

Written statement from the Royal Society of Chemistry on the topic of a 'Conflicts of Interest' policy for the SPP

This statement is prepared by Camilla Alexander-White (Lead Policy Adviser, RSC) on behalf of the Royal Society of Chemistry, a UNEP accredited stakeholder in the Science & Technology Major Group.

The Royal Society of Chemistry have prepared a pre-session written submission on the topic of conflicts of interest (COI) in advance of the meeting, which can be found on the OEWG2 website under pre-meeting stakeholder submissions.

In addition, after having received the INF10/Add 1 document on a proposed Conflict of Interest Policy and Disclosure Form, the RSC would like to highlight some key points.

- All scientific experts contributing to the SPP will have interests to declare. Not all interests declared present a '*conflict of interest*' and it will be important to have a 'Conflicts of Interest Committee' and an audit process to assure COI are being managed appropriately for the SPP and its work.
- All procedures in relation to managing COI on the SPP should be fully transparent. All those involved in the SPP should declare all relevant interests, both financial and non-financial annually as standard but also specifically at the beginning of every meeting or task in which they are involved and an interest is particularly relevant. Interests can change in the short term and every meeting or working group activity should call for declarations of interest per task. SPP members and experts should also declare interests of close family members or business partners, if relevant to the work in hand.
- For the purposes of nominating individuals who could contribute to the SPP in the future, the RSC believes that governments, UNEP accredited major group stakeholder organisations, observer organisations and expert institutions are all in a good position to connect to knowledgeable and experienced scientists, nationally and regionally and therefore all of these should be able to make nominations into the selection of experts for the SPP.
- At the time of nomination, scientific experts involved in the panel and its work programme should submit declarations of interest. Scientific experts should be involved on the basis of their individual experience and expertise as evidenced by their *curriculum vitae* and not come to the SPP representing a government, political, organisational, institutional, trade body or company line. All scientific experts from all sectors with relevant knowledge to contribute should be welcomed and complete the COI process.
- The RSC advocates that the INF10/Add 1 document Annex B - the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form – contains an effective and clear policy and procedure. One suggestion as a potential presentational modification to aid clarity would be to separate out the section 1-8 in the document into two sections: A) relating to 'Financial/commercial' interests and B) relating to non-financial interests, the latter of which is also important and can present conflicts in some circumstances.

Thank You