



**UNITED
NATIONS**

UNEP/EA.7/6



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General

6 August 2025

Original: English

**UNEDITED
ADVANCE
VERSION**

**United Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment Programme
Seventh session**

Nairobi, 8–12 December 2025

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

International environmental policy and governance issues

Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

Report of the Executive Director

I Introduction

1. At its resumed fifth session, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), through the adoption of its resolution 5/8 on a Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution. It further decided to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc open-ended working group that would begin work in 2022, with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024, and that the ad hoc open-ended working group would prepare proposals for the science-policy panel to consider a variety of issues as set out in the resolution.

2. In paragraph 8 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP to cooperate closely with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations and bodies, as appropriate. In paragraph 9, it requested the Executive Director of UNEP to convene meetings of the ad hoc open-ended working group and invite the World Health Organization to play a role, as appropriate. In paragraph 10, it requested the Executive Director of UNEP, upon completion of proposals prepared by the ad hoc open-ended working group, to convene an intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel.

3. In paragraph 11 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP, to report on the outcomes of the ad hoc open-ended working group to the United Nations Environment Assembly and to relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and

intergovernmental bodies. Further in paragraph 13 it requested the Executive Director of UNEP, to provide a secretariat for the ad hoc open-ended working group and prepare the analytical and summary reports necessary for its work.

4. In accordance with the request in paragraph 11 of the resolution, the present report provides an update on the progress in the implementation of the resolution, highlighting activities culminating in establishment of the new Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution.

II. Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/8

A. Convening an ad hoc open-ended working group.

5. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 5/8, the Executive Director convened an ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare proposals for the establishment of the science-policy panel. In accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution 5/8, the Executive Director established a dedicated secretariat to support the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group.

6. The secretariat prepared over 70 meeting documents to support the negotiations, including analytical and background summary documents, working and information documents, and session reports. All working and post-session documents were made available in the six languages of the United Nations. The secretariat also supported the processing of in-session documents during the meetings.

7. The OEWG convened over three sessions. The first session was held as a two-part meeting. The first part of the first session (OEWG 1.1) was held on 6 October 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, in a hybrid format. The resumed first session (OEWG 1.2) was held from 30 January-3 February 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The second session (OEWG 2) took place from 11-15 December 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, preceded by informal, regional and stakeholder consultations from 9-10 December 2023. The third session was held in two parts. The first part of the third session (OEWG 3.1) took place from 17-21 June 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland, preceded by informal, regional and stakeholder consultations on 16 June 2024. The resumed third session (OEWG 3.2) took place from 15-18 June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay, preceded by regional, informal and stakeholder meetings on 14 June 2025.

8. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 5/8, the Chair of the ad hoc open-ended working group invited a representative from the World Health Organization (WHO) to participate in meetings of the Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended working group as an observer. WHO also contributed to stakeholder engagement activities in preparation for sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group. The Executive Director also consulted with WHO in the preparation of meeting documents for the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group, and together with the secretariat, provided an information document (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/5) on possible modalities of cooperation and complementarities between the panel and WHO.

B. Convening the intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 5/8, the Executive Director, upon completion of proposals by the ad hoc open-ended working group, convened an Intergovernmental Meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel. This meeting was held back-to-back with the resumed third session of the ad hoc open ended working group.

10. On 20 June 2025, the Intergovernmental Meeting adopted the following three decisions, notably establishing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution:

a) **Decision** on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution¹. In paragraph 1 of that decision, the Intergovernmental Meeting established the panel, as specified in the foundational document annexed to the decision, setting out the scope, objective, and functions, operating principles and approaches, institutional arrangements, and evaluation of the panel. In paragraph 2 of that decision, it confirmed that the panel is an independent intergovernmental body

¹ [Link to be inserted](#)

with a programme of work approved by its Plenary to deliver policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive. In paragraph 3 of that decision, it requested the Executive Director to report on the outcomes of the intergovernmental meeting to the Environment Assembly, relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments, and intergovernmental bodies.

b) **Decision on recommendations for consideration by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution at its first session**². In paragraph 2 of that decision, the Intergovernmental Meeting recommended to the Plenary the draft rules of procedure, as presented in Annex I, for consideration and possible adoption, at its first session. In paragraph 3 of that decision, the Intergovernmental Meeting transmitted to the Plenary the additional documents in Annexes II – IV for further consideration at its first session. Annexes II – IV set out the process for determining the work programme, the procedure for the preparation and clearance of panel deliverables and the conflict-of-interest policy; and

c) **Decision on arrangements for the interim period**.³ In paragraph 1 of that decision, the Intergovernmental Meeting requested the Executive Director of UNEP to provide the interim secretariat supporting the operation of the Panel. In paragraph 3, it requested the Executive Director of UNEP, subject to availability of resources, to convene the first session of the Plenary, at the earliest practicable date, and preferably no later than one year from the date of the establishment of the Panel, at a date and venue to be determined by the Executive Director, in consultation with member states. In paragraph 4, it requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with member states, to prepare relevant documentation for consideration at the first session of the Plenary. In paragraph 2, it also invited Governments and others in a position to do so to provide voluntary financial contributions to UNEP to support the interim arrangements, and requested UNEP to continue receiving financial contributions that are provided for the operation of the Panel until a trust fund for the Panel is established.

C. Cooperating closely with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations and bodies, as appropriate.

11. In line with paragraph 8 of resolution 5/8, the Executive Director engaged closely with the secretariats of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the International Resource Panel, including experts from these secretariats, in support of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group.

12. UNEP regularly consulted the relevant multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations and bodies, which contributed to the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group by participating in webinars, providing relevant experiences from existing science-policy bodies, and reviewing meeting and background documentation for accuracy and coherence with existing mechanisms. The secretariat also participated in meetings of the Ad Hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD) coordinated by the UNEP Global Environment Outlook team.

D. Regional meetings, communication and advocacy

13. UNEP held in-person and online **regional meetings** in advance of the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group to facilitate discussion amongst regional focal points and stakeholders, and to support preparations for the sessions by providing overviews of official meeting documentation and provide the opportunity or regional consultations.

14. The secretariat organized a **webinar series** to inform governments, stakeholders, scientists and civil society on the OEWG process and the steps taken toward the establishment of the panel. The series include 22 events conducted in collaboration with the Geneva Environment Network (GEN). In addition, the secretariat organized a dedicated briefing to focal points on scenario notes and in person events, including at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

² Link to be inserted

³ Link to be inserted

III. Lessons learned

15. The following lessons learned were identified during the implementation of resolution 5/8:

- a) Early and sustained engagement with governments and stakeholders was instrumental in supporting informed and inclusive negotiations, particularly in the lead up to the sessions.
- b) Adequate and timely extrabudgetary funding is essential to the successful delivery of intergovernmental processes mandated by the Environment Assembly, including the production and translation of documents, regional consultations and inclusive participation of governments and stakeholders.
- c) Structured informal consultations and regionally driven discussions were critical for advancing alignment on key elements of the panel.

IV. Recommendations and suggested actions

16. In relation to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, the Environment Assembly may wish to:

- a) Welcome the outcomes of the ad hoc open-ended working group and the Intergovernmental Meeting, notably the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution;
- b) Encourage States Members of the United Nations and United Nations non-member observer States not already members of the Plenary to express to the Executive Director their interest to become a member;
- c) Invite Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme to support the interim arrangements, and requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue receiving financial contributions that are provided for the operation of the Panel until a trust fund for the Panel is established.
- d) Invite the governing bodies of relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies to consider the decision establishing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, as appropriate.