

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 pollution (SPP OEWG)
12 – 13 June 2025
Montevideo, Uruguay

Name of the Panel: Advance consultations (updated on 13 June 2025)

Introduction

At OEWG 3.2, OEWG members will need to agree on a name for the panel to be included in the proposals forwarded to the Intergovernmental Meeting. This document may assist Bureau members in conducting advance consultations with their regions, helping to initiate a process that facilitates consideration of panel's name at OEWG 3.2. Inputs from the regions are invited through the Bureau by Tuesday, 20 May 2025.

A number of proposals were made during OEWG 3.1 (see paragraphs 54 – 57 of the OEWG 3.1 meeting report (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5)). Building on these, and drawing from the names of sister science-policy panels, as well as communications expertise, UNEP's Public Advocacy and Communications section further analysed possible options for the panel's name.

After discussing this item at their meeting on 13 May 2025, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to compile feedback from the regional consultations undertaken by Bureau members and to provide the translations in the 6 UN languages of the proposed names.

Proposals made during OEWG 3.1

The table below provides an overview of the proposals made during OEWG 3.1. For more details on the proposals presented at OEWG 3.1 and their rationale, see paragraphs 54 – 57 of the OEWG 3.1 meeting report (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5).

Proposals for names of the panel made at OEWG 3.1	Acronym
Intergovernmental Panel on Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution (CRP by the African Group)	IPCWP
Intergovernmental Panel on Chemicals	IPC
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Pollution	SPP/ ISP
Intergovernmental Panel on Waste and Pollution	IPWP

Analysis by UNEP Public Advocacy and Communications¹ section

Recommendation: Intergovernmental Panel on Pollution, Chemicals and Waste (IPPCW)

Rationale:

- Places emphasis on *pollution*;
- Follows the naming structure of sister bodies such as IPCC and IPBES, with the core subject area appearing directly after "Panel";
- Has a more rhythmical acronym than the other options, such as IPCWP (see below).

¹ Process included discussions within the UNEP Public Advocacy and Communication section, and inputs from the head of Digital Strategy and the Communications Division's Deputy Director and Director.

Notes on other options considered:

1. **Intergovernmental Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (IPCWP):**
 - Complex and less intuitive acronym;
 - Does not communicate directly on pollution.
2. **Intergovernmental [optional: Science-Policy] Panel on Pollution (IPP or ISPP):**
 - Simple and strong acronym;
 - However, omits *chemicals* and *waste*, which could limit engagement from those sectors
3. Including “**and to prevent**” before Pollution (e.g. “...*and to prevent Pollution*”)
 - Not recommended: the use of a verb disrupts the naming structure;
 - No equivalent construction is used in names of other science-policy bodies (e.g. IPCC, IPBES).

Feedback received from regional consultations by Bureau members

Several comments were received through the regional consultations undertaken by Bureau members.

1. Expressed support for a simple name that includes reference to science or science-policy, does not conflate chemicals and waste with pollution and ideally does not reference pollution prevention, as to be broad and inclusive of all the approaches to pollution (prevention, reduction, mitigation, risk reduction etc). With the explanation that while the mismanagement of chemicals and waste can lead to pollution, it is important to be clear that not all chemicals and waste pose risks to human health and the environment, hence a preference for focusing on pollution itself. Further suggested a name that could align with those views would be the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Pollution, for which there are also various easy-to-remember acronym choices (ISPPP; ISP3; SPP).
2. Stressed the importance of including chemicals and waste in the formal/full name of the panel, to ensure engagement from those sectors. It supported the proposal in the CRP submitted by the Africa Group at OEWG 3.1, i.e. Intergovernmental Panel on Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution (IPCWP), noting this proposal fulfils the elements in resolution UNEA 5/8.
3. Highlighted that it is important that the name of the panel include the three core elements of UNEA Resolution 5/8 and the Panel's scope: chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention. Noting flexibility, the comment supported the African Group's proposal at OEWG 3.1 — Intergovernmental Panel on Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution.
4. Noted flexibility and openness to discussions and to considering all proposals regarding the name of the panel. This comment also noted:
 - o the name should preferably include reference to Intergovernmental Panel and the word 'pollution' at least;
 - o a slight preference for Intergovernmental Panel on Pollution, Chemicals and Waste (IPPCW), and also Intergovernmental Panel on Pollution.
5. Stressed the need for “science-policy”, “intergovernmental” and “chemicals, waste and pollution” to be in the name of the panel.
6. Recalling the title of UNEA resolution 5/8 (Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution), stressed the importance of including “chemicals and waste” in the name before “pollution” and pointed to the email address of the secretariat (spp-cwp@un.org) as a practical solution.

Translation of proposed panel names

In response to a request from the Bureau at its 13 May 2025 meeting, the Secretariat consulted the OEWG 3.1 meeting report (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5) to compile translations of the proposed panel name.

Proposals for names of the panel made at OEWG 3.1	
Intergovernmental Panel on Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution (CRP by the African Group) IPCWP	
الفريق الحكومي الدولي المعني بالمواد الكيميائية والنفايات ومنع التلوث 政府间化学品和废物问题及防止污染委员会 Groupe d'expert(e)s intergouvernemental sur les produits chimiques et les déchets et la prévention de la pollution Межправительственная группа по вопросам химических веществ и отходов и предотвращения загрязнения Grupo Intergubernamental sobre los Productos Químicos y los Desechos y para Prevenir la Contaminación	
Intergovernmental Panel on Chemicals (IPC)	
الفريق الحكومي الدولي المعني بالمواد الكيميائية 政府间化学品问题委员会 Groupe d'expert(e)s intergouvernemental sur les produits chimiques Межправительственная группа по вопросам химических веществ Grupo Intergubernamental sobre los Productos Químicos	
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Pollution (SPP/ ISP)	
الفريق الحكومي الدولي للعلوم والسياسات المعني بالتلوث 政府间污染问题科学与政策委员会 Groupe d'expert(e)s intergouvernemental sur l'interface science-politiques sur la pollution Межправительственная группа по вопросам научно-политического взаимодействия в области загрязнения Grupo Intergubernamental Científico-Normativo sobre la Contaminación	
Intergovernmental Panel on Waste and Pollution (IPWP)	
الفريق الحكومي الدولي المعني بالنفايات والتلوث 政府间废物和污染问题委员会 Groupe d'expert(e)s intergouvernemental sur les déchets et la pollution Межправительственная группа по вопросам отходов и загрязнения Grupo Intergubernamental sobre los Desechos y la Contaminación	
Recommendation from UNEP Communications Division	
Intergovernmental Panel on Pollution, Chemicals and Waste (IPPCW)	
الفريق الحكومي الدولي المعني بالتلوث والمواد الكيميائية والنفايات 政府间污染、化学品和废物问题委员会 Groupe d'expert(e)s intergouvernemental sur la pollution, les produits chimiques et les déchets Межправительственная группа по вопросам загрязнения, химических веществ и отходов Grupo Intergubernamental sobre la Contaminación, los Productos Químicos y los Desechos	