

**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

Nairobi, 11–15 December 2023

Agenda item 4

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

Operating principles of the panel

Submission by contact group 1

The annex to the present submission sets out the outcome of the discussions on operating principles of the panel.

Annex

B. Operating principles of the panel

1. In carrying out its work, the science-policy Panel shall be guided by the following operating principles:

- (a) Scientific independence and ensuring [consensus,] [ethics,] credibility, relevance and legitimacy including through peer review of its work, transparency [and accountability] [in its decision-making processes](del), and addressing potential conflicts of interest;
- (b) Producing deliverables that are credible[, ethical] and [scientifically](del) [sound][robust](del) [assessment process] [, as well as ensuring they are accessible by member states and relevant stakeholders] [and prevention focused];
- (c) Interdisciplinarity, ensuring contributions from experts with a broad range of disciplinary [and sectoral expertise](del) [that adhere to ethical standards];
- (d) Inclusivity of participation and forms of knowledge shared [from all relevant sources], including by Indigenous Peoples [and local communities, where appropriate] [indigenous and traditional knowledge, and [local knowledge](del)](del);
- (e) Having [sectorial,] geographical, regional, [and](del) [language and] gender balance;
- (f) Delivering outputs that are [prevention focused and] policy relevant without being policy prescriptive [for both the international, [regional] and national levels] [while respecting the mandates of relevant multilateral agreements and other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies], avoiding overlap and duplication of work [with other existing and future processes at the science-policy interface], and promoting coordination and cooperation;
- (g) [Flexibility, so as to be responsive to member states' needs, in particular needs of developing countries, [while still preserving the scientific and policy bases upon which it operates;]](del)
- (h) [Incorporating the precautionary approach, as stated in Principle 15 of the 1992 Rio Declaration;](del)
- (i)¹ [Incorporating [a human rights-based approach],[the respect and protection of human rights as a cross-cutting principle,] including [prevention-based approach] by recognizing [that the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevention of pollution contributes to the full enjoyment of human rights and human well-being and dignity.] [the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, the right to science, [intergenerational equity,] the importance of informed participation, and](del) the need to give special attention to [those populations](del) [groups and communities] most vulnerable to adverse impacts from chemicals, waste and pollution[, including from the perspective of racial and social equality];](del)
 - [(i) alt Incorporating the need to give special attention to those populations most vulnerable to adverse impacts from chemicals, waste and pollution.]
 - [(i) bis Incorporating a human rights-based approach, including by recognizing that the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevention of pollution contributes to the full enjoyment of human rights and human well-being and dignity.]
 - [(i) ter Incorporating [a human rights-based approach](del), [the respect and protection of human rights as a cross-cutting principle] including by recognizing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, the right to science, [intergenerational equity] the importance of informed participation, and the need to give special attention to [those populations](del) [groups and communities] most vulnerable to adverse impacts from chemicals, waste and pollution [including from the perspective of racial and social equality];]
- (j) [Addressing [the prevention of](del) all forms of [existing and legacy](del) pollution[, including pollution](del) related to chemicals and waste and pollution released into the air, water [(including oceans)](del) and soil.](del)

¹ This paragraph represents the text as negotiated in the room. Due to the divergent views and in order to more clearly identify the proposals on the table, the Co-Facilitators have provided three alternative paragraphs for consideration.

- (1) Recognizing [the relevant socioeconomic contributions and] technical knowledge of workers, including informal workers, involved in the management of chemicals and waste, and promoting a safe and healthy work environment.
- (2) [Integrating capacity-building [and prevention focused principle] into all relevant aspects of its work.](del)
- (3) [Deliverables that are ethical, and [ensuring that] experts [that](del) adhere to [the Conflict of Interest policy including] ethical standards.](del)
- (4) Recognizing the unique scientific knowledge within and among regions and ensuring the [full](del) use of national, sub-regional and regional assessments and knowledge, as appropriate[, including a bottom-up approach](del).
- (5) Integrating gender equality [and equity](del) in all relevant aspects of its work;

ADVANCE