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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
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

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

Draft financial procedures

Note by the secretariat

The ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) at its second session requested the secretariat to prepare an information document to facilitate the understanding of the working document requested on financial arrangements. The annex to the present note contains information relevant to the working document on draft financial procedures (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.2). The ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel may wish to consider the information provided.

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

Annex

I. Introduction

1. This document provides additional background information on financial arrangements for a science-policy panel complementing the financial procedures set out in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.2 and is based on the financial arrangements set out in section C “Institutional arrangements for the Panel” of document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2.

2. The financial arrangements provide the parameters of defining the budget construction, namely resourcing of the panel and expenditures of the panel. On the income side, the document presents three possible options to generate cash income to the panel budget. On the expenditure side, the document presents the option of eligibility of funding support for participation in the meetings of the governing body and subsidiary bodies.

3. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider providing a recommendation to members of the panel on the approach to secure funding for the panel’s work programme.

II. Resourcing the panel

4. The types of resources for the panel are elaborated in documents UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2 and UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2/Add.2 (cash and in-kind contributions). Cash income is an essential part of the panel’s capacity to deliver its work programme.

5. The cash income of the panel budget can be approached in three different ways: a prorated voluntary scale of assessment, voluntary contributions, or a combination of the two.

6. A voluntary scale of assessment approach, prorated to the members of the panel’s governing body, would provide clear financial visibility of the panel resources while keeping the ownership and responsibility with the members of the panel.

7. A voluntary contributions approach would allow members and observers of the panel to make contributions to the panel budget. This approach would however reduce the predictability of the panel funding streams. In addition, any contribution would have to incorporate a 30/70 split, whereby 30 per cent is for the secretariat, governance and institutional arrangements, and 70 per cent for panel deliverables as per the approved work programme.

8. Another option is the adoption of a mix of the two approaches, whereby a core budget for the secretariat and meetings costs of sessions of the governing body and subsidiary bodies is attributed to members of the panel through a prorated voluntary scale of assessment, and other budgetary costs left for direct contributions without the 30/70 rule mentioned in paragraph 7 above.

9. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) could be requested to provide financing for the work of the science-policy panel. The panel itself however would not be eligible to receive direct contributions from the GEF and rather receive contributions through an implementing agency of the GEF, in which case the identified contributor to the panel budget is the GEF implementing agency. For example, if the panel receives a contribution to execute a global project through UNEP from the GEF chemicals and waste focal area, another related focal area or an integrated programme, the contribution will be identified as a UNEP contribution to the panel.

III. Expenditures of the Panel

10. The expenditures of the panel include the cost of the sessions of the governing body and subsidiary bodies of the panel, cost of activities to develop and deliver the work programme (such as partnership contracts, consultancies and honoraria), the secretariat (staff, operational costs, travel and non-staff costs), and indirect programme support cost.

11. The cost of meetings of the governing body and subsidiary bodies will be determined by the number of participants and those eligible for funding. It is proposed to align the panel’s practice to the approach adopted by the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions through decision 28 of the tenth meeting of the conference of Parties (UNEP-BRS-BC-10/28) and its annex to facilitate the participation of members of the panel in the meetings of the governing body of the panel.

12. The procedure for facilitating the participation of eligible delegates in meetings of the panel should aim at the full and active participation of developing country representatives, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, in the activities of the panel to improve inclusivity and legitimacy of the panel’s decisions and

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deliverables, and encourage the uptake of the panel's findings at local, national, regional and global levels. The procedure should aim at ensuring adequate representation of all eligible members of the panel. It should continue to be guided by established United Nations practice.

13. The secretariat should notify members of the panel as soon as possible, and preferably six months in advance, of the dates and venues of meetings of the governing body.

14. Following the dispatch of a notification that a meeting will take place, eligible members of the panel should be invited to inform the secretariat, through official channels of communication, as soon as possible and no later than three months before the meeting, whether funding is requested.

15. Based on the availability of financial resources and the number of requests received, the secretariat shall prepare a list of sponsored delegates. The list shall be established in accordance with paragraphs 12 above with a view to ensuring adequate geographical representation of eligible regions, with priority given to least developed countries and small island developing States.

16. The secretariat will, four weeks in advance of the meeting, notify eligible members of the panel that will not be sponsored, inviting them to seek alternative sources of funding.

17. Paragraphs 11 to 16 above only apply to participation in the panel's institutional arrangements and governance processes, not to the participation of experts for the implementation of the panel's work programme. Funding for participation of experts in the delivery of the panel's work programme will be discussed in the context of developing the costed work programme.

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