3.2 OEWG Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution Prevention

Accredited Scientific and Technological Community Major Group Stakeholder Statement

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)

Background

SETAC is a professional scientific society and is a UNEP accredited Scientific and Technological Community Major Group stakeholder. SETAC is very concerned with the global threat that poorly managed chemicals and waste pose to human and environmental health. We firmly believe that our mission to advance environmental science and management and our principles of multidisciplinary approaches, sectoral balance, and science-based objectivity, as well as our global network of environmental experts, make SETAC especially suited to partner in any endeavor when the shared goals are to better understand and improve our environment.

As such, SETAC was delighted with the adoption of resolution 5/8 at UNEA 5.2. Following that decision, SETAC established an advisory panel on chemicals management (SETAC CheM Panel) to coordinate SETAC's contributions to the policy dialogue at UNEP and the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) for the establishment of a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (SPP CWP). The members of the SETAC CheM Panel are appointed by the SETAC World Council, guided by the SETAC principles, to ensure geographic and sectoral balance, interdisciplinarity, and focus on science-based objectivity. As such, the SETAC CheM Panel includes members from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and North America, across Academia, Business, Government, and NGO sectors. The panel is composed of Michelle C. Bloor (Chair, University of Glasgow, U.K.), Stijn Baken (VITO, Belgium), Adriana Bejarano (University of Glasgow, based in North America), Tarryn L. Botha (University of Johannesburg, South Africa), Michelle Embry (Health and Environmental Science Institute (HESI), North America), Darren Koppel (Australian Institute of Marine Sciences (AIMS), Australia), Todd Gouin (TG Environmental Research, U.K.), Lorraine Maltby (University of Sheffield, U.K.), Amanda Reichelt-Brushett (Southern Cross University, Australia), Helena Silva de Assis (Federal University of Paraná, Brazil).

The Institutional Arrangements of the Governing Body and Plenary

SETAC acknowledges and respects the decision-making powers of governments and Member States and their role in determining the SPP CWP procedures, the program of work, and the configuration of the Governing Body and Plenary. In all aspects of the SPP CWP when it is established, SETAC would urge for the continued involvement of civil society representatives, non-government scientists and other relevant actors. Including these groups as observers in the Governing Body and Plenary would be an inclusive approach and would ensure that the widest possible range of perspectives and independent robust evidence are available for governments in their decision-making processes.

Composition of the Interdisciplinary Expert Group

While SETAC appreciates that the Interdisciplinary Expert Group needs to be agile, which is sometimes more easily achieved with smaller groups, and acknowledges that the expertise required will rotate depending on the questions under investigation and the expertise needed for that particular focus, we encourage the inclusion of 'Honest Brokers' (Pielke, 2007). These individuals can facilitate the transfer of expertise and knowledge from civil society representatives, non-government scientists and other relevant actors into the Interdisciplinary Expert Group. This would be a streamlined approach, which would not significantly impact the structure and operation of the Interdisciplinary Expert Group, but it would create a transparent mechanism for expertise and knowledge transfer in a manner that has been effective in many other settings.

Reference

Roger Pielke Jr. (2007). The Honest Broker *Making Sense of Science in Policy and Politics*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 169 -182. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511818110.012.