[Draft decision [--] of the intergovernmental meeting to establish [insert full name of panel]

The intergovernmental meeting,

Recalling UNEA resolution 5/8[1],

Recognizing the importance of science-based assessments to inform decision-making processes,

Reaffirming that the sound management of chemicals and waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment,

Recognizing that air pollution is the single greatest environmental risk to human health, with a disproportionate impact on women, children and the elderly,

...

Acknowledging that improving the availability of scientific information and assessments can address capacity challenges, enable more effective and efficient action to minimize and prevent the adverse effects of the unsound management of chemicals and waste, and prevent pollution in order to improve human well-being and contribute to the prosperity of all,

Convinced that a science-policy panel could support countries in their efforts to take action, including to implement multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international instruments, promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, and address pollution by providing policy-relevant scientific advice on issues, and that it could further support relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in their work,

...

Having been convened in Punta del Este by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme further to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 of 2 March 2022, by which the Environment Assembly decided that a science-policy panel should be established 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 that resolution,

...

2. *Confirms* that the [insert full name of panel] is an independent intergovernmental body with a programme of work approved by its Plenary to deliver policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Meeting convened for the purpose of considering the establishment of the science-policy panel to the United Nations Environment Assembly, relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies.

[1] [official document link to be included]

Annex to draft decision [--]

Foundational document of the [insert full name of panel]

A. Scope, objective and functions of the panel

…

(a) Undertaking "horizon scanning" to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them;

(b) Conducting assessments of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address, where possible, those issues, in particular those relevant to developing countries;

(c) Providing up-to-date and relevant information, identifying key gaps in scientific research, encouraging and supporting communication between scientists and policymakers, explaining and disseminating findings for different audiences, and raising public awareness;

(d) Facilitating information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information;

…

B. Operating principles and approaches of the panel

2. In carrying out its work, the Panel will be guided by the following operating principles and approaches:

(a) Being scientifically independent, and ensuring credibility and legitimacy including through peer review of its work.

(a) bis Ensuring impartiality and transparency.

(b) Taking an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that incorporates a broad range of relevant disciplines and sources, including appropriate sectoral, scientific, technical, and socioeconomic expertise, and taking into account as appropriate, relevant forms of knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge.

(c) Recognizing the technical knowledge and experience of workers, including informal workers, involved in the management of chemicals and waste, and the importance of promoting a safe and healthy work environment.

…

(f) Producing deliverables that are policy relevant without being policy prescriptive, and, scientifically robust, unbiased and accessible.

(g) Avoiding overlap and duplication of work, and promoting coordination and cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, recognizing their independent and autonomous nature, and with other relevant international instruments and intergovernmental bodies.

(h) Having the flexibility to respond to members' needs, in particular needs of developing countries.

(l) Integrating capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work.

C. Institutional arrangements for the panel

I. Governing and Decision-making body of the Panel

4. The Plenary is the governing and decision-making body of the Panel.

Membership

…

Participation of [observers] [States not members of the Panel, United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non governmental organizations]

6. alt The Plenary is open to participation as observers to any State not a member of the Panel.

6 a) Bodies, organizations and agencies that already have observer status with any United Nations system entity, consultative status with ECOSOC, or are accredited to the United Nations Environment Assembly or to any relevant multilateral environmental agreement with broad participation are considered observers of the Panel if they so request, unless at least one third of the Plenary members object.

6b) The Plenary will decide on the observer status of other observer candidates not covered by the provisions of paragraph 6bis(a) subject to non-objection from the members of the Plenary, as set out in relevant procedural documents.

…

Functions

8. The functions of the Plenary include, but are not limited to:

(a)

(b) Adopting the Panel's work programme to deliver on each of its functions;

(c) Responding to submissions and requests for the work programme from governments, including through the governing bodies of relevant United Nations entities, relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies by following procedures and processes set out in relevant documents[2];

(c) bis Collecting, as appropriate, views from relevant stakeholders by following procedures and processes set out in relevant documents[3];

(d) Fostering active and efficient participation of civil society organizations as observers in the Plenary;

(e) Electing the Bureau, the members of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee and other subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the rules of procedure;

(f) Establishing subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the rules of procedure.

(g) Accepting, adopting or approving scoping documents and deliverables, in line with procedures and processes set out in relevant documents;[4]

(h) Approving a budget and overseeing the allocation of the Trust Fund;

(i) Alt deciding on the periodic, independent and external review and evaluation process of the panels efficiency and effectiveness and the associated TORs;

(i)bis Assuring scientific and technical coordination among the bodies set up under the Panel and facilitating communication between the Panel and other relevant science policy bodies, international organizations, international instruments and relevant MEAs in order to build upon existing efforts and avoid overlap and duplication of work.

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[2] Documents outlining the procedures and processes will be considered and adopted following the establishment of the Panel

[3] Documents outlining the procedures and processes will be considered and adopted following the establishment of the Panel

[4] Documents outlining the procedures and processes will be considered and adopted following the establishment of the Panel

…

II. Bureau

9. A Bureau is established.

Membership

10. The Bureau will be comprised of two members from each of the 5 UN regional groups and elected by the Governing Body, including one chair and 9 vice chairs, one of whom shall act as rapporteur, as provided for in the rules of procedure.

…

Functions

12. The functions of the Bureau include, but are not limited to:

(a) Advising the Chair and the secretariat on the preparation and conduct of business of the Plenary and its subsidiary bodies;

(b) Monitoring the observance of the Panel's procedures and processes set out in relevant documents[5];

(c) Supporting the Panel's work during the intersessional period;

(d) Monitoring progress in the implementation of decisions of the Plenary, if so directed by the Plenary;

(e) alt Overseeing efforts related to communication between the Panel and other relevant science policy bodies, international organizations, international instruments and relevant MEAs in order to build upon existing efforts and avoid overlap and duplication of work;

III. Subsidiary bodies

Interdisciplinary Expert Committee

13. An Interdisciplinary Expert Committee is established.

14 alt The Interdisciplinary Expert Committee will be comprised of experts from each of the 5 UN regional groups, with due regard to equitable geographical representation.

15. Members of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee are nominated by regions and elected by the Plenary, taking into account the need to ensure the committee is interdisciplinary and inclusive.

16. Interdisciplinary Expert Committee members are selected for their expertise, including but not limited to scientific, socioeconomic, and technical expertise, and knowledge of the main elements of the work of the panel.

Membership of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee

14.alt The Interdisciplinary Expert Committee will be comprised of experts from each of the 5 UN regional groups, with due regard to equitable geographical representation.

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…

[5] Documents outlining the procedures and processes will be considered and adopted following the establishment of the Panel [agreed ad ref]

Functions of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee

19. The functions of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee include, but are not limited to:

(a) Providing advice to the Plenary and the Bureau on, and coordinating the delivery of, scientific and technical and capacity building aspects of the Panel's programme of work;

(b) Providing advice and assistance on technical and/or scientific communication matters to the Panel;

(c) Developing a transparent peer review process to ensure the highest levels of scientific quality, independence, inclusivity, integrity, and credibility for the Panel's deliverables following procedures and processes set out in relevant documents[6];

(d) In consultation with the Bureau, advising on the process for defining the scope of deliverables;

(e) Selecting experts for Panel activities as agreed in the Work Programme taking into account, inter alia, the need for relevant expertise[[gender balance[7]]] and effective contribution and participation by experts from developing countries;

(h) Reporting on its work to the Plenary.

Other subsidiary bodies

20. The Plenary may establish other subsidiary bodies under the Panel, in line with the rules of procedure, such as a body focused on policy matters.

IV. Secretariat

21. The Panel will be supported by a Secretariat with the following functions:

a. Organizing meetings and providing support on organisational, communication, and administrative activities, and technical services, of the Panel, including the preparation of documents and reports to the Plenary of the Panel;

b. Supporting members of the Plenary, Bureau, Interdisciplinary Expert Committee and other subsidiary bodies, to undertake their respective functions;

c. Facilitating communication among any other bodies that might be established by the Panel;

d. Facilitating communication amongst members of the Panel and with relevant stakeholders;

e. Disseminating the Panel's deliverables;

f. Supporting the Panel in outreach activities and in the production of relevant communication materials;

g. Preparing the Panel's draft budget for submission to the Plenary, and preparing financial reports;

h. Managing the Trust Fund, as guided by the Plenary;

i. Mobilizing financial resources;

j. Assisting in the facilitation of monitoring and evaluation of the Panel's work;

(k) In consultation with the Bureau, proposing potential partnerships to the Plenary;

…

(m) Carrying out any other functions assigned to it by the Plenary.

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[6] Documents outlining the procedures and processes will be considered and adopted following the establishment of the Panel [agreed ad ref]

[7] Pending resolution on operating principles / preamble

22. The panel at its first plenary session will secure secretariat services provided by UNEP. The secretariat would be hosted in a single location based on proposals by member states.

V. Financial Arrangements

23. A Trust Fund will be established at the request of Plenary to:

(a) be allocated by Plenary in an open and transparent manner;

(b) collect voluntary contributions to support the work of the Panel;

(c) be governed by financial rules and procedures adopted by the Plenary.

…

VI. Strategic Partnerships

29. At its first session, the Plenary will request the Secretariat to develop a proposal on establishing different types of partnerships to be considered by the Panel.

D. Evaluation of the operational effectiveness and impact of the panel

35. The Panel's efficiency and effectiveness will be independently and externally reviewed and evaluated on a periodic basis, based on the Terms of Reference as decided by the Plenary.

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