

Dear Sir/Madam,

At its fourth session held in 2019, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) adopted resolution 4/8, which recognized that science is needed to set priorities for policymaking and to monitor progress: science-based decision-making should be promoted at all levels, and that the science-policy interface needs to be strengthened. UNEA-4 further requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to prepare an assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy at the international level¹. The Assessment Report prepared in response to this request (available [here](#)) seeks to facilitate and inform discussions, examining impacts and outcomes, and outlining options for strengthening the science-policy interface for chemicals and waste.

Albania, Mali, North-Macedonia, Switzerland and Uruguay are co-convening a series of webinar events entitled “**On the road to UNEA 5.2: Establishing a Science-Policy Panel (SPP) for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution**”, in December 2021, with UNEP logistics and technical support. The aim is to share key findings from the UNEP Assessment Report, and further reflect on the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface, ahead of the second segment of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), scheduled to take place from 28 February to 2 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya. A group of countries has announced its intention to [propose a draft resolution](#) for UNEA 5.2 on the establishment of a science-policy panel to support action on chemicals, waste and pollution. The webinar will provide an opportunity for participants to be briefed on this proposal for a draft resolution and to contribute to discussions about it. The events will be multi-stakeholder and will seek to provide attendees with a platform to exchange.

You are cordially invited to attend one of the webinars proposed in the below schedule. Your perspective would be most welcome at the event. The provisional agenda for the webinar events is provided below, together with an overview of the series of webinars planned.

We look forward to your presence and active participation,

Albana Fico

Director
Institute of Public Health
Albania

Modibo Sacko

Conseiller Technique, Ministère de
l'Environnement, de l'Assainissement
et du Développement Durable
République du Mali

Kaja Sukova

State Secretary
Ministry of Environment and
Physical Planning
Republic of North Macedonia

Franz Xaver Perrez

Ambassador
Head of the International Affairs
Division
Federal Office for the Environment
Switzerland

Álvaro Moerzinger

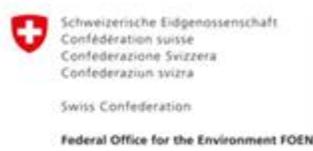
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to the
UN and other International
Organizations in Geneva
Uruguay

¹ The Report on “Assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste” may be found at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33808/OSSP.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> , and its Executive Summary in the 6 UN languages at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35271>



Scheduling of events

Dates and time	Audience	Languages
1 December 2021 10:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. (CET)	Africa	English and French with simultaneous interpretation
2 December 2021 4:00p.m. to 5:30p.m. (CET)	Latin America and the Caribbean	English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation
2 December 2021 9:00a.m. to 10:30a.m. (CET)	Asia	English
6 December 2021 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (CET)	Central and Eastern European	English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation
14 December 2021 2:00p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (CET)	Western European and Other States Group, jointly organized with the Geneva Environment Network	English
15 December 2021 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. (CET)	Permanent Missions in Nairobi	English



Draft Tentative Agenda – Webinar “On the road to UNEA-5.2: Establishing a Science-Policy Panel (SPP) for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution”

Background Information

At its fourth session held in 2019, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) adopted resolution 4/8, which recognized that science is needed to set priorities, for policymaking and to monitor progress: science-based decision-making should be promoted at all levels, and that the science-policy interface needs to be strengthened. UNEA-4 further requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to prepare an assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level. The assessment report (available [here](#)) reviews a variety of existing science-policy interface platforms and examines potential impacts of and outputs from a strengthened science-policy interface for chemicals and waste. This series of webinars is co-convened by Albania, Mali, North-Macedonia, Switzerland and Uruguay with the support of UNEP. It aims to inform stakeholders of the key findings from the UNEP Assessment Report in preparation for discussions expected to take place during the second segment of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), to be held from 28 February to 2 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Meeting Facilitator: the webinar will be facilitated by Mr. John Roberts

Welcoming Remarks – Co-convenor(s) of the region - ~5 Minutes

The co-convenor(s) will open the event and welcome participants. A brief background on the need for an international Science Policy Panel (SPP) on chemicals, waste and pollution will be provided.

Introduction of the UNEP Assessment Report – Author/UNEP - ~10 Minutes

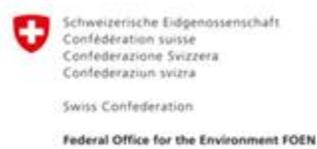
The UNEP report on “Assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste” will be introduced. A brief overview of the report structure will be provided, and key messages highlighted.

Key features– Author/UNEP - ~10 Minutes

The key features necessary for an effective international science-policy interface for chemicals and waste will be presented as identified in the UNEP Assessment Report.

Lessons Learned from Relevant Science-Policy Panels (SPPs)– Two/Three Representatives - ~15 Minutes

Representatives with knowledge or involvement in relevant Science-Policy Panel, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) or the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), will provide lessons learned and recommendations as they may be of relevance to the establishment of a Science-Policy Panel for chemicals and waste.



Introduction of the proposal for a draft UNEA-5.2 Resolution to establish a Science–Policy Panel to support action on chemicals, waste and pollution - by one of the co-proponents – 15 Minutes

One of the countries co-sponsoring the proposal for a draft resolution to be presented at UNEA5.2, will introduce its main elements.

Question and Answer Session - ~30 Minutes

The floor will be opened for participants to ask questions to the presenters or co-conveners or provide comments.

Concluding Remarks - ~5 Minutes

The meeting facilitator will provide concluding remarks, including an initial summary of key outcomes from the briefings and perspectives on the next steps towards a Science Policy Panel for chemicals, waste and pollution.

The meeting will be closed by one of the co-conveners.