

# Update on 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

Presentation to the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen

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# UNEA Resolution 5/8: Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution

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- In March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly decided that a **science-policy panel should be established** to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution, with details to be further specified according to the provisions in the resolution;
- UNEA further decided to convene an **ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel**, to begin work in 2022 with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024.

# Compilation of proposals for a Science-Policy Panel

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## **Foundational document to establish the 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

## **Processes, procedures and guidance for the Panel:**

- 1. Rules of procedure
- 2. Financial procedures
- 3. Process for determining the work programme, including prioritization
- 4. Procedures for the preparation and clearance of panel deliverables
- 5. Conflict of interest policy

# Proposals for establishing a science-policy panel

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## **Objective of the Science-Policy Panel:**

The objective of the Panel is to strengthen the science-policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution for the protection of human health and the environment.

# Proposals for establishing a science-policy panel

## Functions of the Science-Policy Panel:

- (a) Undertaking “horizon scanning” to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them;
- (b) Conducting assessments of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address, where possible, those issues, in particular those relevant to developing countries;
- (c) Providing up-to-date and relevant information, identifying key gaps in scientific research, encouraging and supporting communication between scientists and policymakers, explaining and disseminating findings for different audiences, and raising public awareness;
- (d) Facilitating information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information;
- (e) Integrate capacity-building into all functions and the work of the panel to strengthen the science-policy interface.

# Proposals for establishing a science-policy panel

## Functions of the Science-Policy Panel:

- Integrate capacity-building into all functions and the work of the panel to strengthen the science-policy interface. Such capacity-building activities should enhance individual capacities of scientists, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders and thereby institutional capacities, particularly in developing countries, guided by the capacity-building priorities, identified by governments and other stakeholders, related to the Panel's functions and work, by encouraging access to different forms of knowledge, data, and best practices, and enabling the dissemination and encouraging the utilization of the deliverables of the Panel at international, (sub)regional and national levels. In so doing the Panel will ensure effective, geographically [and gender] balanced [and gender-inclusive][and gender-responsive] participation and avoid duplication of work.

## Operating principles of the panel

- In carrying out its work, the Science-Policy Panel will be guided by the following operating principles and approaches:
  - a. Being scientifically independent, and ensuring credibility and legitimacy including through peer review of its work. Etc.

# Proposals for establishing a science-policy panel

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## **Institutional arrangements for the Panel**

- I. [Plenary] [Governing Body of the SPP]
- II. Bureau
- III. Committees and subsidiary bodies
- IV. Secretariat
- V. Financial Arrangements
- VI. Strategic Partnerships

# Draft process for determining the work programme

## STEP 1: COMPILING ISSUES

1. Issues submitted by:
  - Governments
  - Relevant MEAs and other international instruments
  - Relevant UN entities
  - Relevant stakeholders

### If possible, submissions accompanied by info on:

- Nature of the proposed issue
- Relevance
- Urgency
- Availability of existing knowledge, data, and expertise

2. Secretariat compiles and posts the submissions received

## STEP 2: PRIORITISATION

1. Secretariat clusters issues
2. Secretariat and Interdisciplinary Expert Committee (IEC) conduct initial screening
3. IEC (+ additional experts as relevant) systematically reviews/ranks topics through the transparent application of a rigorous interdisciplinary review
4. Secretariat, with IEC's guidance, prepares a report on the top-ranked topics

### Report could include:

- Information on the topics
- Rationale for the prioritization
- Analysis of the scope and types of potential outputs

## STEP 3: DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

1. Secretariat, in consultation with the proposed IEC and the Bureau, prepares a draft work programme

### Draft work programme could include:

- Objectives and associated deliverables
  - Timelines for producing the deliverables
  - Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the work programme
  - Budgetary implications
2. Draft work programme submitted to the governing body



# Overall timeline OEWG process



# Proposals on the establishment of the Panel to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting

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OEWG 3.2 → intergovernmental meeting:

- **A draft decision establishing the panel** as specified in the foundational document
  - Annex: Foundational document – final text proposal (Sections A to D)

OEWG 3.2 → intergovernmental meeting → first session of the Panel

**A draft decision forwarding the draft rules, procedures, policies and guidance** to the governing body of the panel:

- Draft rules of procedure;
- Draft financial procedures;
- Draft process for determining the work programme, including prioritization;
- Draft procedures for the preparation and clearance of deliverables;
- Draft conflict-of-interest policy

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Thank you

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