

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH



SUBMISSION OF THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH TO CALL FOR INPUT TO FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT AND RELATED DRAFT DECISION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING TO ESTABLISH A SCIENCE-POLICY PANEL;

Introduction

The Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research welcomes the foundational document and related draft decision for consideration which we believe well integrates some of our concerns raised in earlier submission to the panel. We have again reiterated some keys issues below and included text additions.

Scope

We accept the scope of the Panel which we believe is shaped by its objectives, functions and territorial influence, needs of the panel to contribute effectively to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution and the realities of stakeholder and member states.

Objective

The objective of the 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 is trite, in consonance with UNEA Resolution 5/8 and should be unbracketed. Removing the square brackets will serve a very useful outcome, will in no way belittle or beguile the process but will enable the needed focus on other pressing issues for consideration..

Functions

We support the inclusion of capacity building in functions of the interdisciplinary expert committee but call for a more detailed outline on capacity building function of the interdisciplinary expert committee. Refer to the section of this section which outlines capacity building functions. F

We request that further consideration of the issue of capacity building in the third session of the open work group should include consideration on development of scientific research capacity, the use of countries human, scientific, technological, organisational, institutional and national resource and should integrate capacity and knowledge/ technology transfer. We agree with the proposal to consult the results of the mapping of capacity-building in the chemicals, waste and pollution space prepared for its second session.

Furthermore, we request that the Panel should be empowered to exercise not just powers that have been given to it under the resolution but be empowered in addition to exercise all other ancillary powers needed to achieve its mandate through an omnibus clause in its function limited to achieving its objective.

What Should Be The Focus Of Priority Capacity Building Activities For The Panel To Undertake?

- There is need to identify long term and short term capacity building goals.
- Strengthen research capacity building for individuals, institutions and observers especially the ability of developing countries to undertake scientific research on chemicals and disseminate scientific research on sustainable management of chemicals and allied activities.
- Strengthen tertiary-level science-education initiatives
- Strengthen capacity building for communication of scientific aspect of sustainable management of chemicals and invest on increasing awareness and dissemination of research findings
- Maintain a portal for knowledge exchange and establishment of a Web-based information service in relation to fellowships and research grants related to sustainable management of chemicals.
- Support for early careers researcher/scientist
- Build capacity to deliver innovations and applied technologies for sustainable management of chemicals.
- Strengthening broader capacity and research collaborations among nations.

IN PRINCIPLE

- Capacity building functions should integrate both scientific and policy based capacity building interface
- Capacity function should empower member states relevant authorities, national experts, observers and individuals.
- Capacity building functions should identify and specify research and development priorities.
- Capacity building should recognize the need for North-South exchange and cooperation on chemicals
- Capacity should recognize the need to strengthen vulnerable groups and minority to participate in capacity building programmes
- Capacity building should establish Information sharing clearing house
- Capacity building should be solution oriented drawing from broad wealth of resources

Strategies for Capacity Building may include

- -Capacity Audits
- -Horizon Scanning
- -Information disseminate
- -Training courses, workshops and seminars
- -Technical advisory services

- -Fellowship programmes
- -Research and Exchanges
- -Community Dialogue
- -Social Media Campaigns
- -Multidisciplinary Based Interventions on identifying linkages with law, human rights, gender economics perspectives and sustainable development goals.
 - Establish Information Sharing Clearing House

Operating Principles

We commend the work done by the Secretariat in preparing a summary of recommendations of principles and reference to relevant annexure and particularly embrace the inclusion of principles relevant to credibility, relevance, legitimacy, human rights and the adoption of a rights based approach and precaution. We are however worried that some aspects of the operating principles that reflects strong political will and commitment to pollution action are in brackets and call that further consideration of those aspects do not water than the momentum for proactive action. We again reiterate our recommendations on *principles* to guide the panel to include the Participation; accountability; non-discrimination and equality; empowerment; legality and alignment with existing relevant international laws and policies.

Request to Recommendation of Inclusion of Relationships with relevant key stakeholders

We welcome the desire expressed in the document to explore strategic partnerships and believe that engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders can improve the strength of the panel and increase the likelihood of uptake of its deliverables. We recommend that the description of Stakeholder in all the processes mentioned in the background document be included and integrated in the outcome document. We recommend that the best model for stakeholder role is only achievable by assessing the models set out through consultation with multi- stakeholders and recommend that a consultation on the challenges and prospects of identified models be carried out.

Also, it should be borne in mind the multifaceted impacts associated with the problem the panel seeks to solve and the need for diverse voices and call for a broad definition of ‘ and other [selected][relevant] stakeholders that are active and qualified in the topics covered by the Panel.’ and call for precautions to ensure that no one is left behind.

How Can We Avoid Overlap And Duplication Of Work?

There is a need for greater clarity about the way in which the SPP chemical relates to other science policy panels and related work groups. There is need to ensure that issues pertaining to its mandate across the rolling work programme of other panels, secretariat and work groups are identified.

There is need for mandate identification and clarification of areas of mutual connections to strengthen collaboration through more regular engagement and communications activities.

There is also need to build broader coordination and coherence to avoid duplication especially in terms of funding of activities.

Monitoring and evaluating capacity building programmes and broad dissemination of results and good practices will help avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts.

There is need to ensure that proposed activities and strategies draw on, build on and complement existing experience.

How Can Coordination And Cooperation Be Promoted With Relevant Multilateral Agreements, Other International Instruments And Intergovernmental Bodies, And Others?

Develop and strengthen South-South and South-North regional research and educational networks on sustainable chemical management

Build international network for the availability of scientific publications

The Proposed panel should develop strategies for identifying new sources and strengthen means of financial resources for implementation of the functions of the proposed panel

Capacity building should facilitate technology transfer, in particular to developing countries

Promote cooperation and coordination by strengthening synergy and integrating the synergistic approach which would:

On the Synergistic Approach:

- (a) Creating synergies between conventions
- (b) Map existing global and regional action plans and agreements to create an overview of coverage and identify interlinkages

- (c) Promote integrated reporting
- (d) Sharing lessons learned and best practices
- (e) Developing implementation guidelines for multilateral environmental agreements
- (f) Sharing information among the different scientific panels
- (g) Strengthen coordination and coherence at implementation levels to ensure policy coherence.
- (h) Apply the general rule of treaty interpretation contained in article 31, paragraph 3 (c), of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties to manage potential conflicts between treaty regimes.

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CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH



SUBMISSION OF THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH TO CALL FOR INPUT TO PROPOSAL ON INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING TO ESTABLISH A SCIENCE-POLICY PANEL

The Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research welcomes the proposals on interim arrangements 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 and makes the following recommendations:

- The Centre recommends that in considerations concerning the interim arrangements for a Secretariat, the unique role of the Secretariat, its accessibility to developing countries, its independence, its relations and coherence with existing relevant science panel, its financing and interface with host state and relevant actors including non stakeholders be put into consideration.
- The Centre recommends that in carrying out the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare relevant documentation for consideration at the first session of the governing body, the mandate should include provision of resources and support needed to carry out its mandates and functions including resources to undertake systematic reviews, gather and analyze technical papers, scientific information related to chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention and to strengthen the science-policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.
- The Centre recommends that in carrying out the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme should include providing the panel with the necessary administrative, logistical, and technical resources needed.
- Interim financing arrangements to support the interim arrangements should make allowance for developing and least developed countries encumbered by debts management and draw more voluntary commitments from developed countries.
- The Centre agrees that Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme should in collaboration with member state, international organisations and regional groups should 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.