

6 December 2025

Introducing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP)

21th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP)

- Establishment
- Foundational document
- Road to the first session of the Plenary

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<https://www.unep.org/isp-cwp/about>



UNEA resolution 5/8

Adopted on 2 March 2022

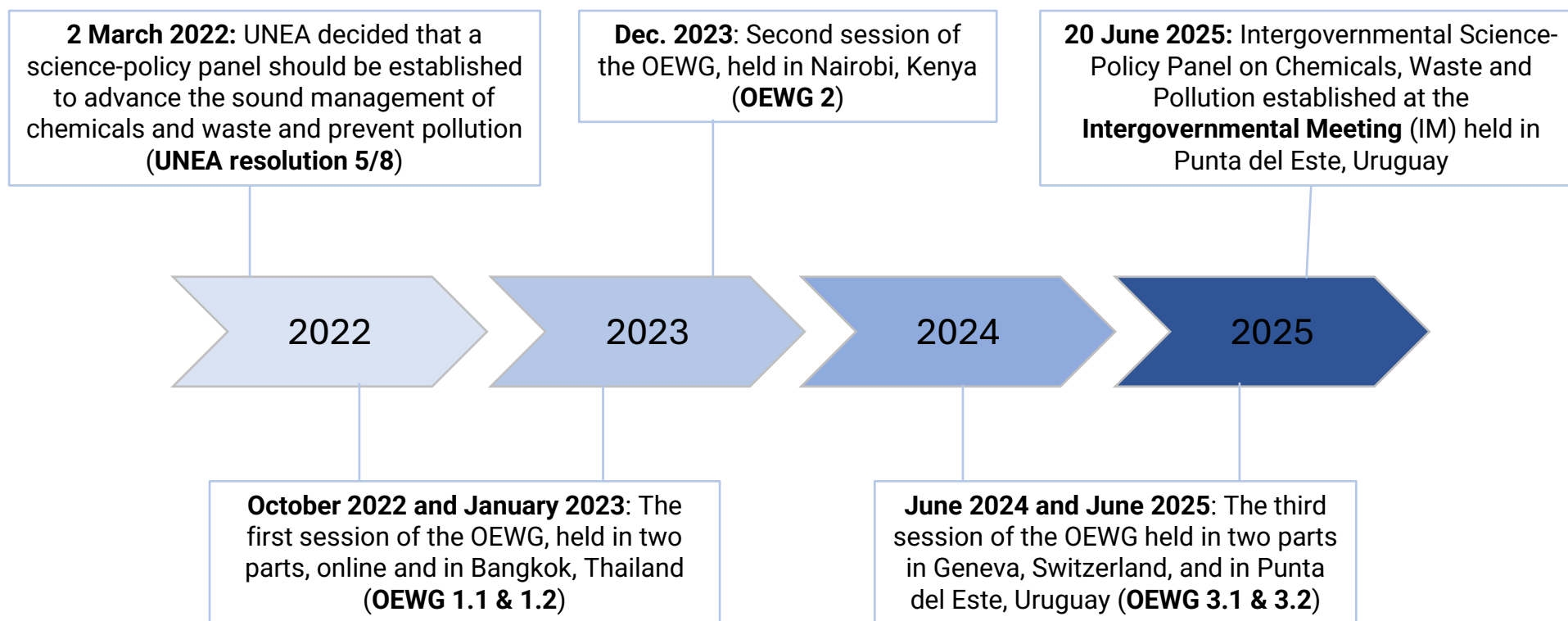
- *Decided* that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution
- *Convened* an ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel
- *Requested* the UNEP Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider the establishment of the science-policy panel

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Road to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution

Sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group and the Intergovernmental Meeting



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**The Intergovernmental
Science-Policy Panel on
Chemicals, Waste and
Pollution
established in
Punta del Este, Uruguay,
on 20 June 2025**



Intergovernmental meeting Co-Chair Laura Dupuy (Uruguay), UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen, and intergovernmental meeting Co-Chair Yutaka Matsuzawa (Japan) *Photo by IISD/ENB - Angeles Estrada Vigil*

Foundational document

The Intergovernmental Meeting decides to establish the Panel, as specified in the foundational document set out in the annex to the decision (Decision IM/1)

Key elements:

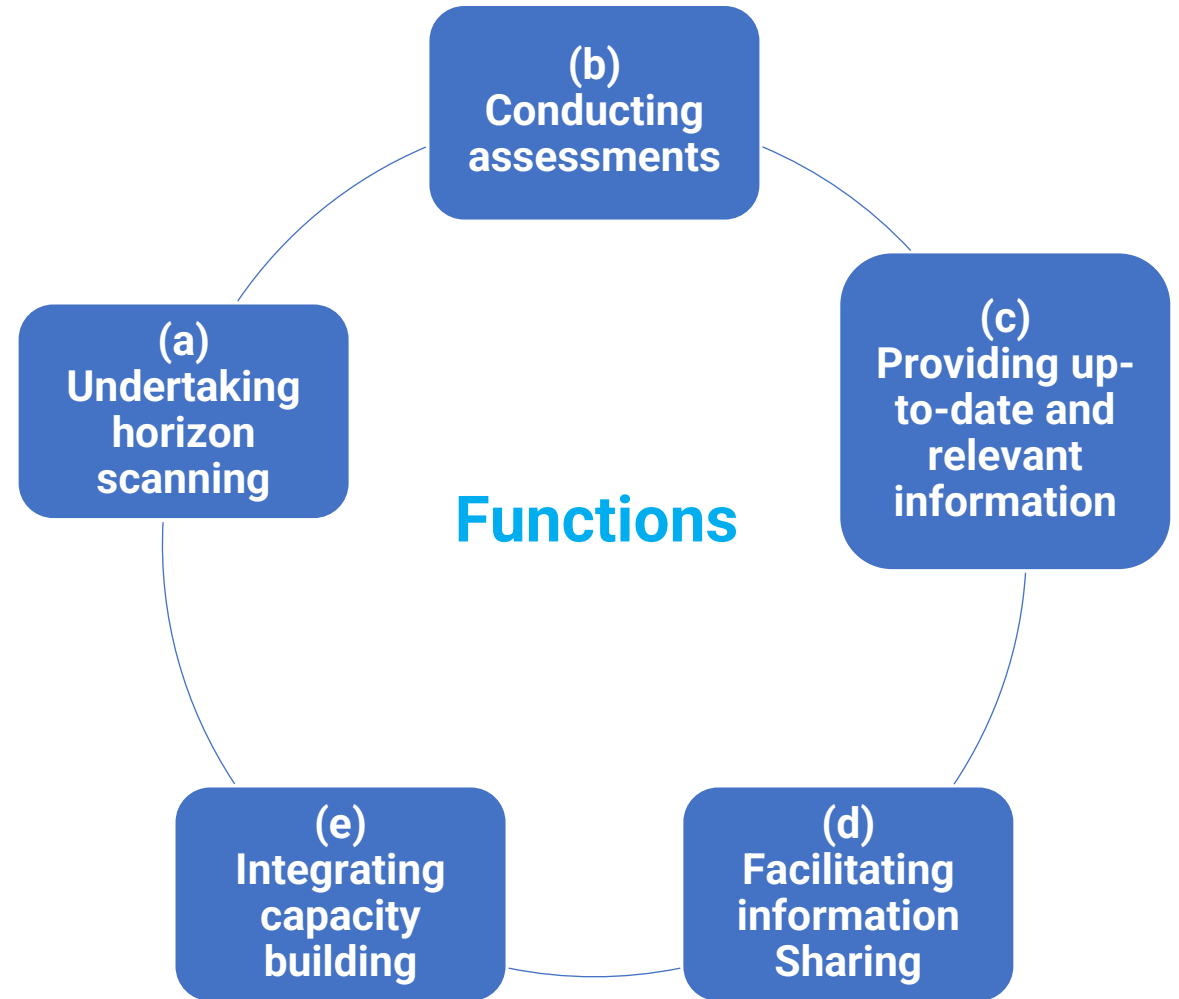
- Scope, objective and functions
- Operating principles and approaches
- Institutional arrangements
- Evaluation of the Panel's effectiveness

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The objective of the Panel is to strengthen the science-policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and pollution prevention



Operating principles and approaches

In carrying out its work, including:

- Being scientifically independent, and ensuring credibility and legitimacy including through peer review of its work.
- Upholding consensus in its decision-making processes.
- Respecting independence of science, while ensuring differing scientific views are adequately reflected by the Panel.
- Ensuring impartiality and transparency ...
- Producing deliverables that are policy relevant without being policy prescriptive, and, scientifically robust, unbiased and accessible ...

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Institutional arrangements: Plenary

Membership

The Plenary is the governing and decision-making body of the Panel.

- Membership of the Plenary is open to States Members of the UN and UN non-member observer states having expressed their intent to be a member of the Panel
- Open to participation as observers by any State not a member of the Panel, any United Nations entity and any other body, organization or agency [...] qualified in matters covered by the Panel, and which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented, subject to the rules of procedure and subject to two specific provisions ...

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Institutional arrangements: Plenary

Functions

- (a) Adopting the Panel's work programme to deliver on each of its functions; ...
- (e) Electing the Bureau, the members of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee and other subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the rules of procedure;
- (f) Establishing subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the rules of procedure. ...
- (h) Approving a budget and overseeing the allocation of the Trust Fund. ...
- (k) Adopting the rules of procedure by consensus. ...

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Institutional arrangements: Bureau

The Bureau is comprised of two members from each of the five United Nations regional groups and elected by the Plenary, including one chair and nine vice chairs.

Members of the Bureau are selected for their expertise relevant to the functions of the Bureau.

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Institutional arrangements: Interdisciplinary Expert Panel (IEC)

IEC will be comprised of experts from each of the five United Nations regional groups, with due regard to equitable geographical representation.

- Nominated by regions and elected by the Plenary
- Selected for their expertise, including scientific, socioeconomic, and technical expertise, and knowledge of the main elements of Panel's work

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Institutional arrangements: Secretariat, financial arrangements and partnerships

- A Trust Fund will be established and the Plenary will decide on the financial procedures.
- UNEP will provide the secretariat for the Panel, which will be in a single location based on offers from members.
- The Plenary will request the Secretariat to develop a proposal on establishing different types of partnerships to be considered by the Panel.

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Stakeholder Engagement in the Panel's Work

Pending decisions by the initial session of the Plenary:

- Raise awareness of the Panel among your peers and networks
- Respond to calls for submissions with (joint) inputs, if so requested
- Participate in the Plenary as observers
- Participate as authors, information and data contributors, or reviewers in the Panel's work (once the work programme has been agreed)
- Translate and disseminate the Panel's outputs
- Foster uptake of the deliverables by policy- and decision-makers
- Produce and publish research and outputs that may inform the Panel's work

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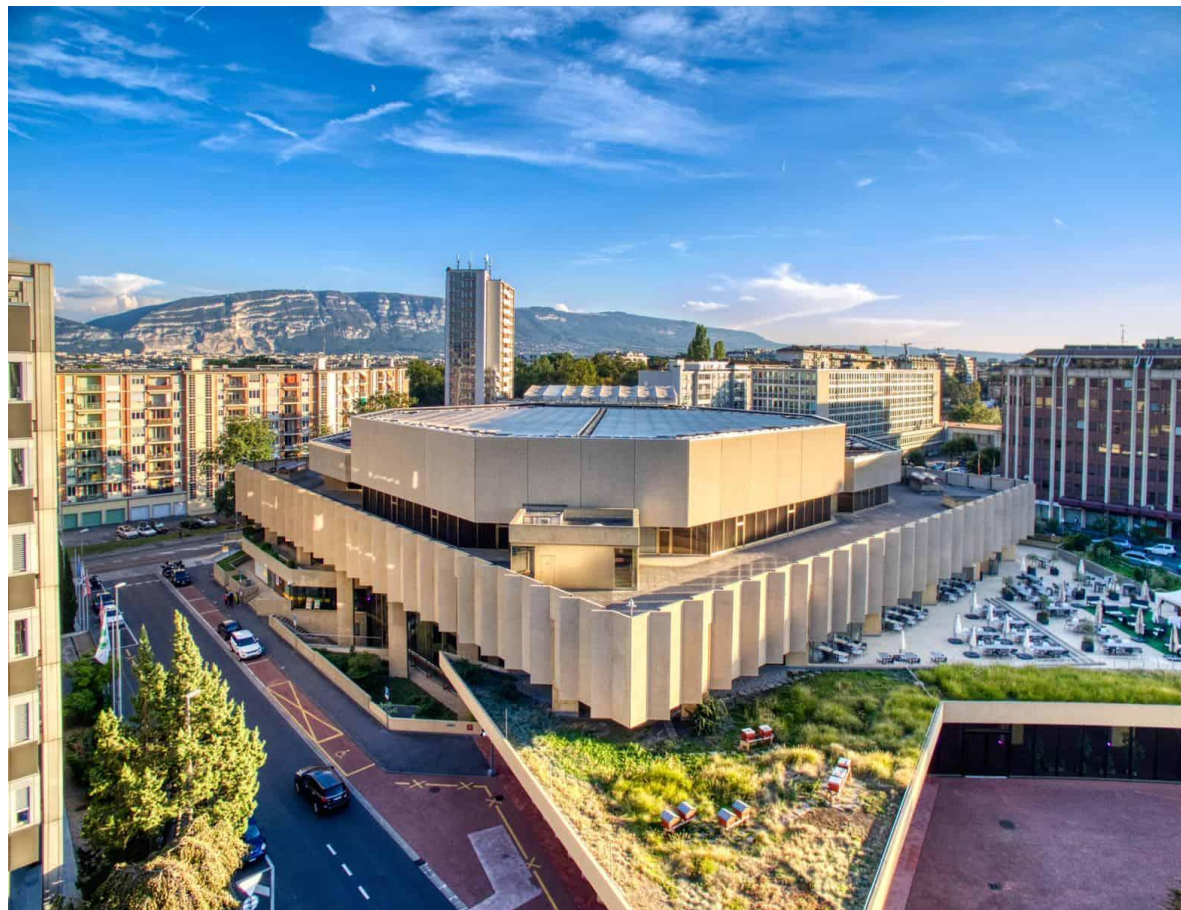
First session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP P1)

2–6 February 2026

International Conference Centre Geneva
(CICG),
Geneva, Switzerland

1 February 2026

Regional and stakeholder meetings



Access event website at: unep.org/isp-cwp/plenary
Questions? Contact us at: isp-cwp@un.org

ISP-CWP P1: Provisional agenda

UNEP/ISP-CWP.1/1

1. Opening of the session
2. Organizational matters
3. Credentials of representatives
4. Report on activities of the interim secretariat
5. Operational arrangements of the Panel
6. Financial and budgetary arrangements of the Panel
7. Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the next session of the Plenary.
8. Adoption of decisions and the report of the session
9. Any other matters
10. Closure of the session

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Thank you

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