

The Arab Republic of Egypt's Submission on the working documents of 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 (SPP OEWG 3.2)

EGYPT reiterates its commitment to the international community to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent associated pollution according to the mandate of UNEA resolution 5/8 in 2022 , which mandated the creation of an open ended working group for the establishment of Science-policy panel to strengthen the science-policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution for the protection of human health and the environment.

EGYPT expresses its appreciation to the efforts of the SPP secretariat and welcomes the proposals for the establishment of the SPP panel, while supporting the finalization of the outstanding issues of the OEWG proposals.

Having said that, **EGYPT** highlights herein its comments to the working documents of 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 (SPP OEWG 3.2) , which will be hosted by the Government of Uruguay in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 15 to 18 June 2025 :

- D) UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6** Foundational document and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel;

Egypt sees merit in maintaining the title of the panel as agreed in the UNEA resolution 5/8, which serves as the mandate of the panel.

We are in favor of paraphrasing the second preambular para of the afore mentioned decision to read as follows:

“Bis [Recognizing that air pollution is one of greatest environmental risk to human health, with a disproportionate impact on women, children and the elderly.

A. Scope, objective and functions of the panel :

We propose herein few textual amendments as follows :

Para 1: After "to prevent", we propose the addition of "associated".

Para 1-c: After "policy makers" we propose the addition of " specially from the global south".

Para 1-e: After "guided by the capacity building priorities " we propose to addition of " and needs".

Para 1-e: After "geographically" we are in favor of the use of "gender balanced" and “ gender sensitive” .

B. Operating principles and approaches of the panel

We props herein few textual amendments as follows :

Para 2 (a) bis: delete "Finding", and support “ensuring” consensus in its decision-making process on matters of substance and procedures.

Para 2 (c): add "and technological" after "technical".

Para 2 (c): add "sound" before "management".

Para 2 (f): We prefer to read the whole sentence as follow:

[Producing deliverables that are policy relevant without being policy prescriptive, and, scientifically robust, unbiased and accessible and if appropriate, prevention focused and addressing negative socioeconomic associated implications of policies].

Para 2(i) we suggest replacing “with special attention to those that are vulnerable.” With this para " with special attention to those in vulnerable situations".

Para 2 (h): delete "Having the flexibility to".

Para 2 (J) and (J) ter: merge together to read as the follows:

[Recognizing the right to a clean, healthy, and, the right to science, supports in the implementation of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste and in the prevention of the associated pollution, and contributes to achieve the sustainable development goals].

Para 2 (k): we prefer the language of the said para to read as follows "
[Addressing the prevention approaches of pollution related to the unsound management of chemicals and waste].

- II) UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7** Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution at its first session and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting; an

EGYPT calls for equal representation of both developing and developed countries of the membership of **Interdisciplinary Expert Committee (Rule 22)**, to be added to the criteria of members selection , considering the capacity gap between developing and developed countries, taking into consideration that capacity building is one of the agreed core function of the Panel.

Egypt reiterates its concern over lacking a definition on pollution to be included with the rules of procedures of the panel.

We suggest a replacement of “practitioners or experts from the groups most vulnerable to the adverse effects of chemicals” under the definition of “Expertise” to read as follows: “practitioners or experts from people in vulnerable situations due to the adverse effects of chemicals.

- III) UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/8** Proposal on interim arrangements to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel.

EGYPT calls on the UNEP secretariat to prepare a list of activities to enable the panel start its functions, which will facilitate the selection of the relevant members for interdisciplinary expert committee, without prejudice to the operational and institutional arrangements for the panel’s work.