Proposal of the input of the EU+MS regarding the documents OEWG.3/6/7/8

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the work done to summarise progress made during previous sessions of the Open-ended Working Group and for the preparation of the pre-session documents.
The main objective of the EU and its Member States for the Open-Ended Working Group 3.2 (OEWG3.2) is to successfully finalize the proposed decision to establish the panel and the annexed Foundational Document[1] to enable the Intergovernmental Meeting to reach a broadly supported agreement on the **establishment of a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.** We think we have a very good basis for reaching these goals with the mandate given by the UNEA resolution 5/8. This meeting should be guided by enabling the scientific independence and effective work of the future panel, learning from the principles and rules of established, well-functioning similar bodies, such as IPBES and IPCC.

In the EU and its Member States' opinion:

- As agreed in the Open-Ended Working Group 3.1 we should focus on the agreement of the elements that are necessary for establishment of the panel, which should be outlined in the Foundational Document. This includes notably the following elements listed in the UNEA resolution 5/8: the institutional design and governance of the panel, the name and scope of the panel, the principal functions of the panel, its operating principles, and financial arrangements.
- The finalisation of the draft Foundational Document, which encompasses institutional design and governance of the panel, including the Plenary/Governing Body, the Bureau, the Secretariat, Interdisciplinary Expert Committee, and other Subsidiary Bodies, and the remaining elements listed in the UNEA 5/8 resolution to facilitate its adoption by the Intergovernmental Meeting. Additionally, decisive progress should be made on the draft rules of procedure for the Plenary/Governing Body of the panel, with a view to transmitting them for consideration and potential adoption at the panel's first meeting. In our view, such an approach is crucial to ensure that the panel will start its work quickly and efficiently, thus, finalising these elements should be the primary objective of the OEWG3.2. Therefore, discussions on these documents ought to be meticulously planned to ensure that challenging topics are resolved promptly, facilitating agreement on other aspects of the documents. Moreover, they should be continuously directed by the ambition for establishing a scientifically independent panel capable of delivering policy-relevant scientific outputs without being policy-prescriptive.
- In the opinion of the EU and its Member States, the draft rules of procedure should reflect and specify provisions included in the draft Institutional Arrangements, therefore we support

[1] UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6 Foundational document and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel (link)

proposed clustering of topics to facilitate effective discussions.

- The EU and its Member States support the decision to forward the draft policies and/or guidelines, including a draft conflict-of-interest policy, for further consideration by the Plenary/Governing Body of the panel. The EU and its Member States recognise the necessity of providing arrangements for an interim period to facilitate the operation of the science-policy panel once established, notably in preparation for the first session. We support that the Intergovernmental Meeting should consider the proposal for the establishment of the interim secretariat of the panel, which could be hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme[2] (UNEP) during the interim period. Nevertheless, we believe that the Secretariat of the future panel should be hosted in cooperation with other relevant international organizations since their involvement would be beneficial to the functioning of the panel.
- We are in favour of convening the first meeting of the Plenary/Governing Body of the panel as soon as possible after its establishment, to start the work of the panel.

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[2] **UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/8 -** Scenario note for the resumed third 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 (link)