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**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  
Third session**

Geneva, 17–21 June 2024

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

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

**Proposals on the establishment of the panel to be considered by  
the intergovernmental meeting**

**Note by the secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. The United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution 5/8 of 2 March 2022, decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, and decided to convene an ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024. Resolution 5/8 also contained a request that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), upon completion of the proposals, convene an intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of the science-policy panel.
2. At its second session, the ad hoc open-ended working group requested the secretariat to prepare proposals to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering establishing a science-policy panel, for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended working group at its third session.
3. The proposals set out in the present document include the following draft decisions for consideration and adoption by the intergovernmental meeting: Draft decision [--]: Establishment of the [insert full name of panel]; and draft decision [--]: Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the [insert full name of panel] at its first session.
4. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to use the draft proposals included in the present document for the establishment of the science-policy panel for subsequent consideration and possible adoption by the intergovernmental meeting.

**II. Proposals to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting**

5. The main outcome of the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group will be a final text proposal (foundational document), which is essential for the establishment of the panel and is to be transmitted to the intergovernmental meeting. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to

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\* UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1.

adopt a decision requesting the Executive Director of UNEP to transmit the proposal to the intergovernmental meeting.

6. The ad hoc open-ended working group will also develop certain proposals for transmittal to the intergovernmental meeting, to be taken note of by the intergovernmental meeting and for onward transmittal to the governing body of the panel, once established, for consideration at its first session.

7. On the basis of the above, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to transmit the following to the intergovernmental meeting for its consideration:

- (a) A draft decision establishing the panel as specified in the foundational document;
- (b) A foundational document to be annexed to the draft decision establishing the panel;
- (c) A draft decision forwarding draft rules, procedures, policies and guidelines to the governing body of the panel for consideration at its first session;
- (d) Draft rules, procedures, policies and guidelines for the intergovernmental meeting to take note of and transmit to the governing body of the panel for consideration at its first session, as follows:
  - (i) Draft rules of procedure;
  - (ii) Draft financial procedures;
  - (iii) A draft process for determining the work programme, including prioritization;
  - (iv) Draft procedures for the preparation and clearance of the panel deliverables;
  - (v) A draft conflict-of-interest policy.

8. Proposed texts for the draft decisions referred to in paragraphs 7 (a) and (c) above are set out in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present note.

## Annex I

### **Draft decision [--] of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the panel**

#### **Establishment of the [insert full name of panel]**

*The intergovernmental meeting,*

*Recognizing* the importance of science-based assessments to inform decision-making processes,

*Reaffirming* that the sound management of chemicals and waste and the prevention of pollution are crucial for the protection of human health and the environment,

*Acknowledging* that improving the availability of scientific information and assessments can address capacity challenges, enable more effective and efficient action to minimize or prevent the adverse effects of the unsound management of chemicals and waste, and prevent pollution in order to improve human well-being and contribute to the prosperity of all,

*Convinced* that a science-policy panel could support countries in their efforts to take action, including to implement multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international instruments; promote the sound management of chemicals and waste and address pollution by providing policy-relevant scientific advice on issues; and further support relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in their work,

*Expressing appreciation* for the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group convened to prepare proposals on the science-policy panel, as well as for the outcome of that work, comprising proposals for the science-policy panel as transmitted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the intergovernmental meeting considering the establishment of a science-policy panel,

*Having been convened* in [city] by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme further to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 of 2 March 2022, by which the Environment Assembly decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, with details to be further specified according to the provisions of that resolution,

1. *Decides* to establish the [insert full name of panel], as specified in the foundational document set out in annex I to the present decision;
2. *Confirms* that the [insert full name of panel] is an independent intergovernmental body with a programme of work approved by its members to deliver policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive;
3. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Assembly, the World Health Assembly and governing bodies of relevant multilateral agreements and other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies to consider the present decision, as appropriate.

## Annex II

### **Draft decision [--] of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the panel**

#### **Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the [insert full name of panel] at its first session**

*The intergovernmental meeting,*

*Having established the [insert full name of panel],*

*Expressing appreciation* for the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group convened to prepare proposals on the science-policy panel, as well as the outcome of that work, comprising proposals for the science-policy panel as transmitted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the intergovernmental meeting considering the establishment of a science-policy panel,

1. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the work of the open-ended working group at its third session, consisting of the draft rules, procedures, policies and guidelines for the [panel], as set out in annexes 1 to 5 to the present decision;
2. *Invites* the governing body of the [panel] to convene its first session upon completion of this intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of starting the work of the [panel];
3. *Recommends* to the governing body of the [panel] the above-mentioned draft rules, procedures, policies and guidelines, for consideration and possible adoption at its first session.

#### **Annexes to draft decision [--]**

**[Placeholder for the outcomes of the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on:**

1. Draft rules of procedure;
2. Draft financial procedures;
3. Draft process for determining the work programme, including prioritization;
4. Draft procedures for the preparation and clearance of the panel deliverables;
5. Draft conflict-of-interest policy;]

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