Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP)

ISP-CWP/ITM/1/INF/2

16 September 2026

Informal technical meeting on the draft rules of procedure of the Plenary of the ISP-CWP
1 to 3 October 2026
Bangkok, Thailand

Overview of issues outstanding in the draft rules of procedure of the Plenary of the ISP-CWP

Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) was established by decision IM/1 at the Intergovernmental Meeting held on 20 June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The intergovernmental meeting also adopted decision IM/2, on recommendations for consideration by the Plenary of the Panel at its first session, by which it recommended to the Plenary the draft rules of procedure set out in annex I to the decision for consideration and possible adoption at its first session.

2. At the first part of the first session of the Plenary of the ISP-CWP (P1.1), held from 2 to 6 February 2026 in Geneva, the Plenary made progress towards the finalisation of the draft rules of procedure of the Plenary of the ISP-CWP. A significant number of provisions were agreed ad referendum, including core elements related to membership, governance structures, and decision-making. Two of the working documents prepared for the informal technical meeting reflect the progress made at P1.1. The draft rules of procedure for sessions of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP/ITM/1/2) reflects the status of the document at the adjournment of P1.1. Document ISP-CWP/ITM/1/3 provides a compilation of the provisions that were agreed ad referendum.

3. Several provisions of the draft rules of procedure remained unresolved and require further consideration. The interim secretariat has prepared this overview of issues outstanding in the draft rules of procedure of the Plenary of the ISP-CWP to assist participants in preparing for the informal technical meeting being convened by the Chair of the ISP-CWP, Osvaldo Álvarez Pérez.

4. This overview provides a snapshot of the status of the text of the draft rules of procedure when P1.1 was adjourned, focusing on provisions that require further consideration. It provides a summary of progress in the negotiation of the draft rules of procedure and flags connections to the foundational document,[1] as well as to documents prepared as part of the process under the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution; for the intergovernmental meeting to establish the panel; and for the informal technical meeting.

5. The OEWG at its second session (OEWG 2), held in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2023, requested the secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure, taking into account existing rules of

[1] The text of the foundational document is Annexed to Decision IM/1, adopted by the intergovernmental meeting to consider the establishment of 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 (see Annex to UNEP/SPP-CWP/IM/5 - Report of the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution). It is also available on the ISP-CWP website: https://www.unep.org/isp-cwp/resources

procedure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA); based on the table of contents set out in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/4 presented and discussed at OEWG 2. The secretariat submitted draft rules of procedure to the OEWG (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.1) at the first part of its third session (OEWG 3.1, held in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2024). Governments negotiated and advanced discussions on the draft rules of procedure at OEWG 3.1 and at the resumed third session of OEWG (OEWG 3.2), held in Punta del Este, Uruguay in June 2025, prior to the Intergovernmental Meeting that agreed to transmit the draft rules of procedure to the Plenary for their consideration and possible adoption at its first session.

6. This overview refers to three documents that were prepared in the context of the OEWG, which provided information on approaches used in existing science-policy interfaces:

- Overview of Existing Rules and Procedures of Selected Science-Policy Bodies (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/INF/7)
- Institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for sessions of the plenary (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/4)
- Background document on institutional arrangements of existing science-policy interfaces (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/4)

7. This overview is organized according to sections of the draft rules of procedure as contained in document ISP-CWP/ITM/1/2, and directs participants to specific sections of the documents noted above for additional information. It also makes use of terminology used by the Chair at P1.1 to characterize the stage of consideration of the sections of the draft rules of procedure at P1.1:[2]

- in a **first reading**, members at P1.1 held a general discussion of a section to identify areas for further discussion. These interventions were not reflected in the text. At this stage, some draft rules in a given section may not have been mentioned at all. After the first reading of the draft rules of procedure was complete, and further to a request from members, the interim secretariat prepared a further draft to align the text of the draft rules of procedure with the foundational document.
- in a **second reading**, members were led, after a first reading, through a rule-by-rule discussion of the text, with some members making suggestions for amending the text that were reflected in the P1.1 in-session document;
- in a **third reading**, members were led, after a first and second reading, through a rule-by-rule discussion of the text, with the aim of settling language that could be agreed ad referendum.

8. This overview of issues outstanding is intended to serve as a resource in preparing for the informal technical meeting, and may be particularly helpful for participants in the ITM that were not present at P1.1. Participants may also find useful the 19 November 2025 webinar titled “Introducing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution: Its Foundational Document, Draft Rules of Procedure and Next Steps | Road to ISP-CWP P1” convened by the interim secretariat in collaboration with the Geneva Environment Network in advance of the first Plenary session of the ISP-CWP. The webinar includes a detailed presentation on the draft rules of procedure.

9. Table 1 provides a snapshot of whether a draft rule has been agreed ad referendum, and, if not yet agreed ad referendum, whether it has had a first, second, or third reading at P1.1.

[2] This document focuses on progress made at P1.1. When specifying whether a section has had a “first reading”, “first and second reading”, or “first, second and third reading”, this is only in reference to discussions at P1.1. Some sections of the draft rules of procedure were discussed extensively at OEWG 3.1 and/or OEWG 3.2, other sections were never discussed in any detail as part of the OEWG process. The draft rules of procedure forwarded to Plenary by the Intergovernmental Meeting thus contained three draft rules that had been agreed ad referendum, some draft rules that had been negotiated in more or less detail by participants in the OEWG, and some draft rules that were “parked” and thus not discussed by OEWG participants.

Table 1. Status of the draft rules of procedure [for sessions of the Plenary] of the ISP-CWP

Key :

Colour + *italic*	Status	Colour	Status
Green	Agreed ad referendum	Orange	Had first and second readings at P1.1
Blue	Had first, second and third readings at P1.1	Yellow	Had first reading at P1.1

Section/sub-heading/Draft rule
I. Scope
Draft rule 1
II. Definitions
Draft rule 2
(a) to (h)
(i)/(i)alt
(j) to (m)
III. Venue, dates and notification of sessions
Draft rule 3
Draft rule 4
IV. Members
Draft rule 5
V. Observers
Draft rule 6
Draft rule 7
Paragraph (1) of draft rule 7
Rest of draft rule 7
Draft rule 8
VI. Agenda
Draft rule 9
Draft rule 10
Draft rule 11
VII. Representation, credentials and accreditation
Draft rule 12
Paragraphs (1) and (2) of draft rule 12
Paragraph (3) of draft rule 12
Paragraphs (4) and (5) of draft rule 12
Paragraph (5)bis of draft rule 12
VIII. Membership and operation of the Bureau
Draft rule 13
Nomination of members of the Bureau
Draft rule 13bis
Election of members of the Bureau
Draft rule 13 ter
Draft rule 14
Powers of the Chair
Draft rule 15
Draft rule 15 bis
Draft rule 16
Draft rule 17
Replacement of the Chair and Vice-Chairs
Draft rule 18
Draft rule 19

Section/sub-heading/Draft rule
IX. Subsidiary bodies
Draft rule 20
Interdisciplinary Expert Committee
Draft rule 21
Draft rule 22
Draft rule 23
Draft rule 24
Draft rule 25
Draft rule 26
Draft rule 27
Draft rule 28
Draft rule 28 bis
Draft rule 29
Other subsidiary bodies
Draft rule 30
X. Conduct of business
Draft rule 31
Draft rule 32
Draft rule 33
Draft rule 34
XI. Decision-making
Matters of substance
Draft rule 35
Matters of Procedure
Draft rule 36
Voting
Draft rule 37
Draft rule 38
Draft rule 39
Draft rule 40
Draft rule 41
Elections
Draft rule 42
Draft rule 43
Draft rule 44
Equally divided votes
Draft rule 45
XII. Languages
Draft rule 46
Draft rule 47
Draft rule 48
XIII. Modifications to the RoP
Draft rule 49
XIV. Relationship to the foundational document
Draft rule 50

Note: Section headings and sub-headings in this table are simplified. See ISP-CWP/ITM/1/2 for complete text.

10. This overview proceeds section –by section through the draft rules of procedure. Sections in which all draft rules have been agreed ad referendum (Sections IV, XIII and XIV) are not included in this overview.[3]

Section I. Scope[4]

11. This section had first, second and third readings at P1.1. This section is also related to the title of the draft rules of procedure that is not yet agreed ad referendum. The brackets that remain on Section 1 (and its only rule, draft rule 1) were retained pending resolution of draft rule 20.[5]

Section II. Definitions

12. At P1.1, during the first reading of this section, proposals were put forward on how to organize the list of definitions.

13. After the first reading, specific definitions were considered when related provisions of the draft rules of procedure were discussed. As a result, in draft rule 2:

- definitions (a) to (h) have been agreed ad referendum;
- definitions (j) to (m) were not revisited after the first reading; and
- the draft definitions (i)/(i)alt, related to observers, had second and third readings as part of discussions of Section V on observers.

Section III. Venue, dates and notification of sessions

14. This section had first, second and third readings at P1.1. This section is addressed in more detail in the Background note on sessions of the Plenary (ISP-CWP/ITM/1/INF/3).

Section V. Observers

15. This section (containing draft rules 6, 7 and 8) had first, second and third readings at P1.1, as did the related definition in Section II: draft rule 2 (i)/(i)alt. The first paragraph of draft rule 7 has been agreed ad referendum.

16. This section is closely connected to paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the foundational document.

17. Information on the approaches of IPCC and IPBES to participation of observers is addressed in UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/4, Summary Table 1 (Row 5), and is available in detail in the documents referred to in UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/INF/7.

Section VI. Agenda

18. This section had a first reading at P1.1 and is addressed in more detail in the Background note on sessions of the Plenary (ISP-CWP/ITM/1/INF/3).

Section VII. Representation, credentials and accreditation

19. This section had first and second readings at P1.1, and paragraphs 1, 2, 4, and 5 of draft rule 12 have been agreed ad referendum.

20. Paragraph 3 of draft rule 12 is addressed in more detail in the Background note on credentials (ISP-CWP/ITM/1/INF/4).

21. Paragraph 5 bis of draft rule 12 was suggested at OEWG 3.1 and is in brackets. There are no similar rules in the rules of procedure of IPCC, IPBES or UNEA.

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[3] See ISP-CWP/ITM/1/3 for the compilation of provisions of the draft rules of procedure agreed ad referendum.
[4] Note that the titles of the sections are provided here for clarity and have been simplified, they do not carry over any brackets contained in the titles of sections in the draft rules of procedure, please consult ISP-CWP/ITM/1/2 for full section titles.
[5] Due to lack of time, these brackets were not revisited at P1.1 after it had been confirmed that draft rule 20 was agreed ad referendum at P1.1.

Section VIII. Membership and operation of the Bureau

22. This section had first, second and third readings at P1.1. Draft rules 13 to 18 have been agreed ad referendum, while draft rule 19 is in brackets.

23. Draft rule 19 was suggested during the afternoon session of Thursday 5 February 2026 at P1.1.

24. No similar provision to draft rule 19 is found in the IPBES rules of procedure, in the Principles governing IPCC work (see UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/INF/7), or in the UNEA rules of procedure.

Section IX. Subsidiary bodies (membership, operation, election of members)

25. Draft rule 20 has been agreed ad referendum at P1.1.

26. Draft rules 21 to 29 relate to the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee (IEC) and were "parked" after the first reading at P1.1. These rules are addressed in more detail in the Background note on the IEC (ISP-CWP/ITM/1/INF/5).

27. Draft rule 30 had a first reading at P1.1. This draft rule provides guidance on the establishment of subsidiary bodies and the conduct of their meetings. It also refers to the periodic review of the operation of the Panel, linked to section IV (Evaluation of the effectiveness of the panel) of the foundational document.

Section X. Conduct of business

28. Draft rule 31 had a first reading and a brief second reading at P1.1, while draft rules 32, 33 and 34 had only a first reading due to lack of time.

29. Regarding draft rule 31, at P1.1, participants asked for clarification on the difference between meetings "held in public" and "held in private". Rule 67 of the UNEA rules of procedure, the source for draft rule 31, mandates public meetings by default, unless the Assembly decides otherwise, i.e. unless the Assembly decides to hold the meeting in private. In practice, a public meeting is usually one where proceedings are open to Members, accredited observers, and accredited media representatives, resulting in a full official report or verbatim record, while a private meeting is usually one where proceedings are limited to Members and essential Secretariat personnel, and rather than a full report, a restricted summary or communiqué may be made available.

30. Draft rules 33 and 34 were derived from the UNEA rules of procedure (specifically rule rules 35, 38, and 39; and rule 36 respectively). Draft rule 32 was derived from IPBES rules 34 and 35, and is also consistent with UNEA rule 32.

Section XI. Decision-making

31. This section had first and second readings at P1.1, and draft rules 35 to 37 and 39 to 44 have been agreed ad referendum. Draft rules 35 and 36 had already been agreed ad referendum at the intergovernmental meeting.[6]

32. Draft rule 38 was introduced during the second reading of this section at P1.1, and is in brackets.

33. Draft rule 45 is also in brackets; it is derived from rule 59 of the UNEA rules of procedure.

Section XII. Languages

34. This section had a first reading at P1.1.

35. Information on the IPCC and IPBES approaches to languages is addressed in UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/4, Summary Table 1 (Row 4), and in Summary Table 2 (Row 7), and is available in detail in the documents referred to in UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/INF/7. Information on approaches to languages in other science-policy interfaces is contained in UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/4.

[6] Draft rule 49 (in section XIII. Modifications of the rules of procedure) was also agreed ad referendum at the intergovernmental meeting.