

Ad Hoc Meeting of the Bureau 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
24 October 2024
15:00 - 15:30 (EAT; GMT + 3) virtual

Meeting Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair, Ms. Gudi Alkemade, opened the meeting and introduced the provisional agenda, clarifying that at the Bureau meeting held on 11 September 2024, when the date and venue of the OEWG 3.2 was discussed, the Bureau was informed on potential offers from Governments to host the OEWG 3.2 and the Intergovernmental Meeting (IM). In consultation with the Secretariat, the Chair had at the time suggested that Governments be provided till the end of September 2024 to consider offering to host the meeting. She stated that this ad hoc Bureau meeting provided an opportunity for bureau members to get an overview of the state of play with regards to potential dates and venues and to provide initial feedback, before further considering the matter at the next Bureau meeting that will take place in November 2024. The agenda was adopted with no further changes.

Agenda item 2: Venue and date of the OEWG 3.2

2. The secretariat provided an [overview of the offers received to date](#), which includes the offers from the Governments of China and Uruguay, as well as the original dates provided by the Secretariat in February 2025 in Nairobi.

3. The following feedback was shared by the Bureau members:

- The Governments of China and Uruguay were thanked for their offers, which were seen as an expression of interest and ownership of member states in the process.
- On the offer from Uruguay, it was clarified that the proposed date in June 2025 had taken into account that elections would be held in October/November 2024 and that Uruguay is still working on its funding offer.
- On the offer from China, it was clarified that the funding offer accompanying the hosting offer from China is made by the local government of Hangzhou.
- One member noted that preference goes to offers by member states and that meetings at the UNEP HQs should be a fall-back option.
- One member commented that the offer from China is more comprehensive.
- A clarification was requested on the number of days allocated to the back-to-back meetings.
- One member expressed concern on the number of days for the back-to-back meetings.
- The importance to align the dates with the international environment calendar, in particular the BRS COP and its related regional meetings, was emphasized, after which one Bureau member clarified that the dates of the Asia Pacific regional meeting, which will be held in China will only be confirmed next month and another member clarified the dates for the BRS COPs as being late April to early May, 2025.

- The importance of regional consultations was emphasized and there was inquiry if these had been taken into account.
 - The importance of keeping the momentum to finalize the OEWG process was emphasized as well.
4. Following questions from the Bureau, the secretariat further clarified that:
- A full week of seven days was considered for the meetings, which includes a first day of regional and informal consultations, followed by the OEWG 3.2 and the final day for the Intergovernmental Meeting.
 - The international environment calendar, including the BRS meetings is carefully taken into account by the secretariat when considering the dates of the meetings. The dates of the BRS COPs of 28 April – 9 May were confirmed by the secretariat.
 - In the lead up to the meeting, regional consultations may be facilitated online upon request.
5. Following the exchange, the Bureau tasked the secretariat to continue discussions with the governments of China and Uruguay on their respective offers and the preparation of potential Host Country Agreements, while considering the proposed dates in February 2025 in Nairobi as a fall-back option. The Bureau will further consider the dates and the venue of the OEWG 3.2 and the Intergovernmental meeting at its meeting in November 2024 with a view to providing a recommendation to the secretariat. The Chair noted that this would be the very last moment that the Bureau could decide to hold the meeting in February 2025 in Nairobi, if that is decided to be the venue given the short timelines for preparing for the meetings.

Agenda item 3: Closing of the meeting

6. The meeting ended at 16:02 EAT.

Participants

Bureau members

Ms. Gudi Alkemade, Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Policy Coordinator, International Affairs Directorate Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Netherlands

Ms. Linda Kosgei, Rapporteur of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Head of MEAs, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry of Kenya

Mr. Oumar Diaouré Cisse, Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Point Focal SAICM, Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Assainissement et du Développement Durable, Mali

Prof. Jinhui Li, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Distinguished Professor, School of Environment, Tsinghua University, China

H.E. Saqlain Syedah, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany

Mr. Michel Tschirren, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Senior Policy Advisor at the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland

Mr. Alexandru Roznov, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Assistant Counsellor, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Romania

Mr. Roman Filonenko, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and Senior Specialist of the Environmental Safety Division of the Government of Ukraine

Ms. Judith Torres, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the SPP OEWG and International Relations and Cooperation Office of the Ministry of the Environment, Uruguay

Mr. Linroy Christian, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the OEWG SPP and Director of Department of Analytical Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs

UNEP

Ms. Tessa Goverse

Ms. Nalini Sharma

Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez

Ms. Irene Galan

Ms. Kaai Tung Chan

Ms. Pia Kohler

Mr. Richard Miesen

Mr. Zhanyun Wang

Observer

Ms. Lesley Onyon, World Health Organization (observer)