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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 and Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15–18 June 2025\*  
Agenda item 3 (b)\*\*

**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters:  
organizational matters**

**Scenario note for the resumed third session of the 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**

**I. Introduction**

1. In resolution 5/8, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. In that resolution, the Environment Assembly also decided to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel, which would begin its work in 2022 with the ambition of completing that work by the end of 2024. The Environment Assembly also requested the Executive Director to convene, upon completion of the proposals prepared by the ad hoc open-ended working group, an intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel.
2. The first session of the 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 was held in two parts: the first part was held in Nairobi on 6 October 2022 in a hybrid format, while the second part was held in person in Bangkok from 30 January to 3 February 2023. The second session was held in Nairobi from 11 to 15 December 2023. At the first part of its third session, held in Geneva from 17 to 21 June 2024, the ad hoc open-ended working group was unable to finalize its work on preparing proposals for the panel, and it agreed that a resumed third session would be organized back to back with the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel.
3. At the first part of the third session (OEWG 3.1), the ad hoc open-ended working group agreed that the outcomes of the discussions, including the proposals for the panel and the related draft decisions, would be annexed to the report on that part of the session (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5),

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\* The third session of the 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 is being held in two parts. The first part of the session was held in Geneva from 17 to 21 June 2024, while the second part will be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 15 to 18 June 2025.

\*\* The agenda of the third session, as adopted at the first part of the session, is reflected in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Rev.1. The annotated agenda for the resumed session can be found in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Add.2.

and that annexes I and II to that report would be transmitted to the ad hoc open-ended working group at its resumed third session (OEWG 3.2) with a view to finalizing the foundational document and the draft rules of procedure; that the texts of all the annexes would be bracketed in their entirety; and that the draft financial procedures for the panel would be forwarded to OEWG 3.2 as an information document (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/9). The ad hoc open-ended working group is therefore not expected to further discuss the draft process for determining the work programme, the draft procedures for the preparation and clearance of panel deliverables, or the draft conflict-of-interest policy at OEWG 3.2. Those texts will instead be recommended to the governing body of the panel for further consideration and finalization at its first session.

4. While progress was made during OEWG 3.1 on the text of the foundational document relating to institutional arrangements regarding the secretariat, the ad hoc open-ended working group agreed that it would require additional information in order to consider options for the provision of secretariat services once the panel was established. As the panel itself will arrange for the provision of secretariat services, discussions at OEWG 3.2 are expected to focus on the functions of the secretariat as set out in paragraph 21 of the foundational document. At the request of the Bureau, the secretariat has prepared a draft decision for consideration and adoption by the intergovernmental meeting on arrangements for the interim period, including those necessary to prepare for the first session of the governing body of the panel, such as the provision of interim secretariat services.

5. The ad hoc open-ended working group continues to be guided by its mandate to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel, as set out in Environment Assembly resolution 5/8.

6. The present scenario note, prepared by the Chair in consultation with the members of the Bureau, sets out the proposed modalities and organization of work, as well as the general expectations for the outcomes of OEWG 3.2. It aims to assist participants in their preparations for OEWG 3.2 and takes into account the discussions held at OEWG 3.1 and the agreement from that meeting that OEWG 3.2 would be held with a view to finalizing the foundational document and the draft rules of procedure, and the related draft decisions, for consideration and adoption by the intergovernmental meeting.

## **II. Purpose of the resumed third session**

7. At its resumed third and final session, in order to fulfil its mandate, the ad hoc open-ended working group will seek to:

(a) Finalize the text of the foundational document and the related draft decision on the establishment of the panel, as set out in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6, for consideration and adoption by the intergovernmental meeting;

(b) Finalize the text of the draft rules of procedure, as set out in annex 1 to the draft decision in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7, and the text of the related draft decision recommending their consideration and possible adoption by the governing body of the panel at its first session;

(c) Finalize the remaining text of the draft decision recommending the procedures and policies set out in annexes 2–4 in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7 in their present form to the governing body of the panel for their further consideration and finalization at its first session.

8. The ad hoc open-ended working group will also seek to recommend, for consideration and adoption by the intergovernmental meeting, a draft decision on the arrangements for the interim period that are required for the operation of the panel, including those necessary to prepare for the first session of the governing body of the panel. The draft decision is set out in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/8.

## **III. Modalities for the resumed third session**

9. The Government of Uruguay and the secretariat have made the necessary arrangements for OEWG 3.2 to be held at the Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Centre, Punta del Este, Uruguay, from Sunday, 15 June to Wednesday, 18 June 2025. The session is being organized back to back with the intergovernmental meeting, which is to be held on 19 and 20 June.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Practical information for participants can be found in the logistics note, which is available [here](#).

10. Arrangements will be made for regional and other groups to hold informal consultations in preparation for OEWG 3.2 at the same venue on Saturday, 14 June. There will also be an opportunity for regional meetings to be held from 9 to 10 a.m. throughout the session.
11. The plenary meetings of OEWG 3.2 will be conducted in the six official languages of the United Nations. Arrangements will be made for meetings of contact groups and informal groups to be held throughout the session as needed. In accordance with United Nations practice, any contact group meetings and meetings other than plenary meetings will be held in English only. The session will be held in person, with plenary meetings live-streamed on the web page of the session.
12. In resolution 5/8, the Environment Assembly decided that the ad hoc open-ended working group should include Governments and regional economic integration organizations and be open to observers from United Nations entities, relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, including those that are members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and stakeholder representatives (para. 7). It also requested the Executive Director to cooperate closely with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations and bodies, as appropriate (para. 8), and to invite the World Health Organization to play a role, as appropriate (para. 9). Invitations to participate in OEWG 3.2 have been extended accordingly.

#### **IV. Opening of the resumed session**

13. The session will be opened at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 15 June 2025. Opening statements will be delivered by a high-level representative of the Government of Uruguay and the Executive Director of UNEP. Given time considerations, it is proposed that, under this agenda item, representatives of Governments and stakeholders submit general statements in writing to the secretariat to be made available online.
14. Representatives of regional and political groups and the group of stakeholders may deliver statements under agenda items 4 and 5.

#### **V. Election of officers**

15. The ad hoc open-ended working group has elected the following officers, in accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly:

*Chair:* Gudi Alkemade (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

*Vice-Chairs:* Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda)

Jinhui Li (China)

Oumar Diaouré Cisse (Mali)

Saqlain Syedah (Pakistan)

Alexandru Roznov (Romania)

Michel Tschirren (Switzerland)

Roman Filonenko (Ukraine)

Judith Torres (Uruguay)

*Rapporteur:* Linda Kosgei (Kenya)

#### **VI. Organizational matters**

##### **A. Rules of procedure**

16. The ad hoc open-ended working group agreed at its first session that the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, as outlined in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1(I)/INF/2, apply mutatis mutandis to the group's work.

##### **B. Adoption of the agenda**

17. At OEWG 3.1, the ad hoc open-ended working group adopted the agenda for the session, which is reflected in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Rev.1. The annotated agenda for OEWG 3.2 is set out in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Add.2.

## C. Organization of work

18. To facilitate effective and efficient work at OEWG 3.2, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider finalizing its work under agenda items 4 and 5.<sup>2</sup>

19. The secretariat will briefly introduce the working documents reflecting the outcomes of the discussions when the third session was adjourned. The ad hoc open-ended working group may then wish to allow general statements by representatives of regional and political groups and the group of stakeholders when the consideration of agenda items 4 and 5 is resumed, with the aim of exchanging general views and overarching perspectives on concluding the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group on these agenda items. Governments and stakeholders are encouraged to submit their statements to the secretariat in writing to be made available online.

20. Contact groups and informal groups will be established as needed and will be provided with clear and concise mandates. Following the practice used at previous sessions, any such contact group will be open to participation by all Governments and stakeholders, unless otherwise decided by the Chair or the co-facilitators of the contact groups. While contact group and informal group meetings may be held in parallel, the holding of parallel meetings on closely related issues will be avoided to the extent possible. Contact group meetings will not be scheduled concurrently with plenary meetings, and all efforts will be made to ensure that no more than two contact or informal group meetings are scheduled at the same time.

21. The ad hoc open-ended working group should continue to be guided by its mandate as set out in Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 and build on the outcomes and discussions of OEWG 3.1. The ad hoc open-ended working group is encouraged to continue to build on the agreements reached at its previous sessions.

22. OEWG 3.2 may wish to establish contact groups to consider the following clusters of topics, with a view to finalizing the foundational document, the draft rules of procedure and the draft decisions:

- (a) *Cluster 1.* Membership and functions of the bodies of the panel, decision-making and related rules of procedure;
- (b) *Cluster 2.* Other foundational elements and related rules of procedure, and draft decision to establish the panel;
- (c) *Cluster 3.* Other rules of procedure, draft decision to forward the draft rules, procedures and policies to the governing body of the panel, and draft decision on arrangements for the interim period.

23. Further details on the proposed contact groups are provided in annex I to the present note. Additional contact groups and/or informal groups may be established as is deemed necessary.

24. Given the limited time available and the limited size of delegations, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to facilitate an iterative process and limit contact group sessions to work on specific issues that are clearly announced in advance whenever possible. In order to facilitate engagement in the contact groups and possible informal consultations, the contact group co-facilitators and the facilitators of any informal groups will report back regularly to the ad hoc open-ended working group in plenary meetings, or to the relevant contact group, as appropriate, on progress achieved and on the organization of work, including on the timing of, and the detailed mandate to be addressed at, their next meetings.

25. The contact groups may wish to consider working on the basis of the working documents and information documents developed for OEWG 3.2, as appropriate. Annex II to the present note contains the list of meeting documents for OEWG 3.2.

26. The contact group co-facilitators will clarify the proposed organization of work at the beginning of each meeting. The outcomes of the work of the contact groups will be submitted for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended working group as conference room papers. In order for conference room papers to be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations, they should be submitted by close of business on Tuesday, 17 June 2025 at the latest.

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<sup>2</sup> Agenda item 4, on the preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel, and agenda item 5, on recommendations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel.

27. The Chair and the contact group co-facilitators may also decide to establish other types of informal groups and share modalities for their organization with Governments and stakeholders, as appropriate.

28. A proposed structure for the organization of work, including a tentative schedule for the work of the contact groups for OEWG 3.2 and the preceding meetings, is set out in annex III to the present note. The organization of work and the tentative schedule are subject to adjustment and will be detailed further in accordance with the progress achieved during the session and guidance provided by the Bureau in consultation with the co-facilitators.

## **VII. Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel**

29. The secretariat has prepared two working documents for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended working group at OEWG 3.2 setting out the outcomes of OEWG 3.1 regarding the proposals for the panel, including the related draft decisions, as reflected in the report of that meeting (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5):

(a) Document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6 contains the draft decision to establish the panel and, in the annex thereto, the foundational document;

(b) Document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7 contains the draft decision on recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the panel at its first session and, in the annexes thereto, the draft rules, procedures and policies.

30. The ad hoc open-ended working group agreed that it would prioritize finalizing the proposals for the establishment of a panel, as contained in the foundational document, and finalizing the draft rules of procedure. In accordance with the outcomes of OEWG 3.1, the ad hoc open-ended working group will not discuss the other draft procedures and policies at OEWG 3.2, but will instead recommend that they be forwarded in their present form to the governing body of the panel for further consideration and finalization at its first session. These include the three drafts set out in annexes 2–4 in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7, namely:

(a) The draft process for determining the work programme;

(b) The draft procedures for the preparation and clearance of panel deliverables;

(c) The draft conflict-of-interest policy.

31. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to focus its work on finalizing the foundational document, the draft rules of procedure and the related draft decisions so that they may be transmitted to the intergovernmental meeting for consideration and adoption.

## **VIII. Recommendations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel**

32. The ad hoc open-ended working group has been invited to make recommendations to the Executive Director of UNEP for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel. The draft decisions containing recommendations for the proposals for the science-policy panel for consideration and adoption at the intergovernmental meeting will be considered together with the proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel under agenda item 4.

33. Under agenda item 5, the ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider finalizing the draft decision on arrangements for the interim period for consideration and adoption by the intergovernmental meeting (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/8).

## **IX. Expected outcomes of the resumed third session**

34. It is expected that by the end of OEWG 3.2, the ad hoc open-ended working group will have finalized its proposals and the related draft decisions for consideration and adoption by the intergovernmental meeting, in particular:

- (a) The draft decision on the establishment of the panel, including a proposal for the name of the panel and the foundational elements, as set out in the foundational document contained in the annex to the draft decision;
- (b) The draft decision recommending the consideration and adoption of the rules of procedure by the governing body of the panel at its first session, and the forwarding for further consideration and finalization at this session of the draft procedures and policies in their present form as set out in annexes 2–4 to the draft decision;
- (c) The draft decision on arrangements for the interim period that are required for the operation of the panel, including the preparation of the first session of the governing body of the panel.

## Annex I

### Tentative schedule for the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group

	<i>Saturday, 14 June</i>	<i>Sunday, 15 June</i>	<i>Monday, 16 June</i>		<i>Tuesday, 17 June</i>		<i>Wednesday, 18 June</i>	<i>Intergovernmental meeting (19 and 20 June)</i>
8–8.30 a.m.		Bureau	Bureau		Bureau		Bureau	
8.30–9 a.m.								
9–9.30 a.m.	Registration and badge pickup	Regional meetings/ stakeholder groups	Regional meetings/ stakeholder groups		Regional meetings/ stakeholder groups		Regional meetings/ stakeholder groups	
9.30–10 a.m.								
10–10.30 a.m.			Plenary stocktake (to be confirmed)		Plenary stocktake (to be confirmed)		Plenary meeting	
10.30–11 a.m.								
11–11.30 a.m.	Regional meetings and stakeholder/ informal consultations	Opening plenary meeting						
11.30 a.m.–12 noon			Contact groups		Contact groups			
12–12.30 p.m.								
12.30–1 p.m.								
1–1.30 p.m.		Lunch break	Lunch break		Lunch break		Lunch break	
1.30–2 p.m.								
2–2.30 p.m.								
2.30–3 p.m.								
3–3.30 p.m.		Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	Plenary meeting	
3.30–4 p.m.								
4–4.30 p.m.								
4.30–5 p.m.		Break	Break		Plenary stocktake (to be confirmed)			
5–5.30 p.m.		Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups				
5.30–6 p.m.								
6–6.30 p.m.					Break			
6.30–7 p.m.		Break	Break					
7–7.30 p.m.	Bureau							

	<i>Saturday, 14 June</i>	<i>Sunday, 15 June</i>		<i>Monday, 16 June</i>		<i>Tuesday, 17 June</i>	<i>Wednesday, 18 June</i>	<i>Intergovernmental meeting (19 and 20 June)</i>
7.30–8 p.m.		Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	
8–8.30 p.m.								
8.30–9 p.m.		Break		Break		Break		
9–9.30 p.m.		Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups	
9.30–10 p.m.								
10 p.m.– ...								



## Annex II

### List of meeting documents

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title of working document</i>
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Rev.1	Agenda
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/1/Add.2	Annotated agenda
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/5	Report of the first part of the third session of the 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
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6	Foundational document and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7	Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution at its first session and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/8	Proposal on interim arrangements to be considered by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel
<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title of information document</i>
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/8	Scenario note for the resumed third session of the 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
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/9	Draft financial procedures
UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/10	Compilation of written submissions on the documentation for the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group

## Annex III

### Proposed clustering of topics for contact groups

The present annex sets out the proposed clustering of topics for contact groups to facilitate the timely completion of the ad hoc open-ended working group process, with a view to finalizing the foundational document and the rules of procedure, as agreed at the closure of the first part of the third session, in preparation for the intergovernmental meeting.

The table below provides an overview of the sections and paragraphs of the foundational document and/or the draft rules of procedure for the governing body of the panel, as well as the relevant draft decisions, assigned to each contact group. The proposed clustering ensures that no text is allocated to more than one contact group. The table refers to the following texts:

- (a) Foundational document (annex to the draft decision in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6);
- (b) Draft rules of procedure for the governing body of the panel (annex 1 to the draft decision in document UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7);
- (c) Draft decision on the establishment of the panel (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6);
- (d) Draft decision forwarding the draft rules, procedures and policies (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7);
- (e) Draft decision on arrangements for the interim period (UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/8).

### Proposed clustering of topics across contact groups at the resumed third session

<i>Proposed clustering of topics</i>	<i>Specific topics (with exact text references) assigned to each contact group</i>
Membership and functions of the bodies of the panel, decision-making and related rules of procedure	<p><b>Decision-making and rules 35–45 and 49</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundational document: paragraph 4 (alt 1 and alt 2) and related paragraphs on consensus 2 (a) <i>ter</i>, and subparagraph 8 (j)</li> <li>Rules of procedure: rules 35–45 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1), rule 49</li> </ul> <p><b>Institutional arrangements</b></p> <p>Foundational document: paragraph 3</p> <p><b>Functions of the governing body and rule 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundational document: subparagraphs 8 (a), (c) (could also be discussed under participation of observers) and (j) (discussed under decision-making); and subparagraphs 8 (b), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i)</li> <li>Rules of procedure: rules 2 (f), (g) and (l) (“parked” at OEWG 3.1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Membership of the governing body</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundational document: paragraphs 5 alt 1 and alt 2</li> <li>Rules of procedure: rules 2 (h), 5 and 6 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Participation of observers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundational document: paragraphs 6, 6 alt and 7</li> <li>Rules of procedure: rules 2 (i), 7 and 8 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1). Annex to the rules of procedure (not yet considered by OEWG)</li> </ul> <p><b>Bureau</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundational document: paragraphs 9–12</li> <li>Rules of procedure: rules 2 (a) (“parked” at OEWG 3.1), 13 (paragraphs 1–3 “parked” at OEWG 3.1), 14–18, 19 (first sentence “parked” at OEWG 3.1) and 20</li> </ul> <p><b>Interdisciplinary expert committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundational document: paragraphs 13–19</li> <li>Rules of procedure: rules 2 (m) (“parked” at OEWG 3.1), section 9, paragraphs 1 and 2 (first reading at OEWG 3.1), 21–23 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1), 24, 25–29</li> </ul> <p><b>Other subsidiary bodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundational document: paragraph 20</li> <li>Rules of procedure: rule 30 (“parked” at OEWG 3.1)</li> </ul>

<i>Proposed clustering of topics</i>	<i>Specific topics (with exact text references) assigned to each contact group</i>
Other foundational elements and related rules of procedure, and draft decision to establish the panel	<p><b>Name of the panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft decision [–] of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the panel: establishment of the [insert full name of the panel]</li> <li>Rules of procedure: rule 2 (j)<sup>a</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Preamble [placeholder]<sup>b</sup></b></p> <p><b>Scope, objective and functions</b></p> <p>Foundational document: section A – Scope, objective and functions of the panel</p> <p><b>Operating principles and approaches<sup>c</sup></b></p> <p>Foundational document: subparagraphs 2 (a)–(a) bis and 2 (b)–(l)</p> <p><b>Secretariat</b></p> <p>Foundational document: paragraphs 21 and 22</p> <p><b>Financial arrangements</b></p> <p>Foundational document: paragraphs 23–28 alt</p> <p><b>Strategic partnerships</b></p> <p>Foundational document: paragraphs 29–34</p> <p><b>Evaluation of the operational effectiveness and impact of the panel</b></p> <p>Foundational document: paragraph 35</p> <p><b>Draft decision to establish the panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft decision [–] of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the panel: establishment of the [insert full name of the panel]</li> <li>[option to consider Preamble [placeholder] here]</li> </ul>
Other rules of procedure, draft decision to forward the draft rules, procedures and policies, and draft decision on arrangements for the interim period	<p><b>Rules of procedure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rule 1 (Scope)</li> <li>Rule 2 (b)–(e), (k) (Definitions)</li> <li>Rules 3 and 4 (Venues, dates and notification of sessions)</li> <li>Rules 9–11 (Agenda)</li> <li>Rule 12 (Representation, credentials and accreditation)</li> <li>Rules 31–34 (Conduct of business)</li> <li>Rules 46–48 (Languages)</li> <li>Rule 50 (in the event of conflicts between the foundational document and the rules of procedure)</li> </ul> <p><b>Draft decision on recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the panel at its first session</b></p> <p><b>Draft decision on arrangements for the interim period</b></p>

*Abbreviations:* OEWG – ad hoc open-ended working group; OEWG3.1 – first part of the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group.

<sup>a</sup> Note that this is the only section of the rules of procedure assigned to contact group 2.

<sup>b</sup> The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider removing the placeholder for a preamble in the foundational document and deciding that any text of a preambular nature should be discussed for possible inclusion in the preamble to the draft decision on establishing the panel. This would align with the precedent set in establishing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

<sup>c</sup> Note that paragraph 2 (a) *ter* of the operating principles and approaches will be addressed by contact group 1 and will, therefore, not be taken up by contact group 2.

It is proposed that three contact groups be established to discuss the topics as clustered above:

### **Contact group 1: Membership and functions of the bodies of the panel, decision-making and related rules of procedure**

These topics have been clustered because they collectively define the governance structure, decision-making processes and procedural framework of the governing body and subsidiary bodies. Decision-making is closely tied to these institutional arrangements, as they determine how authority is exercised and how participation is structured.

Grouping these topics, including with the relevant rules of procedures, ensures a coherent and complete overview of the issues to be discussed and may assist members in resolving outstanding issues.

**Contact group 2: Other foundational elements and related rules of procedure, and draft decision to establish the panel**

These topics have been clustered as they collectively define the panel's identity, purpose and operating principles and complement the foundational elements to be discussed in contact group 1. The name, scope, functions and operating principles establish the panel's mandate, while the other institutional arrangements – including the secretariat, financial mechanisms, strategic partnerships and evaluation – support its effective functioning. Grouping these elements allows for a structured and comprehensive discussion.

Sections of the foundational document covered in contact group 2 were subject to extensive discussion at the first part of the third session and, building on the progress achieved and keeping in mind that the panel's governing body will further consider and adopt its rules, procedures and policies, members should consider the level of detail necessary in the foundational document to enable the panel's establishment.

Grouping these topics, including with the relevant rules of procedure, ensures a coherent and complete overview of the issues to be discussed and may assist members in resolving outstanding issues.

**Contact group 3: Other rules of procedure, draft decision to forward the draft rules, procedures and policies, and draft decision on arrangements for the interim period**

These topics have been clustered as they encompass essential procedural rules governing the panel's operations, including its scope, agenda-setting, session logistics, representation, conduct of business and language provisions. These elements complement the rules of procedure addressed in contact groups 1 and 2.

The related decisions facilitate the transition from the establishment to the operational phase, including by outlining arrangements for the interim period, including for the preparations for the first session of the panel's governing body to finalize the proposals initiated by the ad hoc open-ended working group.

Grouping these topics together allows a comprehensive and cohesive discussion on the procedural foundation and the arrangements for the preparation of the first session of the governing body of the panel.

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