Resumed third 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 (SPP OEWG 3.2)

14 – 18 June 2025
Punta del Este, Uruguay

Intergovernmental Meeting to consider the establishment of a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

19 – 20 June 2025

Punta del Este, Uruguay

Information note for participants

Last updated 9 June 2025

1. Introduction

The following is practical information provided for official participants that will attend the *resumed third 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* (herein referred to as SPP OEWG 3.2) and the *Intergovernmental Meeting to consider the establishment of a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution* (herein referred to as Intergovernmental Meeting).

All information regarding the meeting will be regularly updated on the SPP OEWG 3.2 event page and the Intergovernmental Meeting event page.

2. Dates and venue *[Updated information]*

SPP OEWG 3.2 is scheduled to take place from 15 to 18 June 2025 and will be preceded by informal, regional and stakeholder consultations on 14 June 2025. The Intergovernmental Meeting is scheduled to take place from 19 to 20 June 2025. The venue is the Convention and Exhibition Center in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The details of the Center are:

Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Center
Pedragosa Sierra Avenue S/N corner Aparicio Saravia Avenue
Aparicio Saravia, Punta del Este
Maldonado Department, Uruguay
+598 4247 7477
https://centrodeconvenciones.com.uy

For additional logistical support from the convention center please contact:

Natalia Maciel: natalia.maciel[at]ccbasilea-crestocolmo.org.uy

Valentina Delgado Zaccara: Valentina.delgadozaccara[at]gmail.com

For security related matters at the meeting venue, please contact:

Leornado Ramos (Associate Security Officer, UNDSS)

leonardo.ramos@un.org

+59891006644

3. Registration

Participants attending SPP OEWG 3.2 are expected to arrive on Friday, 13 June 2025, to allow for participation in the informal, regional and stakeholder consultations the day before the opening.

On-site registration will open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, 13 June 2025. The registration desk will remain open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the following days of the meeting. Attendance of the meeting is limited to registered participants. We strongly recommend participants to register on-site on Friday or Saturday or as early as possible.

Participants attending the Intergovernmental Meeting are expected to arrive by Wednesday, 18 June 2025, the day before the opening of the meeting.

On-site registration will open from 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 June 2025. The registration desk will remain open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, 20 June 2025. Attendance of the meeting is limited to registered participants. We strongly recommend participants to register on-site as early as possible.

Participants who wish to attend the meeting are requested to register online no later than 31 March 2025 through the link shared in the invitation letter sent to all Governments and to accredited organizations. Participants approved for attendance at SPP OEWG 3.2 will receive an Event Ticket that they are asked to bring to the meeting.

Organizations that wish to send their representative to the meetings but have not received an invitation are requested to send an email to spp-cwp@un.org. Interested stakeholders who are not already accredited to UNEP can find more information about how to become accredited at this page.

For any questions regarding registration for the meeting, please contact the secretariat.

4. Security identification documentation and badges for meeting participants

Security identification badges are issued to participants upon arrival at the meeting following completion of the relevant registration procedure. Meeting participants may collect their security identification badges at the registration desk upon presentation of one of the following identification documents issued by a government recognized by the United Nations:

- Valid national passport.
- Valid picture identification card, in Latin alphabet.
- Valid picture “residency” card, in Latin alphabet; or
- Valid picture drivers’ licence, in Latin alphabet.

Security checks will be carried out at the conference centre each time a delegate enters the venue.

5. Schedule of the meeting

SPP OEWG 3.2 will be opened on Sunday, 15 June 2025, at 10 a.m. Informal, regional and stakeholder consultations will take place on 14 June 2025. Further information on the schedule of work for the session will be provided on the SPP OEWG 3.2 event page.

The Intergovernmental Meeting will be opened on Thursday, 19 June 2025 at 3.00 p.m. Further information on the schedule of work for the meeting will be provided on the Intergovernmental Meeting event page.

6. Sponsored participants *[Updated information]*

In addition to registering online through the link provided in the invitation letter, any delegate designated to receive financial support for travel and daily subsistence allowance is

requested to fill out an online form through the link shared in the invitation letter sent to all Governments and accredited organizations and attach the three documents listed below.

- Event Ticket (Approved registration for attendance at SPP OEWG 3.2).
- Signed letter from the organization in PDF nominating the delegate who should be receiving the travel funding.
- Passport copy, valid for more than 6 months from the travelling date (bio-page).

The deadline to request travel support is 31 March 2025.

Participating delegates are requested to indicate in their formal letter from the Ministry, or a Note Verbale from the Embassy or Permanent Mission, or a nomination letter from the head of their organization, the name of the delegate who should be receiving the travel support.

For the necessary travel arrangements to comply with the United Nations rules and regulations, nominations or replacements of delegates received after the deadline cannot be guaranteed consideration for funding support. Final decisions on travel requests will be subject to available financial resources.

Financial assistance includes a return air ticket using the most economical fare as approved by the United Nations, to be issued by the travel agency working with the United Nations, and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) for Punta del Este area by means of a debit card.

For further enquiries regarding the financial assistance that may be provided to representatives of eligible countries, please contact the secretariat at spp-cwp@un.org and zablon.kiruki@un.org.

For support regarding itinerary for sponsored participants, please contact Hemingways Emergency numbers:

Whatsapp: +254 708 435 985

Mobile: +254 702 633 783

7. Credentials

This section is applicable for the Intergovernmental Meeting only.

Before the start of the meeting, **Member States** should send an advance scanned copy of their credentials, signed by either the Head of State or Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as other formal communications containing the names of representatives to the Intergovernmental Meeting (such as letters and notes verbales from the Permanent Missions or formal communications from Government Ministries) to unep.credentials@un.org and spp-cwp@un.org.

The original hard copy of the credentials and other communications should be submitted to the Law Division of UNEP to P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya, for the attention of the UNEP Principal Legal Adviser.

In the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, all delegations, representing Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, are encouraged to promote the participation of women in their delegations.

8. Daily Subsistence Allowance

The DSA rate for the Punta del Este area, from April to November, is US$206 per day. The rate may be subject to change.

9. Paperless meeting

The meeting will be paperless and printed documents will not be available at the meeting. Pre-session and in-session documents will be made available on the meeting webpage.

Making a meeting paperless considerably reduces the cost and carbon footprint of the meeting. A paperless meeting also makes it easier for participants to locate documents and allows for faster preparation and distribution of conference room papers.

To facilitate the paperless nature of the meeting, participants are requested to ensure the following:

- Each participant should bring a laptop computer containing basic applications, including Microsoft Office Word, Excel and PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat Reader and updated antivirus software.
- Laptops should be pre-checked for viruses and confirmed as virus-free prior to arrival at the meeting. Virusfree laptops are crucial to the success of a paperless meeting.
- Participants should bring a memory stick that has been pre-checked for viruses for the purpose of transferring documents.
- Laptops should be configured for a standard wireless (Wi-Fi) connection. If in doubt, please check with the local information technology expert.
- Participants should bring an appropriate adaptor to enable laptops to be connected to power sockets.
- When completing the registration form for the meeting, participants should include a current e-mail address, so that they can be sent correspondence relating to the meeting.

10. Harassment-free Conference

The organizations of the United Nations system are committed to enabling events at which everyone can participate in an inclusive, respectful, and safe environment. UN system events adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards, and all participants are expected to demonstrate integrity and show respect towards others attending or involved with any UN system event.

Prohibited conduct includes harassment: any improper or unwelcome conduct that might be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation to another person. Harassment in any form, because of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, national origin, political affiliation, age, religion, or

any other reason, is prohibited. We encourage reporting any incident directly to any badged UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) officer.

Sexual harassment: any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation. Sexual harassment may involve any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal, or physical nature, including written and electronic communications, and may occur between persons of the same or different genders.

Further information on the Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN system events may be consulted at: https://www.un.org/en/content/codeofconduct/.

11. Visa requirements *[Updated information]*

Participants should check whether they require a visa to enter Uruguay. The list of countries subject to visa requirements is available at: https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-interior/comunicacion/publicaciones/regimen-visas-admision.

Participants requiring a visa must indicate this during registration by ticking the relevant box on the Indico form and uploading a clear, legible photo of their passport.

As a standard procedure, participants are encouraged to obtain a visa through the Uruguayan consular office in their country. Exceptionally, and as a courtesy for the June 2025 meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Science-Policy Panel and the Global Framework on Chemicals, the Government of Uruguay has offered to issue visa exemption letters for eligible participants.

Requests for visa exemption letters will be accepted until 30 May 2025. After this date, participants must obtain a visa through their local consulate.

The Uruguayan Office of International Environmental Affairs will issue the visa exemption letters, including the participant's full name and passport details. These will be sent by email from visasoewg.spp.gfc@ambiente.gub.uy, along with the Resolution from the National Directorate of Migration. **Participants must carry both documents when traveling**.

The Office will also notify the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to inform airlines of the visa exemption applicable to these meetings.

Participants are solely responsible for requesting and obtaining their visa or visa exemption letter and the necessary transit visa.

Important: Once a passport photo has been submitted for travel, participants may not change their travel document, as the exemption letter will include the passport number. Participants are advised to consult the Uruguayan Embassy or consulate in their country for the latest immigration requirements before traveling.

In case of any questions please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Maureen Bidart
Office of International Environmental Affairs
visasoewg.spp.gfc@ambiente.gub.uy

12. Medical and travel insurance

The United Nations does not cover life or medical insurance for participants. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the participant or that of their Government or organization to ensure adequate insurance coverage prior to travelling to Uruguay.

13. Accommodation *[Updated information]*

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Online booking platforms are recommended as well as information provided by "Centro de Hoteles Punta del Este" to contact directly the hotel of their choice. Participants can access the list of the recommended hotels here: https://www.puntadelestehoteles.com.

Participants are encouraged to seek accommodation near the center of Punta del Este to facilitate easy access to Uber and taxi services to commute to and from the Conference and Exhibition Center.

Through an agreement with the "Centro de Hoteles de Punta del Este", special price rates are offered to participants.

Hotel Florinda (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42440022	Single Room: USD 45
	Double Room: USD 50
	Triple Room: USD 70
	Quadruple Room: USD 90
Hotel Milano (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42440039	Single Room: USD 45
	Double Room: USD 50
	Triple Room: USD 70
	Quadruple Room: USD 90
Hotel Marbella (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42441814	Single Room: USD 55
	Double Room: USD 60
Hotel Bonne Etoile (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42440301	Single Room: USD 55
	Double Room: USD 65
Hotel Sunset Beach (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42484353	Single/ double Room: USD 75
Hotel Camelot (3-star hotel) Tel. +598 42482006	Single Room: USD 75
	Double Room: USD 94
Hotel Remanso (4-star hotel)	Single/ double Room: USD 80

Tel. +598 42447412	triple Room: USD 90
Hotel Golden Beach (4-star hotel) Tel. +598 42441314	Double Suite: USD 80
	Double Premium Suite: USD 125
	Double master room: USD 155
Park Hotel (4-star hotel) Tel. +598 91355555	Single/ double premium Room: USD 99
	Single/ double Room with balcony: USD 118
	Single/ double Suite: USD 156
	Triple Room: USD 134
	Quadruple Room: USD 153
Hotel 2122 (4-star hotel) Tel. +598 42492122	Single/ double Room: USD 130
	Double Room: USD 160
Hotel AWA (4-star hotel) Tel. +598 42499999	Superior deluxe Room: USD 124 (Single or double)
	Executive Room: USD 154 (Single or double)
	Deluxe Room: USD 234 (Single or double)

All the prices include breakfast.

Additionally, each of the listed hotels will provide a single daily round-trip transportation service to the Punta del Este Convention Center. This service will be scheduled at a specific time, previously arranged with the guests staying at the accommodation. Participants who miss the scheduled departure will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to the venue.

Once a hotel has been selected, the reservation must be confirmed by email to:
reservaschpe@gmail.com

For more information, please contact:

Centro de Hoteles Punta del Este
asesor.chpe@hotmail.com
+598 4244 0512

14. Transportation

Flights to Montevideo and local transport to Punta del Este

Most participants may find it convenient to arrive at the Montevideo airport (Carrasco International Airport) thanks to a wider offer of flights.

The metropolitan area of Montevideo is well connected to the rest of the country by a modern transportation system that includes a port, buses, taxis, and remises.

Transport options from Montevideo to Punta del Este are:

- Bus services operated by Copsa (https://lineaeste.copsa.com.uy/index.php) or Cot (https://cot.com.uy), running daily almost every hour. The bus journey between Montevideo and Punta del Este lasts approximately 2 hours.
- Taxis from the airport (http://www.taxisaeropuerto.com/)

Flights to Punta del Este

Alternatively, the Capitán de Corbeta Carlos A. Curbelo International Airport (also known as Laguna del Sauce International Airport) is located in the neighbouring city of Maldonado, and receives regular commercial flights from Argentina, Brazil and Chile. As of September 2022, Azul and Aerolines Argentinas were the two airlines operating in the airport.

Local transport in Punta del Este

Mobility platforms working in the city include Uber and Cabify, whereas traditional cab drivers use a similar app (A Punta Taxi, Voy en Taxi), which allows participants to order a car and pay for it through a personal cell phone.

15. Transportation services *[Updated information]*

Transportation to Punta del Este

PRIVATE TRANSFERS: This service takes each passenger from Carrasco International Airport (MVD) to their accommodation in Punta del Este (for centrally located hotels) and it can also be booked for the return trip (Punta del Este – Airport).

The service can be paid in full at the time of boarding, either in cash (USD) or by card using a POS terminal, or pre-paid at the time of booking by credit card through our direct link of PayPal, Bank transfer, Western Union or Money Gram. Please note that these payment methods include commission fees, which must be covered by the participant in addition to the transfer cost.

Car	**1-3 pax**	**USD 308**
Van	10 pax	USD 352

The maximum passenger capacity of the vehicles is based on one carry-on per person.

Participants who want to book this service must contact hotels-transfers@congresos-rohr.com, specifying the date and time of their arrival and/or departure flight, the type of vehicle requested and the exact number of passengers.

SEMI-PRIVATE TRANSFERS: Passengers will be grouped with other participants, with a maximum waiting time of approximately two hours after their flight arrival. The cost of this service is **USD 18** per person from Carrasco International Airport (MVD) to their accommodation in Punta del Este (for centrally located hotels) and it can also be booked for the return trip (Punta del Este – Airport).

Participants who want to book this service must contact hotels-transfers@congresos-rohr.com, specifying the exact date and time of their arrival and/or departure flight.

Payment needs to be made at the time of booking. It can be made by credit card through our direct link of PayPal, or by Bank transfer, Western Union or Money Gram. Please note that these last three payment methods include commission fees, which must be covered by the participant in addition to the transfer cost.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Two bus companies (COPSA and COT) have daily services from Carrasco International Airport to Punta del Este, with a fare of 446 Uruguayan pesos (approximately **USD 11**). Tickets can be purchased in advance through the official website, or directly when boarding the bus (subject to seat availability, transfer seats will be guaranteed on a pre-booked basis) **using cash in Uruguayan pesos**.

Schedules can be consulted at the following link: URUBUS | AEROPUERTO CARRASCO (MVD) a PUNTA DEL ESTE Ómnibus | Tus pasajes online

For assistance with this, please contact the following email address: hotels-transfers@congresos-rohr.com / Gabriela Medina gmedina.uruguay@gmail.com

Please note that buses do not wait for late passengers.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We strongly recommend participants book and pay these services before their arrival in Uruguay, at least three days in advance.

16. Catering

Participants may purchase food and drink through the catering services available at the Convention centre. Please note there are no restaurants or shops in the vicinity of the Convention centre. Food ordered through a delivery service cannot be brought into the Convention centre.

17. Medical services

Medical costs incurred in Uruguay will be borne by the participant. It is therefore strongly recommended that participants arrange for their own travel health insurance that covers both health and accident, prior to departure from the country of residence. The organizer will not be responsible for travel or health insurance coverage.

The local emergency number is 911.

The following local hospital/medical center in the proximity of the meeting venue open 24/7:

- Sanatorio Cantegril: Address: Punta Del Este, Uruguay, Punta Del Este, Departamento De Maldonado 20100. Phone number: +598 42489151. Map direction: Link here.
- Sanatorio Mautone Maldonado: Address: Av. Franklin Delano Roosevelt y, 20000 Maldonado, Departamento de Maldonado. Phone number: +598 42225353. Map direction: Link here.

18. Electric plugs and sockets

The residential voltage in Uruguay is 220V/50Hz. Participants will need a transformer to use their portable devices if they do not run on 220V/50Hz. Participants will need to make sure to bring one along or purchase one in Montevideo. Plug types in Uruguay are C and L.

19. Internet services and sim cards

Free wireless internet access will be provided in the meeting venue.

For mobile phone service in Uruguay, the most recommended providers are Antel, Movistar, and Claro. Sim cards can be purchased at the airports in Montevideo and Maldonado.

20. Banking facilities, postal services and currency

The Uruguayan Peso (UYU/$) is the official currency.

Bank notes are available in the following denominations: $2,000; $1,000; $500; $200; $100; $50; $20 while the coins are denominated $50, $10, $5, $2, and $1.

Exchange rates as of 12 March 2025 are:

1 USD = 42 Uruguayan pesos; 1 Euro = 46 Uruguayan pesos.

Uruguay imposes no restrictions on the import or export of any local or foreign currency. There is only an obligation to declare sums greater than US$10,000 or equivalent.

There are many banks and exchange offices where delegates can exchange dollars, euros, and other currencies in the centre of Punta del Este.

Banks working hours: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Foreign exchange offices: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Some hotels also provide currency exchange service, but it should be noted that these rates are not always favourable.

ATMs can be found all throughout the country. Most places accept credit or debit cards.

21. Punta del Este

Punta del Este is a coastal city in Uruguay, located in the Maldonado Department along the Atlantic Ocean. Together with Maldonado, its urban area has a permanent population of approximately 135,000 residents, though this number can increase to nearly half a million during the peak summer season from December to February.

Situated 130 km from Montevideo, Punta del Este is Uruguay's most renowned resort destination, featuring the country's largest hotel and tourism infrastructure. The city's two most prominent beaches—Playa Mansa, known for its calm waters, and Playa Brava, characterized by stronger waves—are located on either side of the peninsula. Both beaches have well-maintained promenades frequently used for walking, cycling, and other outdoor activities.

The region has a humid subtropical climate, with mild summers (December to February) and cool winters (June to September). Due to its temperate climate and coastal influence, Uruguay experiences mild but cool conditions in June, which falls in the austral winter. In Punta del Este, June temperatures typically range between **10°C and 15°C (50°F–59°F)**. While extreme cold is uncommon, brisk winds from the Atlantic can make it feel cooler. Rainfall is distributed throughout the year, and June sees **moderate precipitation**, often in

the form of light to moderate showers rather than intense storms. Overcast days are frequent, but there are also periods of clear skies.

Punta del Este offers a variety of cultural attractions, including numerous museums and galleries. Among them, *Casapueblo*, originally the home and workshop of Uruguayan artist Carlos Páez Vilaró, now serves as a museum and cultural venue. The city is also home to the Ralli Museum, which houses a significant collection of modern and contemporary Latin American art, as well as the *Atchugarry Foundation*'s contemporary art museum, which features an outdoor sculpture park and a newly inaugurated indoor gallery. Additionally, smaller galleries can be found throughout the city, particularly in the area surrounding the main avenue, *Avenida Gorlero*, which also hosts an artisanal market and serves as a lively social hub both day and night.

Punta del Este is a key center for international investment in Uruguay, offering a range of luxury businesses, boutique hotels, wellness retreats, golf and casino resorts, and high-end shopping. The city's culinary scene is equally diverse, providing options that range from traditional Uruguayan cuisine to international fine dining.