbiased reviews of the best science available. His work spans the entire assessment process, from identifying critical human health and environmental issues, to analyzing and defining their status, effective responses, and communicating them to good audiences.
- Integrity – Panel members maintain the integrity of the scientific process and identify any conflicts of interest.
- Independence - the members of the group do not give in to political pressure and carry out independent and impartial scientific assessments.
- Balance - the group includes a diversity of expertise, gender and culture.
- Scientific rigor - the group uses only solid and credible data and methodologies, as well as the best science and technology available.
- Holistic approach - the group deals with complex interactive risks.
- Inclusive - the group is sensitive to prevailing global views on resource management and environmental sustainability.
- Credibility: the group bases its assessments and advice on the most recent and most reliable scientific data, reviewed by peers, available at the international level and from reference institutions.
- Legitimacy: the group's recommendations take into account issues of perceived fairness, balance, transparency, political acceptability, accessibility and trust.
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Furthermore, Madagascar supports the Africa's position to provide a budget enabling this group to carry out effectively and efficiently the mission that will be assigned to it at the end of the negotiations. This funding should cover not only intercessional work but also capacity building and the transfer of skills in order to enable, among other things, the carrying out of assessments of the situation and the production of reliable data necessary for the development and implementation of relevant policies for the sustainable management of chemicals and waste, while strengthening exchanges between scientists, politicians and other stakeholders.