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ADVANCE

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
Third session
Geneva, 17–21 June 2024 and Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15–18 June 2025*
Agenda item 5**

Recommendations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel

Proposal on interim arrangements to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. 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 held the first part of its third session in Geneva from 17 to 21 June 2024. The ad hoc open-ended working group was unable to finalize its work in preparing proposals for the panel, and it agreed that a resumed third session would be held back to back with the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel.

2. The discussions held at the first part of the third session are reflected in the provisionally adopted report on that part of the session (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5). In light of those discussions, the secretariat determined that interim arrangements would be needed to facilitate the operation of the science-policy panel once established, notably in preparation for the first session of its governing body. The Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended working group therefore requested the secretariat to prepare a draft proposal on interim arrangements to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting.[1]

3. The interim arrangements would take effect following the establishment of the panel at the intergovernmental meeting and would remain in effect until the governing body of the science-policy panel adopted its own arrangements.

4. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider and finalize the draft decision set out in the present document and recommend its adoption to the intergovernmental meeting.

* The 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 is being held in two parts. The first part of the session was held in Geneva from 17 to 21 June 2024, while the second part will be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 15 to 18 June 2025.

** The agenda of the third session, as adopted at the first part of the session, is reflected in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Rev.1.

[1] On 14 November 2024, the Bureau proposed that a draft decision on interim arrangements be submitted as a working document for consideration at the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group.

II. Draft decision [--] of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the panel

Arrangements for the interim period

The intergovernmental meeting,

Having established the [insert full name of panel],

Welcoming the proposals prepared by 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,

Recognizing that the arrangements for the secretariat of the Panel are to be decided by the governing body at its first session,

Acknowledging the necessity of preparatory activities for the operation of the Panel, notably the preparation of the first session of the governing body of the Panel,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide the interim secretariat supporting the operation of the [insert full name of panel] and to prepare relevant documentation for consideration at the first session of the governing body;

2. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme to support the interim arrangements, and requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue receiving financial contributions that are provided for the operation of the Panel until a trust fund for the Panel is established;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, to convene the first session of the governing body of the Panel at the earliest practicable date, and no later than one year from the date of the establishment of the Panel, at a date and venue to be determined by the Executive Director.

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