**UNEP**/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/CRP.1/Rev.1

18 June 2024

Original: English

**United Nations Environment Programme**

**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**
**Third session**
Geneva, 17–21 June 2024
Agenda item 5

**Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel**

# Potential considerations for the provision of secretariat services for the science-policy panel involving the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization

## Submission by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization

The annex to the present submission contains potential considerations and a model for the provision of secretariat services for the science-policy panel being developed by the ad hoc open-ended working group to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. The considerations have been put forward jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization. The annex has not been formally edited.

ADVANCE

# Annex*

## Potential considerations for the provision of secretariat services for the science-policy panel involving the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization

1. The potential considerations for the provision of secretariat services for the panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (hereafter "the panel") are proposed on the basis of the relevance of the panel to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as the benefits that both organizations can bring in terms of existing infrastructure and technical expertise. The panel can benefit from effective collaborative working arrangements that avoid duplication of effort and maintain established quality assurance standards. Most importantly, a collaborative approach brings combined health and environment policy relevance and coherence to the deliberations and outputs of the panel.

2. Fundamentally, the deliverables of the panel must be evidence-based. The panel must ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy through its work and through transparency in decision-making processes.

3. The secretariat of the panel would provide administrative, financial and technical services to the panel, including as may be decided by the governing body of the panel, undertaking technical support functions in line with the panel's work programme and in accordance with its rules of procedure.

4. Considerations for the provision of the secretariat services are that:

(a) Panel deliverables are evidence-based, with a strong focus on health and the environment;

(b) The independence of the panel is ensured;

(c) Secretariat services are in conformity with the functions outlined in the foundational document, once the latter has been finalized, and with any other functions, as appropriate, and as requested and decided on by the governing body of the panel;

(d) All recruitments for personnel are done in close cooperation between UNEP and WHO, and following UN or WHO regulations as applicable; following are proposed:

(e) Quality assurance and quality control do not conflict with UNEP or WHO standards or processes;

(f) UNEP will continue to receive financial contributions provided for the operations and work of the panel until the latter's trust fund has been established.

5. In the light of the above the following are proposed:

(a) The potential model under consideration will take the form of joint provision of services by UNEP and WHO, with individual services contributed in accordance with the established mandates of the two organizations;

(b) The potential model for the provision of secretariat services will leverage existing networks of UNEP and WHO and support the dissemination of information about the panel to these networks;

(c) A proposal on the matter will be finalized by the time of the intergovernmental meeting;

(d) UNEP will continue to provide interim secretariat services until arrangements for the provision of secretariat services are decided on by the panel;

(e) The trust fund will be administered by the Executive Director of UNEP in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. All expenses of the panel, including the secretariat, will be charged to contributions made to the trust fund.

* The annex has not been formally edited.

ADVANCE