

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting of the second session 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 pollution

Thursday, 7 September 2023

08:00 – 18:00 (Bangkok, Thailand; GMT + 7)

In-person / hybrid meeting

Draft annotated agenda for OEWG 2

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains draft annotated agenda for the second ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG 2) for the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. The annex has not been formally edited.



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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
Second session**

Dead Sea, 11 – 15 December 2023

Draft annotated agenda

1. The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) decided through resolution 5/8 to convene an 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 that would begin its work in 2022, with the ambition of completing it by 2024.
2. Following the conclusion of its first sessions (first part of the first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG-1.1) was held in Nairobi on 6 October 2022 and the resumed first session (OEWG-1.2) was held in person in Bangkok, from 30 January to 3 February 2023), the OEWG requested its secretariat to develop documents related to the scope, principal functions, institutional arrangements, and rules of procedure for the panel, relationship with relevant key stakeholders, and work-related processes and procedures of the future panel. The reports of the meetings are set forth in documents UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/3 and UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/7.
3. OEWG-2 will be held at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre, Dead Sea, from 11 to 15 December 2023. Facilities will be made available for informal consultations, technical briefings, regional and other groups preparatory meetings on Saturday 9 December and Sunday 10 December 2023 at the same venue, prior to the formal opening of the meeting.

Item 1

Opening of the session

4. OEWG-2 will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 11 December 2023. It will be formally opened by the Chair, Ms. Gudi Alkemade (Netherlands).
5. Opening statements will be delivered by [high level representative of the Government of Jordan], as well as representatives of UNEP and of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Item 2

Election of officers

6. At the first sessions, the OEWG elected the following officers, in accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of UNEA.

Chair: Ms. Gudi Alkemade (Netherlands)¹
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda)
Mr. Jinhui Li (China)²
Mr. Oumar Diaouré Cisse (Mali)
Ms. Saqlain Syedah (Pakistan)
Mr. Michel Tschirren (Switzerland)
Ms. Valentina Sierra (Uruguay)
Rapporteur: Mr. Cyrus Mageria (Kenya)

7. To ensure adequate regional representation in the composition of the Bureau, while taking into account the need to ensure gender balance, the ad hoc open-ended working group will be invited to consider the election of the remaining officers, possibly through a secret ballot.

Item 3

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

8. The provisional agenda of OEWG-2 is set forth in UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/1.

(b) Organization matters

9. The OEWG may wish to meet in plenary session from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustments, as necessary.

10. OEWG may wish to consider the scenario note prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/1), setting out proposed plans and general expectations for the session.

11. The OEWG may wish to establish contact groups as it may deem necessary, and to specify their mandates.

Item 4

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

12. At its resumed fifth session, UNEA, in resolution 5/8, decided to establish a science-policy panel 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 the resolution. The resolution further specified that the OEWG is to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel to consider the issues outlined in the resolution. In response to the resolution, the secretariat prepared the following documents to facilitate the discussions at OEWG-2.

13. Document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/2 titled "Skeleton outline of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel" provides a skeleton outline of proposals for the science-policy panel to be developed by the OEWG for consideration at the intergovernmental meeting.

14. Document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/3 titled "Scope and objective, functions and operating principles" describes the scope and objective, functions, and operating principles that would apply to the panel once established in response to UNEA resolution, para 5(j) rules of procedure and the operating principles governing the work of the panel.

¹ The Chair was elected at the resumed first session in accordance with rules 56 and 57 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

² Jinhui Li (China) was elected by means of a silence procedure, in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly, following resignation of Qadoori Jabir (Iraq).

1. Further discussion on the “capacity building” function will take place at OEWG-2³. Information document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/3 “Mapping of capacity building activities on chemicals, waste and the prevention of pollution in conventions/UN Agencies” has been prepared to support this discussion.
2. During the intersessional period, the secretariat solicited written submissions from Member States and relevant stakeholders regarding the operating principles governing the work of the panel. The written submissions received were made available on the OEWG-2 webpage. The information document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/2 “Background document on operating principles” includes a summary of the written submissions received.
3. Further discussion ⁴ will take place at the second session on the range of issues that were to be considered further when developing other elements of the panel.
15. Document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/4 titled “Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary” describes the governance of the panel, including the plenary and its functions, membership, officers and function of the chair, subsidiary bodies (including their administrative or scientific functions), the secretariat and its role, partnership arrangements and financial arrangements.⁵ This document is supplemented by information document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/4 “Background document on institutional arrangements”.
16. Document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/5 titled “Relationship with relevant key stakeholders”⁶ describes the potential roles and modality of relationship of stakeholders with the panel. This document is supplemented by information document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/5 “Background document on stakeholder relationships”.
17. Document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/6 titled “Work-related processes and procedures” covers the following work-related processes:
 4. Determining and executing the work programme of the panel (UNEA resolution, paragraph 5(e)), including prioritization framework, supplemented by information document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/6 “Documents and decisions relevant to the process for determining and executing the work programme of the panel, including prioritization framework”.
 5. Arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel (UNEA resolution, paragraph 5(f)), supplemented by information document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/7 “Documents and decisions relevant to the arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel and procedures for the review and adoption of reports and assessments produced by the panel”;
 6. Procedures for the review and adoption of reports (UNEA resolution, paragraph 5(g)), supplemented by information document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/7 “Documents and decisions relevant to the arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts to contribute to the work of the panel and the procedures for the review and adoption of reports and assessments produced by the panel”; and
 7. Addressing conflict of interest (UNEA resolution, paragraph 6(f)), supplemented by information document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/8 “Documents and decisions relevant to conflict of interest”.
18. In addition to the working documents, information documents have been prepared to facilitate the work of the OEWG.

³ Two draft texts proposed by the Africa Group/GRULAC and European Union will serve as the basis for consideration (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/7).

⁴ OEWG 1.2 report; UNEA 5/8, para 5(a), para 5(h), para 5(j).

⁵ OEWG 1.2 report; UNEA 5/8, para 5(a), para 5(h), para 5(j).

⁶ UNEA 5/8, para 5(d).

19. Finally, the OEWG may wish to consider any information to be provided by Member States, observers and other relevant stakeholders as well as intersessional work in advance of its third session (OEWG-3), amongst which potential documentation to be prepared by the secretariat in the light of its discussion, including information document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/9 “Responses to needs and questions the panel may handle” and.

Item 5

Options for the timetable and organization of the future work of the ad hoc open-ended working group

20. During OEWG 1.1, the OEWG agreed to conduct its work over the course of three sessions, followed by an intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel.

21. At OEWG-2, the OEWG may wish to consider the budgetary considerations and provisional timetable and programme of work presented in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/7 “Update from the secretariat on intersessional work undertaken since OEWG1.2, budget and expenditure and the provisional workplan”.

Item 6

Provisional agenda for the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group

22. The OEWG will be invited to consider a provisional agenda for OEWG-3.

Item 7

Other matters

23. The OEWG may wish to consider other matters raised during the session.

Item 8

Adoption of the report of the session

24. At the final meeting of OEWG-2, on 15 December 2023, the OEWG will be invited to consider and adopt a draft report reflecting the proceedings of that meeting, on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization, in consultation with the secretariat, under the authority of the Chair, consistent with standard United Nations practice. The final report of the session will be circulated after the closure of the session.

Item 9

Closure of the meeting

25. It is expected that OEWG-2 will conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Friday, 15 December 2023.
