

Contact Group 1 6:30PM-9:30PM 12/12/23

Update from the co-facilitator to the Chair

The Contact Group met on Tuesday over three sessions to consider operating principles as well as the conflict-of-interest policy presented in UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/10/Add.1.

With regards to the operating principles, the group further considered the missing elements from Monday evening, which were presented in five clusters of related elements – an exercise undertaken by the secretariat upon the request by the co-facilitators. The atmosphere of the room was positive and constructive and despite the difficult discussion, delegates and stakeholders agreed to streamline some of the proposed elements. The updated list was uploaded to the website in the clusters as presented during the session. Additionally, sharing of best practices was identified as something that may be discussed during future discussions of the open-ended working group. The contact group will return to the updated list of elements at its next session dedicated to operating principles.

Regarding the consideration of how to address conflicts of interest, the group continued a first reading of the conflicts of interest document. Delegates and stakeholders provided further views on the topic, and proposed amendments to INF/10/Add.1 on sections B, C, and its Annex A. Agreement was also reached in the room that it would be useful to separate declarations of financial and non-financial conflicts of interest, and the Secretariat was requested to provide such proposals. The resulting document from the session was uploaded to the OEWG 2 website.

Contact group 1 will therefore request additional time to further discuss the operating principles and conflict of interest, and to start the discussions on capacity building.

Lastly, my Co-Chair and I would like express our gratitude to the colleagues and their constructive intervention. We are confident that this will be continued when the Group reconvenes. We are in your hands, Chair as to when that might be.

Thank you madam chair.