

Operating Principles Governing the Work of the Panel

Request for Written Submissions from Member States and Relevant Stakeholders

Member states, during the resumed first session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG1.2), requested the Secretariat of the OEWG to solicit written submissions from Member States and relevant stakeholders regarding the operating principles governing the work of the panel.

In support of this request, the Secretariat conducted a webinar (on 26 April 2023) dedicated to the issue of operating principles. In advance of the webinar, the Secretariat released a background document which provides a comparative overview of operating principles of relevant, existing science-policy panels (IPCC, IPBES, IRP and GEO). The recording of the webinar can be found on [this website](#), when available, and the background document is available at [this link](#).

A variety of potential operating principles are presented below, based on the analysis performed for this [background document](#). The following questions in no way attempt to rank or preclude consideration of the operating principles of the future SPP, rather, they draw from the agreed text of Resolution 5/8 and other existing, relevant science-policy bodies, as well as the discussions at the OEWG. You may also suggest relevant potential operating principles that have not been identified yet.

Member States are invited to provide submissions through their respective national focal points (list of focal points available [at this link](#)). Non-government stakeholders are invited to submit their submissions on behalf of their organization or group. You are invited to respond to all or some of the questions below. Once complete, please submit this filled document to SPP-CWP@un.org. All submissions will be uploaded online and will inform a working document to be considered at OEWG 2.

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Who are you submitting on behalf of?

International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN

The following elements are included in Resolution 5/8. Please indicate by clicking on the box(es) where you believe these elements should be included (i.e., operating principles, rules of procedure, guidelines, or other relevant documents, or if they are not relevant). Some key terms have been grouped together for the purpose of this tabular analysis, there is inevitably some overlap across principles.

	Operating Principle	Rules of Procedure	Guidelines	Other	Not relevant
CREDIBILITY					
Robustness/Rigour	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Integrity/Objectivity / Independence/Impartiality/ Lack of Bias (avoiding conflicts of interest)	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐
Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary / Balance of disciplines	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐
RELEVANCE/SALIENCE					
Policy-relevant (and not policy prescriptive)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
LEGITIMACY					
Inclusivity/Balance	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
-- indigenous inclusivity	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
-- geographic balance	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
-- regional balance	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
-- gender balance	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
-- balance of disciplines (see also Credibility/Interdisciplinary...)	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES					
Transparency	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐
Flexibility	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Coordination (without duplication) / Complementarity	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Cost-Effectiveness	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

Click or tap here to enter text.

The following table includes other elements that may be considered. Please indicate by clicking on the box(es) where you believe these elements should be included (i.e., operating principles, rules of procedure, guidelines, or other relevant documents, or if they are not relevant). It is also possible to add additional potential operating principles to be considered.

OTHER	Operating Principle	Rules of Procedure	Guidelines	Other	Not relevant
Promotion of innovation	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Consensus based approach	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Providing accessible outputs	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Others [please add]	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Please provide your written submission in the space below:

In addition to the choices selected above, IUCN would like to highlight the importance of including biodiversity preservation and conservation as critical principles for the creation and functioning of the Panel. This is essential for allowing the development of scientific knowledge that benefits all forms of ecosystems – from seas to mountains to rainforests and beyond – and that ensures the balance of these ecosystems to preserve human health as well. In view of this, it is essential that the future Panel be designed to be consistent with pollution related **biodiversity and nature conservation** and ecosystems impacts, including mandates and targets out of the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ), the Global Biodiversity Framework, especially Target 7, the cross-cutting concept of just transitions, and the emerging emphasis on biodiversity and ecosystem health in the Plastics Treaty negotiations.

IUCN wishes to emphasize the potential role of the principles of precaution and prevention as guiding principles for the Panel's work and to provide a broad and inclusive scope to the mandate. At the same time, intergenerational and intragenerational equity inclusion in the principles governing the work of the Panel would provide a basis to ensure that it has the mandate to examine the short and long-term impacts of the management of chemicals and waste and the prevention of pollution in a holistic manner. This would provide a place for standard knowledge as well as knowledge from Indigenous and traditional communities and vulnerable communities such as women, children and those in poverty, who are often exposed to the direct impacts of wastes, chemicals and pollution. Additionally, mainstreaming the concept of a just transition as a principle for the sound management of chemicals, wastes and pollution offers a critical space within which to ensure that the Panel's expertise is used in a way that generates vital

scientific information that is used to build up the strength and resilience of communities rather than to cast some into poverty and reduced opportunities.

In terms of the scope and functions of the future panel, definitions, it is imperative that the Panel be designed to combines human rights laws and norms, environmental laws and principles, namely biodiversity and ecosystems related systems, and also the nexus between trade rules within the WTO and sustainable development to enhance science-based approach to circular economy in process and production methods at local, regional, and global levels (SDG 12). **These definitions should be designed to ensure coherence with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention, and SAICM, as well as with environmental, trade and human rights treaties.**

The Panel must **build capacity** for governments and civil society in the pollution context. This should include in the implementation pollution concerns to biodiversity/ecosystem related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), support the move from linear to circular economic systems, and be socially inclusive and gender responsive (such as **projects, national action plans**). **Strengthening governance** capacities at **local level** must be an element of the Panel's work as well since much of the control and monitoring of chemicals, waste and pollution pertains to local authorities. Municipalities in particular issue permits and licences that allow activities and processes resulting in pollution. The same goes for waste management, this is in most cases the competence of local authorities. These governance entities should be included in the Panel's work and the Panel should serve as a bridge to assist them in exchanging knowledge and best practices in the field of pollution and associated impacts.

Additionally, IUCN views the place of the Panel as a fundamental actor to fill the gap between the need for knowledge and existing treaties, such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, as well as the current work toward an international treaty on plastic pollution. Information on chemicals, wastes and pollution similar to that generated by IPBES and the IPCC will allow each treaty implementation body to function with an impartial background on science that is necessary to ensure that the interests of people and the planet are understood and that legal and regulatory policies can be made based on this knowledge.

The Panel should aim at coherence of the future Panel with **IPCC** and **IPBES**, and also with its engagement within **International Resource Panel (IRP)**, in order to strengthen the relevance and accuracy of the products and outcomes of these science-policy interfaces. As the third aspect of the triple planetary crisis, the topic of pollution is interwoven with climate change and biodiversity loss, deserving of Panel governed by a robust set of principles to generate the best information possible for humanity.

In this context, IUCN stands ready to provide scientific data and standards, indigenous and local knowledge, environmental law, geographical diversity, and best practices and experience sharing for the development and implementation of the Panel. IUCN can further provide legal, technical and economic expertise related to **impact of chemicals, waste, pollution on biodiversity and ecosystem health**, by relying on **harmonised methodologies** to identify, measure and address sources of freshwater, marine and terrestrial pollution and chemicals, waste, plastic and other materials leakage along whole value chains and across sectors. Examples of IUCN's expertise in these areas include the [*IUCN Red List of Threatened SpeciesTM*](#), [*Red List of Ecosystems*](#), [*World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas*](#), and [*Protected Planet - the World Database on Protected Areas*](#) and [*the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions*](#) amongst others. IUCN has also developed tools to identify investments, alternative technologies and circular business along indicators (i.e. *IUCN Nature-Positive Approach*). Finally, IUCN is ready to assist **the future Panel through expertise in implementation, national action plans, and capacity building**. This includes supporting authorities and business to achieve the objective in a scientifically robust manner through translating data, knowledge and standards, into practical action plans for transformation (e.g. using tools such as the [*Species Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) metric*](#) and [*economic models that demonstrate effective solutions*](#)).