



Draft EU and its Member States statements

1. Opening of the third meeting of the *ad hoc* Open-Ended Working Group on the Science Policy Panel (OEWG3.2) (Punta del Este, Uruguay, 14 - 18 June 2025).

No opening statements are expected under agenda item 1 (Opening of the session). Governments will be welcome to submit their statements in writing to the Secretariat to be uploaded as in-session documents on the OEWG website.

The EU+MS will submit the full statement in writing to the SPP secretariat, for agenda items 1, 4 and 5 combined. For agenda items 4 and 5, some general statements might be allowed in plenary and will be delivered as presented below under agenda items 4 and 5.

Madame Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The European Union and its Member States are delighted to gather here in Punta del Este and wish to express their gratitude to the government of Uruguay and UNEP for organising this meeting. We wish to thank the Chair, the Bureau, and the Secretariat for the diligent work undertaken in preparing for this gathering and for reaching out to Parties and regional groups to explore and discuss possible ways forward with the aim to finish the recommendations for the intergovernmental meeting this week.

The European Union and its Member States regard the documents UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6 - Foundational document and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel and UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7 - Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution at its first session, along with the related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting with its proposed addenda, as a solid basis for finalizing the discussions at this OEWG 3.2.

We look forward to actively engaging in the work aiming at fruitful and productive outcomes of the discussions this week. We are committed to working closely with all participants in this meeting to fulfil the mandate of the OEWG and lay the groundwork for establishing the SPP at the upcoming intergovernmental meeting here in Punta del Este.

Thank you.

4. Opening of agenda item 4 on the Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel.

Some general statements by regional and political groups might be allowed at the start of agenda item 4, to exchange general views and overarching perspectives on the preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel.

Madame Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the possibility of sharing our general position on some issues on the establishment of the science-policy panel

We recognize the fundamental aim of this meeting to fulfil the mandate of the OEWG and prepare the recommendations for the Intergovernmental meeting to establish the Science-Policy Panel. Thus, we stand ready to engage in effective and constructive cooperation to reach this goal.

The European Union and its Member States support the agreed scope of the future panel, which encompasses all aspects of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention. We support the already agreed-upon functions, including a compromised text of capacity building.

Regarding operating principles, we believe they should be concise, simple, and clear and should stand on their own to guide the panel's work.

Regarding the institutional arrangements, we emphasize the importance of clearly defining the mandates for the Bureau, the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee, the Secretariat, and the governing body.

Furthermore, the panel's work should be scientifically independent and policy relevant without being policy prescriptive as this is crucial for the panel's credibility.

Certain aspects of the institutional arrangements should be considered alongside the Rules of Procedure proposed by the Secretariat.

The European Union expresses its interest in joining the future Panel and commits to supporting its work through its scientific programs and resources. We believe that membership in the Panel should be available to Regional Economic Integration Organizations.

We attach great importance to the involvement of all relevant stakeholders to contribute to the work of the panel so that the best available expertise and knowledge is available, which will ensure the panel's transparency and enhance the relevance and impact of its products. Thank you.

5. Opening of agenda item 5 on the Recommendations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel.

Some general statements by regional and political groups might be allowed at the start of agenda item 5, to exchange general views and overarching perspectives on the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting.

Madame Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The European Union and its Member States are convinced that reaching a consensus on the arrangements essential for establishing a science-policy panel that encompasses all aspects of chemicals, waste, and pollution during this session is crucial.

Therefore, we are committed to finalize, during this OEWG session, the foundational document and the decisions needed for the Intergovernmental meeting with the ambition set in Resolution 5/8. We also seek to make decisive progress on the draft Rules of Procedure annexed to the Recommendations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel.

The European Union and its Member States support the convening of the first session of the governing body at the earliest feasible opportunity, and in any event no later than one year from the date of the Panel's establishment.

Regarding the name of the Panel, the European Union and its Member States appreciate the suggestions that were made. We believe that a recognizable name will help with the awareness and uptake of the outcomes of the panel.

We are committed to working closely with all the participants of this OEWG to prepare the ground for the successful establishment of the panel at the Intergovernmental meeting.

Thank you.
