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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

International cooperation and coordination

**Update on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on
Chemicals, Waste and Pollution****

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out a report on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP). The document was submitted by the interim secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution. It is presented as received, without formal editing.

* UNEP/MC/COP.6/1/Rev.1.

** This document has not been formally edited.

Annex

Update on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP)

I. Background

1. In its resolution [5/8](#), the United Nations Environment Assembly decided to establish a science-policy panel (SPP) to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution.
2. Pursuant to the resolution, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) convened an ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare proposals for the panel and established a secretariat to support the process. The OEWG included governments and regional economic integration organizations, and was open to observers from United Nations entities, relevant multilateral agreements (including the Minamata Convention), other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, and stakeholder representatives. The OEWG commenced its work in 2022.
3. The OEWG held three sessions, with the Minamata Convention secretariat participating as an observer: on 6 October 2022 in Nairobi in a hybrid format for the first part of the first session ([OEWG 1.1](#)), from 30 January to 3 February 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand for the second part of the first session ([OEWG 1.2](#)), from 11 to 15 December 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya for the second session ([OEWG 2](#)), from 17 to 21 June 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland for the first part of the third session ([OEWG 3.1](#)), and from 15 to 19 June 2025 in Punta del Este for the second part of the third session ([OEWG 3.2](#)).
4. To prepare governments and stakeholders for the OEWG meetings, the SPP OEWG secretariat organized a broad range of stakeholder engagement activities, including [regional consultations](#), [webinars](#), [side events on the margins of relevant international meetings](#), and [calls for written submissions](#), some in collaboration with the Minamata Convention secretariat.
5. At the OEWG 3.2, governments finalized the proposals to establish the panel, notably the “foundational document” outlining the Panel’s basic structure and functioning, and three draft decisions for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting—on the establishment of the panel; on recommendations for consideration by the Plenary at its first session; and on arrangements for the interim period.
6. Back-to-back with OEWG 3.2, the [Intergovernmental Meeting](#) to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution was held on 20 June in Punta del Este, Uruguay. At this meeting, governments adopted the three decisions and formally established the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP).
7. Governments present at the Intergovernmental Meeting will be considered the founding members of the Panel unless indicated otherwise by 8 December 2025. Other governments are encouraged to communicate their intent to join the Panel through official communication to the ISP-CWP interim secretariat. Information on the nomination of focal points and membership procedures will be made available on the ISP-CWP [website](#).
8. Alongside the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) completes a “trifecta” of international science-policy bodies to respond to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

II. Key Elements of the Panel

9. The objective of the Panel is to strengthen the science-policy interface to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and pollution prevention [for the protection of human health and the environment], [without being policy prescriptive] with the following functions:

- (a) Undertaking “horizon scanning” to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them;
- (b) Conducting assessments of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address, where possible, those issues, in particular those relevant to developing countries;
- (c) Providing up-to-date and relevant information, identifying key gaps in scientific research, encouraging and supporting communication between scientists and policymakers, explaining and disseminating findings for different audiences, and raising public awareness;
- (d) Facilitating information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information;
- (e) Integrating capacity-building into all functions and the work of the panel to strengthen the science-policy interface. Such capacity-building activities should enhance individual capacities of scientists, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders and thereby institutional capacities, particularly in developing countries, guided by the capacity-building priorities, identified by governments and other stakeholders, related to the Panel’s functions and work, by encouraging access to different forms of knowledge, data, and best practices, and enabling the dissemination and encouraging the utilization of the deliverables of the Panel at international, (sub)regional and national levels. In so doing the Panel will ensure effective, geographically balanced [and gender balanced] [and gender-responsive] [and inclusive] participation and avoid duplication of work.

10. In line with its objective and functions, the Plenary—the Panel’s governing and decision-making body—may respond to submissions and requests for the work programme from the relevant Multilateral Environment Agreements, including the Minamata Convention, through its Conference of the Parties, in accordance with procedures and processes to be finalized and adopted at the first or subsequent sessions of the Plenary. The Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention may wish to consider potential areas of work for the Panel that could support implementation of the Convention.

11. The Panel may also establish partnerships, with the Plenary expected to request the Secretariat to prepare a proposal on establishing partnerships at its first session.

III. Road to the first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution

12. The Intergovernmental Meeting requested the UNEP Executive Director to provide the interim secretariat for the Panel and to convene the first session of the Plenary at the earliest practicable date, preferably within one year of its establishment, at a date and venue to be determined by the UNEP Executive Director, in consultation with members. The Intergovernmental Meeting also invited governments and others in a position to do so to provide voluntary financial contributions to UNEP to support the interim arrangements.

13. The Intergovernmental Meeting further requested the UNEP Executive Director, in consultation with members, to prepare documentation for consideration at the first session of the Plenary.

Observer participation of the first session of the Plenary

14. The first session of the Plenary will be open to observers, including non-member States, United Nations entities, other national, international, governmental, intergovernmental or non-governmental bodies and organizations such as the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, Indigenous Peoples[,] [and] local communities, and groups in vulnerable situations qualified in matters covered by the Panel, provided they notify the interim secretariat of their intent to participate, in line with the draft rules of procedure and provisions in the foundational document.

Preparation for the first session of the Plenary

15. The interim secretariat, in collaboration with the Geneva Environment Network (GEN), will continue to organize webinars, side events on the margins of relevant international meetings, and related activities to inform members, observers, and stakeholders about the Panel and its first Plenary,

including an associated event during the seventh session of the Environment Assembly from 8 to 12 December 2025.

16. Further information on the Panel, its first Plenary, and associated events will be made available on the ISP-CWP [website](#).
