

Africa Regional Meeting of the second 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

Thursday, 14 September 2023

08:00 – 18:00 (EAT; GMT + 3)

In-person meeting (Nairobi)

Draft update from the secretariat on intersessional work undertaken since OEWG1.2, budget and expenditure and the provisional workplan

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a draft update from the secretariat on intersessional work undertaken since OEWG1.2, budget and expenditure and the provisional workplan for the second ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG 2) for the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. The annex has not been formally edited.



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**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
Second session
Dead Sea, 11 – 15 December 2023
Agenda item 5**

**Options for the timetable and organization of work of the future
work of the ad hoc open-ended working group**

Draft update from the secretariat on intersessional work undertaken since OEWG1.2, budget and expenditure and the provisional workplan

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its resumed fifth session, held in Nairobi from 28 February to 2 March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly decided, by resolution 5/8, to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, with details to be further specified according to the resolution.
2. In paragraph 12 of the resolution, the Assembly invited Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the resolution, in particular to enable the full participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the ad hoc open-ended working group. Furthermore, in paragraph 13, it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide a secretariat for the ad hoc open-ended working group and prepare the analytical and summary reports necessary for its work.
3. Section II of the present document provides an update on the intersessional work undertaken by the secretariat since the second session of the ad hoc open-ended working group held in January 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. Section III presents the current status of contributions and pledges pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 5/8, as well as the 2023 – 2024 budget and expenditures incurred since the start of the ad hoc open-ended working group process, while section IV presents a provisional timetable and workplan for the ad hoc open-ended working group.

II. Work undertaken by the secretariat during the intersessional period

4. In the lead up to the second session of the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG-2), the secretariat has worked in close coordination with the Bureau and has held seven Bureau meetings dedicated to the intersessional work since the resumed first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG 1.2) held in January 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. All Bureau meeting documents and summaries of the meetings are available at the [OEWG Bureau meetings webpage](#).

5. The OEWG Bureau agreed to convene [regional meetings](#) to undertake strategic discussions to prepare for the second session of the ad hoc open-ended working group, scheduled for 11-15 December 2023 in the Dead Sea, Jordan. Below is a list of the upcoming regional meetings:

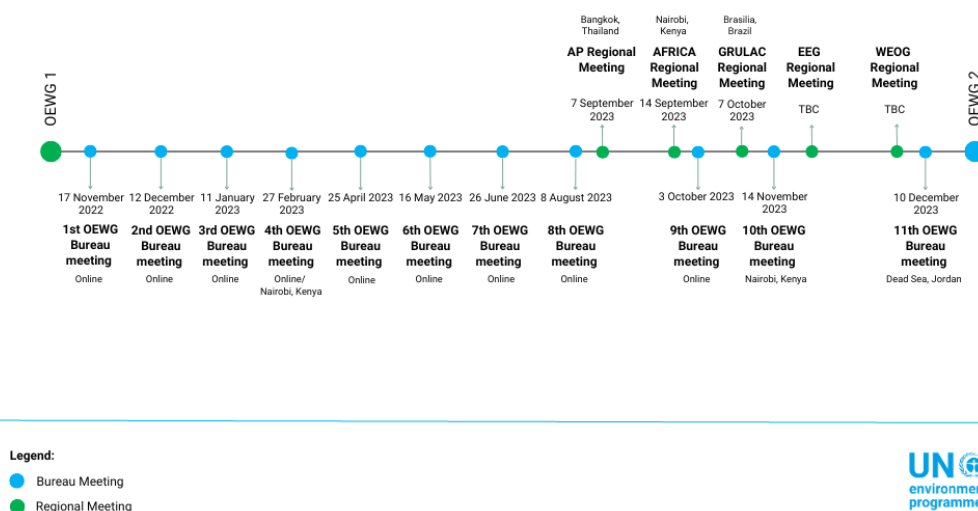
- (a) [Asia Pacific Regional Meeting, 7 September 2023, hybrid \(Bangkok, Thailand\)](#)
- (b) [Africa Regional Meeting, 14 September 2023, in person \(Nairobi, Kenya\)](#)
- (c) [GRULAC Regional Meeting, 7 October 2023, in person \(Brasilia, Brazil\)](#)
- (d) [Eastern European Regional Meeting, to be held in the margins of Minamata COP 5 \(date to be confirmed\).](#)
- (e) [Western Europe and Other Group Regional Meeting, date and venue to be confirmed.](#)

6. Figure 1 provides a graphical representation of the Bureau meetings and regional meetings held during the intersessional process leading up to the OEWG 2.

Figure 1 Bureau and Regional Meetings

Bureau and Regional Meetings

Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) towards a Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution



7. Since OEWG-1.2, the Secretariat and the Geneva Environment Network have co-organized a series of webinars and side-events to inform the OEWG process and engage with a wide range of stakeholders. The following are the events that have taken place or are planned in advance of the second session of the ad-hoc open-ended working group (OEWG-2):

- (a) Webinar “[Road to OEWG 2 Series - Developing Operating Principles of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention](#)” co-organized by the

secretariat of the OEWG and the Geneva Environment Network held on 26 April 2023. The OEWG secretariat presented a background document on operating principles of other science-policy panels. Member States and accredited non-government stakeholders were invited to submit inputs on the draft operating principles to be considered at OEWG-2. The written submissions are accessible [online](#).

(b) Side event on “[Road to OEWG 2 Series: Building the Linkages from Science to Action](#)” co-organized by the secretariat of the OEWG and the Geneva Environment Network during the 2023 Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions (BRS COPs). The event was held online and in person at the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG) on 2 May 2023. Reference is made to the [BRS 2021-2022 COPs decision](#) to strengthen their mandate for international cooperation with other organizations in support of the recently adopted resolutions by the United Nations Environment Assembly to establish a science policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution.

(c) World Health Assembly (WHA) side event “[The Impact of Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution on Human Health](#)” held online and in-person in Geneva on 25 May 2023. Reference is made to the meeting of the seventy-sixth World Health Assembly, which calls upon the Member States to engage in UNEA decision 5/8 to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution.

(d) World Resources Forum (WRF) side event “[Road to OEWG-2 Series: Linking Science and Action Using a Life-Cycle Approach](#)” co-organized by the Secretariat of the OEWG and the Geneva Environment Network; to be held online and in-person at CICG on 6 September 2023.

(e) Side event on “From Science to Action: Connecting the Science-policy Panel and the Beyond 2020 Framework” at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5); co-organized by the secretariat of the OEWG and the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), to be held online and in-person in Bonn on 27 September 2023. (*tbc*)

(f) Side Event on “[Road to OEWG-2 Webinar Series - Building the Linkages from Science to Action](#)” at the fifth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury; co-organized by the secretariats of the OEWG and the Minamata Convention, to be held on 9 October 2023, Geneva.

(g) Webinar on options of engagement and participation modalities for major groups and stakeholders to 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 scheduled for 13 September 2023.

(h) Two addition webinars are currently being organised on “conflicts of interest”, and on “institutional arrangements and rules of procedures” tentatively scheduled for 18 October 2023 and 8 November 2023 respectively.

(i) Finally, a webinar to close the Road to OEWG-2 Series co-organized by the Secretariat of the OEWG and the Geneva Environment Network will be held on 22 November 2023 just prior to OEWG2.

8. At the resumed first session of the open-ended working group on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and prevention of pollution ([OEWG-1.2](#)), Member States requested the OEWG Secretariat to solicit input from Member States and relevant stakeholders regarding the **needs** and **questions** the panel may handle in order to inform negotiations through the [OEWG process](#) (OEWG-2 and OEWG-3). Member States and non-governmental stakeholders were invited to submit inputs on the needs and questions that the panel may handle to be considered by OEWG-2.

9. At the resumed first session of the open-ended working group on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and prevention of pollution (OEWG 1.2), Member States requested the secretariat of the OEWG to “prepare mapping of capacity building in [the] chemicals, waste and pollution space.” The OEWG Secretariat solicited submissions from multilateral environmental

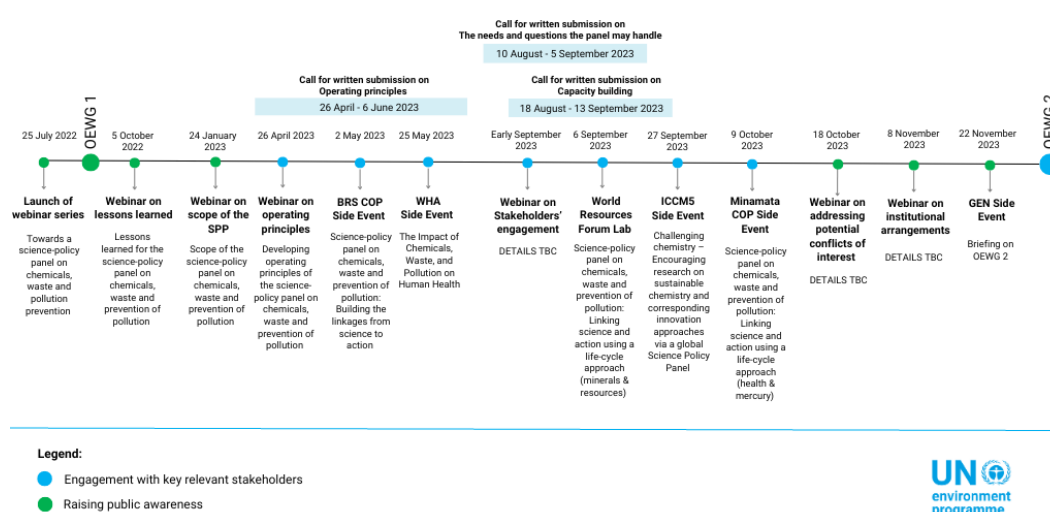
agreements and United Nations organizations on their capacity-building activities on sound management of chemicals and waste and pollution prevention to inform OEWG-2. A webinar on preliminary findings of the call for written submissions on capacity building is being considered.

10. Figure 2 provides a graphical representation of the events and outreach activities held and the call for written submissions issued during the intersessional process leading up to OEWG-2.

Figure 2: Timeline of intersessional webinars and side events and calls for written submissions in preparation of OEWG-2.

Intersessional work

Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) towards a Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution



III. Contributions and pledges, and 2023 – 2024 budget and expenditures

11. **Contributions to date.** As at 31 July 2023, UNEP had received financial contributions and pledges in the amount of USD \$4 515 017, as is shown in table 1.

Table 1
Contributions and pledges received as at 31 July 2023
(United States dollars)

Contributor	2021	2022	2023	Total
Switzerland	809 234	445 545	445 545	1 700 324
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		327 360		327 360
France		158 395	202 822	361 217
Germany		196 514		196 514
Norway		140 890	649 879	790 769
European Commission			620 040	620 040
The Netherlands			106 807	106 807
Japan			136 986	136 986

Total income^a	809 234	1 543 704	2 162 079	4 515 017
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^a These figures are net of the 1 per cent coordination levy (where applicable) but include the programme support costs (13 per cent where applicable) applied to all extrabudgetary contributions to the Organization.

12. **Budget.** Based on a review of costs for the ad hoc open-ended working group process, approximately \$4 million will need to be mobilized. Table 2 shows a breakdown of the costs, which cover the hosting of three ad hoc open-ended working group sessions, as well as expenditures incurred from the start of the OEWG process.

13. **Sponsored travel.** The proposed budget also includes financial support for the participation of eligible countries in regional meetings, OEWG 2 and OEWG 3 meetings, and subject to the availability of funding, for the participation of major groups and stakeholders, in accordance with the established practice at the United Nations Environment Assembly. It is noted that the current budget for regional meetings, OEWG-2 and OEWG-3 meetings in 2023 and 2024 is higher than the [indicative budget provided at OEWG 1.2](#), due to higher air travel costs of in-person meetings and to confirmations on the meeting venues.

14. **Venue and conference services.** The figures presented for the meeting venue and associated conference services costs are based on the assumption that all sessions must be funded from secured funding. Those figures may be lower if Member States offer to host one or more of the sessions.

15. **Hosting the third session.** A formal offer to host the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group from 17 – 21 June 2024 has been received from Switzerland. For the purpose of the budget exercise, the costs for the third session remain in the budget table, pending confirmation of Switzerland's contribution.

Table 2

Proposed budget and expenditure for the ad hoc open-ended working group process

<i>Cost category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>	<i>2022 budget</i>	<i>2022 expenditure</i>	<i>2023 budget</i>	<i>2023 expenditure</i>	<i>2024 budget</i>
Secretariat staff and travel						
Personnel	Secretariat staff	383 375	230 247	636 881	232 178	668 745
	Consultants	128 663	249 935	280 841	280 776	286 958
Secretariat costs	Travel	85 000	88 507	167 000	104 809	158 000
	Operating costs				8 381	
Subtotal		597 038	568 689	1 084 722	626 144	1 113 703
Consultations						
	Virtual platforms			100 000		100 000
	Regional meeting (Conference services and travel)			242 351	20 153	242 351 ^a
	Bureau meetings			25 000		25 000
	Webinars	25 000		50 000		50 000
Subtotal		25 000		417 351	20 153	417 351
Ad hoc open-ended working group session						
First session, first part	UNON conference services	87 706	87 705			
Subtotal		87 706	87 705			
First session, second part	UNON conference services			450 000	347 654	
	Meeting venue (ESCAP)			193 000	210 542	
	Travel support		97 961	430 000	305 344	
	ENB reporting			50 000	43 645	

<i>Cost category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>	<i>2022 budget</i>	<i>2022 expenditure</i>	<i>2023 budget</i>	<i>2023 expenditure</i>	<i>2024 budget</i>
Subtotal			97 961	1 123 000	907 185	
Second session	UNON conference services			415 820		
	Meeting venue (Dead Sea, Jordan)			280 168		
	Travel support			383 329		
	ENB reporting			50 000		
Subtotal				1 129 317		
Third session	UNON conference services ^b					450 000
	Meeting venue (Geneva, Switzerland) ^c					250 000
	Provision of hybrid facilities					150 000
	Travel support					720 000
	ENB reporting					50 000
Subtotal						1 620 000
Total						
	Subtotal	709 744	754 355	3 754 390	1 553 482	3 151 054
	PSC (13 percent)	92 267	61 517	488 071	201 953	409 637
	Total	802 011	815 872	4 242 461	1 755 434	3 560 691

^a Placeholder in case stand-alone regional meetings are requested in 2024.

^b Subject to change, depending on the conference services requirements for OEWG-3.

^c Subject to change, based on the meeting venue requirements for OEWG-3.

16. As can be seen from the information presented in tables 1 and 2, the current level of financial support to the secretariat of the ad hoc open-ended working group will be exhausted after the conclusion of the second session of the ad hoc open-ended working group.

17. **Secretariat costs.** The cost of secretariat operations, consultations and future sessions will therefore require additional resources if the ad hoc open-ended working group is to succeed in establishing proposals for the panel and fulfilling its mandate by the end of 2024.

18. **Request for contributions.** Member States are invited to provide suggestions for how the process can continue and to work with the secretariat to secure the additional funding needed to conclude the open-ended working group process within the ambitious time frame set out in UNEA resolution 5/8.

IV. Provisional timetable and programme of work of the ad hoc open-ended working group

19. **Workplan.** UNEA resolution 5/8 sets out the ambition for OEWG to complete its work “by the end of 2024” (paragraph 4) and also requests the Executive Director “upon completion of proposals prepared by the ad hoc open-ended working group, to convene an intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel” (paragraph 10). In light of these requirements, this section provides an overview of those items for which completed proposals are **essential** in order to establish the panel at an intergovernmental meeting. Taking into account discussions at OEWG-1.2 and within the Bureau, this section also identifies those items for which completed proposals, while **tributary**, may be a means of accelerating the launch of the panel’s work once it has been established. Conversely, if these tributary items are not finalized by the close of OEWG-3, the need to finalize them once the panel is established may delay the panel’s ability to deliver promptly on its functions. This section also identifies other elements essential to the success of the intergovernmental meeting, notably through resolutions, that may be prepared in parallel to the finalization of proposals under the OEWG process.

20. Table 3 presents essential and tributary items in the OEWG programme of work. It uses the “skeleton outline” in UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/3 as a starting point and is also

informed by the provisional timetable and programme of work from the outcome OEWG-1.2 (replicated in Annex I of this document) and Bureau deliberations. The OEWG may identify additional essential or tributary elements to include into their programme of work.

Table 3. Proposals for establishing the panel: differentiation between essential and tributary items (* denotes items identified as “items for future work” in the workplan in Annex I)

Element <i>(including relevant section of skeleton outline if appropriate)</i>	Essential or tributary?	Key documents
Scope and Functions of the Panel	Essential	OEWG.2/3, INF/3
Operating Principles of the Panel	Essential	OEWG.2/3, INF/2
C. Institutional Arrangements	Essential	OEWG.2/4, INF/4
Annex 1: Rules of procedure of plenary sessions	Essential	OEWG.2/4, INF/4
Annex 2: Financial arrangements	Essential	OEWG.2/4, INF/4
Annex 3: Relationships with relevant key stakeholders	Essential	OEWG.2/5, INF/5
Annex 4: Process for determining and executing the work programme	Essential	OEWG.2/6, INF/6
Annex 5: Procedures for the review and adoption of reports	Essential	OEWG.2/6, INF/7
Annex 6: Arrangements for identifying and engaging with experts	Essential	OEWG.2/6, INF/8
Annex 7: Conflict of Interest Policy	Essential	OEWG.2/6, INF/9
*Horizon scanning procedures	Tributary	OEWG.1/5 on functions
*Policy for safeguarding commercially-sensitive information	Tributary	OEWG.1/INF/7
*Communications strategy	Tributary	OEWG.1/5 on functions
*Indicative budget for the panel	Tributary	N/A
* Gender policy and implementation plan	Tributary	N/A
Conceptual framework	Tributary	OEWG.1/4 on scope
Procedures for dealing with errors	Tributary	OEWG.1/6

21. Proposal for a way forward: The OEWG may wish to:

- (a) Review the budget and expenditures for the OEWG process since its inception and welcome any pledges to support the remainder of the OEWG process.
- (b) Discuss and agree on the preparations of proposals for the establishment of the panel as set out in Table 3 of the present document, including the development of relevant resolutions.

Annex 1

Provisional timetable and programme of work for the establishment of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution¹

Draft elements of a proposal to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution	Proposal development process	
	OEWG 2	OEWG 3
Objectives, principal functions and operating principles		
	Documents to be prepared for the meeting	Documents to be prepared for the meeting
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(b) Name and scope of the panel;</i>	Continue scope discussion	Propose name
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(c) Principal functions of the panel;</i>	Prepare mapping of capacity building in chemicals waste and pollution space	
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(j) Rules of procedure</i>	working document on examples Building on INF7 including options of an outline of the ROPs	
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(j) operating principles governing the work of the Panel</i>	Working document on examples of operating principals Working document consolidated by the Secretariat containing information from the relevant section of the meeting report Written submission from member states and relevant stakeholders	Draft text → Final text
Member States and stakeholder input on needs and questions the Panel may handle		
Institutional design and governance		
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(a) Institutional design and governance of the panel</i>	Working document on examples Building on INF5 including proposals prepared by the secretariat of the institutional design and governance Webinars followed by informal consultations / brainstorming	Draft text → Final text
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(h) Arrangements for secretariat support for the panel</i>	Working document on examples Including proposals prepared by the secretariat	Draft text → Final text
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(k) An indicative budget for the panel</i>	Working document including examples on 5(i)	Working document on 5(k)
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(i) Options for voluntary financing of the work of the panel</i>		
Possible Annexes		
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(d) Relationships of the panel with relevant key stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, and civil society,</i>	Working document on examples Webinars followed by informal consultations /brainstorming This could incl consideration of those organizations and entities listed in INF/4	Draft text → Final text
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(e) Processes for determining and executing the work programme of the panel;</i>	Working document on examples	Draft text → Final text
<i>Resolution 5/8 para 5(f) Arrangements for identifying and engaging with</i>	Working document on examples	Draft text → Final text

¹ Copied from [UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/7](https://www.unep.org/documents/default.asp?docid/17777) (Appendix to Annex III)

experts to contribute to the work of the panel;

Resolution 5/8 para 5(g) Procedures for the review and adoption of reports and assessments produced by the panel;

Working document on examples

Draft text → Final text

Resolution 5/8 para 5(l) Any other matters that the ad hoc open-ended working group believes should be addressed;

Non exhaustive list of items for future work

Horizon scanning procedures

Policy for safeguarding commercially sensitive information

Communications strategy

Indicative budget for the pane

Gender policy and implementation plan

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