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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on
Chemicals, Waste and Pollution**

First session

Geneva, 2–6 February 2026

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Operational arrangements for the Panel: rules, procedures and
policies transmitted by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a
science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management
of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution to the Plenary at its
first session**

Draft process for determining the work programme

Note by the secretariat

1. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution was established at the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, held on 20 June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The intergovernmental meeting adopted decision IM/2, on recommendations for consideration by the Plenary of the Panel at its first session, in which it transmitted a draft process for determining the work programme of the Panel, set out in annex II to the decision, for further consideration by the Plenary at its first session.
2. The annex to the present note contains the draft process for determining the work programme as transmitted by the intergovernmental meeting. In preparation for the Plenary's consideration of the draft process, the secretariat has made limited editorial adjustments, notably to reflect the name of the Panel and refer to the governing body of the Panel as "the Plenary".
3. The Plenary may wish to further consider the draft process for determining the work programme, as set out in the annex to the present note, with a view to finalizing it.

* UNEP/ISP-CWP.1/1.

Annex

Process for determining the work programme*

1. The following text is intended to guide the process for determining the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (hereinafter the Panel), including the prioritization of issues put to the Panel.
2. Governments [, regional economic integration organizations], [including through the governing bodies of] [and] [relevant] multilateral environmental agreements, [other [relevant] international instruments] and intergovernmental bodies [and processes] [related to] [sound management of] [chemicals, waste and pollution prevention] may make submissions, whether individually or jointly, inviting the Panel to work on specific issues. [[Observer input] [on these submissions] [will also be encouraged and taken into account, as appropriate].]
3. [Submissions from relevant United Nations entities, as determined by their respective governing bodies, are also welcomed.]
4. [Submissions by relevant stakeholders, such as international and regional scientific organizations, trust funds, governmental and non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector entities and foundations, whether made individually or jointly, will also be encouraged and taken into account, as appropriate.]
5. Submissions should be accompanied by information on:
 - (a) The nature of the proposed issue, including a description of the issue, its geographic scope and its associated problems and opportunities and an indication of whether it is cross-cutting or multisectoral;
 - (b) The relevance to the Panel's [scope and] objective [, work programme] and to [national and regional policy priorities] relevant multilateral agreements, instruments and intergovernmental processes, including the rationale for why the Panel is thought to be best suited to consider the proposed issue;
6. Submissions should, if possible, also be accompanied by information on:
 - (a) The urgency for action by the Panel in the light of the imminence of the [problems][risks] and opportunities associated with the proposed issue [and the scale of the potential impacts and potential beneficiaries of action related to the issue];
 - (b) The availability [, credibility and neutrality] of existing [scientific literature and] knowledge, data and expertise [to support the work of the Panel] on the proposed issue. [Possible challenges in national or regional capacities to address the proposed issue, including the need for provision of assistance for capacity building and technology transfer];
 - [(b) bis The type(s) of deliverable(s) or modality of the Panel's activities that may be most useful in addressing the issue or need;]
 - [(b) ter Previous or actual work on a similar issue and evidence of remaining gaps;]
 - [(b) quater The submission request need to specify to the span of the topic related to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution]
7. All submissions should be received by the secretariat [no later than six months] prior to the relevant session of the Plenary. The secretariat will compile submissions and make them available on the Panel's website [for comment by other members and observers]. [Input received on these submissions from other members and observers will also be compiled and made available on the Panel's website] [at least one month before the relevant session of the Plenary]. [To allow for some flexibility to MEAs regarding the deadline for submissions due to their internal meeting schedules,] [Submissions received after the deadline will be considered on an exceptional basis at the request of the Bureau.]
8. The Interdisciplinary Expert Committee [[together] [in consultation] with the [Extended] Bureau], supported by the secretariat and additional experts where relevant, will consider and prioritize the submissions [taking into account the considerations outlined in paragraph 5 above. The Interdisciplinary Expert Committee will focus on] [the basis of] an analysis of the scientific, [and]

* The annex has not been formally edited.

technical [and policy] relevance of the submissions, taking into account the considerations outlined in paragraph 5 above. [The Extended Bureau will focus on the policy relevance of the submissions.]

9. [Should the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee and the Bureau consider that additional scoping is required to complete the prioritization of certain requests they will propose to the plenary the initiation of such scoping process.]

10. The steps of the prioritization process are as follows:

(a) [The secretariat] [The Interdisciplinary Expert Committee with support of the secretariat] clusters the issues received and produces a consolidated list of topics for further consideration and prioritization;

(b) [The secretariat and] the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee [[in consultation with] [and] the [Extended] Bureau] conduct an initial screening of the resulting list of topics to ensure that they fall within the scope and objective of the Panel and [are not already being, or have not already been,] [to avoid the duplication of work] [considered] by [others] [other relevant science policy interfaces, international organization, and relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements];

(c) The Interdisciplinary Expert Committee [together with the Bureau] systematically reviews the topics, consulting additional experts as relevant, and proposes a ranking of topics [along with an explanation of the rationale for the ranking,] through the transparent application of a rigorous interdisciplinary review, taking into account the information in the submissions as well as information accessible from publicly available sources;

(c) bis [The Extended Bureau independently and systematically reviews the list of topic to consider their policy relevancy, and proposes a ranking of topics along with an explanation of the rationale for the ranking, taking into account the information in the submissions as well information accessible from publicly available sources.]

(d) [The secretariat, under the guidance of] the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee [in consultation with the [Extended] Bureau], prepares a report on the top-ranked topics that documents the information and the rationale underpinning prioritization and includes an analysis of [alternatives for] the scope and types of outputs that [would] [may] make the topics suitable for inclusion in the Panel's work programme.

11. The report arising from the prioritization process will be shared with the Bureau [for further consideration by the Bureau].

12. On the basis of the outcome of the prioritization process, [the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee and the Bureau with the support of the secretariat,] [the secretariat in consultation with the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee and the Bureau], will prepare [a report that proposes activities for inclusion in the Panels work programme [and activities that warrant a full scoping report before adoption into the work programme]] [a draft work programme that includes such elements as:

(a) Objectives [, functions] and associated deliverables;

(b) Timelines for producing the deliverables;

(c) Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the work programme;

(d) Budgetary implications of implementing the work programme.]

(d) bis [Analysis on the scientific and policy relevance of all requests received.]

13. The [draft work programme] [report for inclusion in the work programme] will be submitted to the Plenary for consideration and adoption.

14. [At each meeting of the Plenary the secretariat will submit a report containing the draft work programme, which may include activities to be directly undertaken by the Panel, approval of scoping reports developed at the request of previous meetings of the Plenary, and identification of scoping reports for further consideration at future meetings of the Plenary.]

15. The Interdisciplinary Expert Committee [and the Bureau] [may decide to] [should] [may consider to] regularly review [its] [the] process of considering and prioritizing submissions, as needed [, and may submit this review for consideration by the Plenary].]