The Capacity-Building Function of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention: Lessons Learned from Existing Science-Policy Interfaces and Sharing of Views

11 APRIL 2024
ONLINE (WEBEX)
AM SESSION | 10:00 CEST / 11:00 EAT
PM SESSION | 14:00 CEST / 15:00 EAT

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UNEPA RESOLUTION “SCIENCE-POLICY PANEL TO CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE AND TO PREVENT POLLUTION”
The science is crystal clear that we are putting extreme pressures on the planet.
Road to OEWG 3 on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention

Q1
- Capacity Building
  - 11 April

Q2
- Documents
  - TBC
- Briefing on OEWG-3
  - TBC
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The Capacity-Building Function of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention:

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SPEAKERS

By order of intervention.

Alexandru ROZNOV
Counsellor Assistant, General Directorate Waste and Contaminated Sites, Chemicals Unit, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Romania | OEWG Bureau Member

Tessa GOVERSE
Head, Secretariat of the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Prevention of Pollution

Zhanyun WANG
Secretariat of the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Prevention of Pollution

Ingunn STORRØ
Head, Technical Support Unit in Charge of Capacity-Building, IPBES

Maysoun MUSTAFA
Nexus Assessment-Fellow, IPBES

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Ongoing Discussions on the Capacity-building Function of the Panel
- Tessa GOVERSE | Head, Secretariat of the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Prevention of Pollution

Capacity-building Activities Carried Out by Relevant Organizations
- Zhanyun WANG | Secretariat of the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Prevention of Pollution

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Tessa GOVERSE
Head, Secretariat of the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Prevention of Pollution
Five functions of the Science-Policy Panel

• Undertake horizon scanning to identify issues of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, propose evidence-based options to address them;

• Conduct assessments of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address, where possible, those issues, in particular those relevant to developing countries;

• Provide up-to-date and relevant information, identify key gaps in scientific research, encourage and support communication between scientists and policymakers, explain and disseminate findings for different audiences, and raise public awareness;

• Facilitate information-sharing with countries, in particular developing countries seeking relevant scientific information;

• Capacity-building
Outcome of OEWG2 and preparation of OEWG3

- At OEWG2, the secretariat was requested to prepare, in consultation with the Bureau, timely webinars on the capacity-building function of the panel, and submit a summary of the views expressed for the information of the ad hoc open-ended working group at its third session.

- At OEWG3, Governments may wish to agree on text on the capacity-building function of the panel.

- During OEWG2, two textual proposals have been put forward, in the draft text for proposals to establish a science-policy panel.
Topics on capacity-building that could be discussed at OEWG3

UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/2 - Section A “Scope, objective and functions of the Panel”, paragraph 1-(e):

Proposal 1: "Provide capacity-building through all the functions of the panel and facilitate technology transfer, in particular to developing countries, to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels, including activities to ensure effective, geographically balanced and gender-responsive participation of scientists in the assessments of the panel, strengthen data generation capacity, enhance knowledge and skills that will support country infrastructure and human capacity, and facilitate connection and matchmaking of capacity-related needs and potential solutions."

Proposal 2: "Build capacity to support the functions and work of the panel in order to strengthen the science-policy interface for sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution."
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Zhanyun WANG

Secretariat of the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Prevention of Pollution

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The secretariat did two mappings of existing capacity-building activities, showing a lot of organizations already involved in capacity-building activities relevant to the work of the Panel.

- UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.1/5: activities of existing science-policy interfaces (SPIs)
- UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/3: activities of international bodies working on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention
Capacity-building activities of Existing Science-Policy Interfaces (SPIs)
Capacity-building activities of other SPIs

Many existing science-policy bodies carry out capacity-building activities, which can be grouped into three broad categories:

➢ activities that ensure the effective participation of scientists and other stakeholders in the body's assessment work;

➢ activities that enable young people and early-career professionals;

➢ more broad-ranging means of developing the capacity of individuals and organizations in a general sense.
Capacity-building activities of other SPIs

1) Activities that ensure the effective participation of scientists and other stakeholders in the body's assessment work

- IPCC, IPBES and the Stockholm Convention's Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee:
  - guidance documents to support effective participation,
  - webinars, e-learning courses and regional workshops.
2) Activities that enable young people and early-career professionals

- Enabling participation in the work of the SPI:
  - IPCC: webinar on how to get involved as an early-career scientist
  - IPBES: fellowships and workshops for early-career individuals

- Developing their capacities more broadly:
  - IPCC: scholarships to students from developing countries
  - UNEP GEO: global science diplomacy programme based on GEO and other environmental assessments, including teaching materials for all educational levels + a fellowship programme
Capacity-building activities of other SPIs

3) More broad-ranging means of developing the capacity of individuals and organizations in a general sense

- Developing training materials and data:
  - IPBES: training materials based on the IPBES assessments, through its strategic partners and contributing supporters
  - IRP: e-learning courses and videos on sustainable resource management

- Facilitating connection and matchmaking:
  - IPBES: self-organizing communities of practice to increase access to expertise and information
  - UNCCD: online marketplace to connect needs and solutions.

- Encouraging national and regional branches/platforms: e.g. IPBES
Capacity-building activities of other international bodies on waste, chemicals and pollution prevention
Capacity-building activities of other international bodies on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention

➢ Activities to support the implementation of MEAs, e.g.:

UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/3
Capacity-building activities of other international bodies on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention

➢ Activities to develop countries' capacities for scientific analysis:

E.g., the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Marine Environment Studies Laboratories' programme of harmonization and coordination of quality assurance for the assessment of marine pollution by chemicals

UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.2/INF/3
Capacity-building activities of other international bodies on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention

➢ Activities to develop countries’ capacities for the broader sound management of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention
Capacity-building activities of other international bodies on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention

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Activities to develop countries’ capacities for the broader sound management of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention

60. The International Conference will develop a strategy for capacity-building and supporting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms ... The strategy will include capacity-building tools and other initiatives.

61. Thereafter, the International Conference will, on a regular basis:
   (a) assess the impact and improve the effectiveness of the strategy;
   (b) Consider the capacity-building needs of all stakeholders and make any necessary recommendations
Some general observations

- There is continuum from science to action, and different organizations are taking different roles.
- Existing SPIs tend to focus on capacity-building to support their core work, particularly assessments (e.g., participation to the process, scientific contribution), which is useful for the body's effectiveness.
- Building capacity for the uptake of existing SPIs' work, e.g., by partners and contributors, can enhance their potential impact and reach.
- For enhancing general capacity on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention at the national and regional levels, many institutions are already conducting capacity-building activities at the national, regional and global levels.
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IPBES capacity-building

Ingunn Storrø, Head, IPBES technical support unit for capacity-building

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Building capacity

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Step by step…

Dec 2013
- Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements

Jan 2015
- IPBES 3
- Capacity-building needs

March 2017
- IPBES 5
- Capacity-building rolling plan

April 2019
- IPBES 7
- IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030

July 2022
- IPBES 9
- Deliverables

IPBES CB activities
• Capacity-building is one of the four functions of IPBES:

“The Platform prioritizes key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provides and calls for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities, as decided by the Plenary, and catalyses financing for such capacity-building activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding.” (Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements)
• Capacity-building is also reflected in the operating principles:
  • “Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work according to priorities decided by the Plenary” (Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements)

• Plenary (at IPBES 2) established a task force on capacity-building, and requested the task force to:
  • “develop a proposed programme of fellowship, exchange and training programmes” (Decision IPBES-2/5)
### Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements

- **IPBES 3**: Capacity-building needs
- **IPBES 5**: Capacity-building rolling plan
- **IPBES 7**: IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030
- **IPBES 9**: Deliverables

#### IPBES/3 (1 of 3)

**Capacity-building needs identified by member states and other stakeholders, and potential sources of support for addressing these needs**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Capacity-building need</th>
<th>Source identified by governments and other stakeholders</th>
<th>Potential source of support</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Foster the capacity to participate effectively in implementing the platform work programme</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>2. Develop the capacity to carry out social and economic assessments, including on the basis of the Principles of Equitability and Sustainability (PoE&amp;S)</td>
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#### 2. Deliver the capacity to carry out social and economic assessments

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#### 4. Improve the capacity to access IPBES knowledge (including the experience of others)

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**IPBES-3/1, annex I**
The **IPBES capacity-building rolling plan** aims to: (a) Inform those directly involved with IPBES of the approach being taken to capacity-building, and how this approach is being implemented; and (b) Inform other organizations of opportunities, priorities and needs for capacity-building identified by IPBES, so that they can identify what support might be most useful, and how to offer it.

**Annex I to decision IPBES-5/1**
12. **Objective 2: building capacity.** To build capacities of individuals and institutions for a strengthened science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The achievement of this objective is supported by the three components of the capacity-building rolling plan, which applies to ongoing and future activities of the work programme:\(^5\)

(a) **Enhanced learning and engagement.** The objective includes the continuation of the fellowship programme and of the training and familiarization programme, including through webinars and other online resources, guides, learning materials, workshops, training and dialogues for actors in the science-policy interface facilitated by IPBES. The objective will be implemented by IPBES, in collaboration with other actors where relevant;

(b) **Facilitated access to expertise and information.** The objective will further promote the uptake of the work programme objectives and deliverables and develop communities of practice around them. Efforts will focus on approved assessments and objectives and deliverables related to policy support tools and methodologies, knowledge and data, and indigenous and local knowledge. This objective will largely be implemented by strategic partners and collaborative supporters;

(c) **Strengthened national and regional capacities.** This objective includes efforts to encourage the development of science-policy platforms, networks and assessments for biodiversity and ecosystem services at the national and (sub)regional levels, such as facilitation of the development of guidance for such initiatives. Strengthening the role of national focal points is also key to enhancing national capacities in the science-policy interface. IPBES will draw strongly on the experience of strategic partners and collaborative supporters to implement this objective. Direct technical and financial support for the enhancement of national and regional capacities will be sought from strategic and relevant partners other than IPBES.

Annex II to decision IPBES-7/1
Deliverables (building capacity) under IPBES work programme until 2030.

(a) For objective 2 (a), enhanced learning and engagement:
   (i) Implementation of the fellowship programme;
   (ii) Implementation of the training and familiarization programme;
   (iii) Organization of science-policy dialogues with national focal points;

(b) For objective 2 (b), facilitated access to expertise and information:
   (i) Support for the uptake of approved assessment reports and other deliverables, and encouragement of the development of communities of practice around them;
   (ii) Convening of regular meetings of the capacity-building forum;

(c) For objective 2 (c), strengthened national and regional capacities:
   (i) Encouragement of the development of science-policy platforms, networks and assessments for biodiversity and ecosystem services at the national and (sub)regional levels.

Annex II to decision IPBES-9/1

An intersessional workplan outlining capacity-building activities is presented to the Plenary for its approval each year, e.g. Annex III to decision IPBES-10/1
Activities

- **Fellowship programme**
  - Aims at developing the capacities of early career individuals through participating in assessments
  - Training and mentoring programme
  - Alumni network
  - Pro-bono, but fellows from eligible countries can receive travel support
  - Initiated in 2015. Comprises 131 fellows from 67 countries.

- **Training and familiarization programme**
  - Face to face training and e-learning resources.
  - All e-learning resources are made publicly available on the IPBES webpage.
  - Webinars, pilot educational interface, guides, best practices.
  - Provision of (non-monetary) support to relevant training activities tailored to IPBES needs, developed by other organizations.
  - Youth workshops.
Activities

- **Science-policy dialogue meetings with Governments and stakeholders**
  - Bring together IPBES national focal points and other Government representatives to engage in dialogue with IPBES experts on key IPBES deliverables and processes.
  - Face to face or online meetings.
  - Informal in nature.
  - Similar meetings organized for stakeholders.
  - Intended outcome:
    - Strengthened policy-relevance of IPBES products and deliverables. Facilitated knowledge sharing, peer-learning and networking among national focal points. Strengthened stakeholder engagement with IPBES.
Activities

The achievement of objective 2, building capacity, relies on support and contributions from a wide range of organizations and institutions interested in or already conducting capacity-building activities supporting the IPBES work programme.

- Supporting uptake of IPBES assessments and other deliverables
- Communities of practice
- Strengthening national and regional capacities

Graphic recording of success stories shared by existing national platforms at the fourth meeting of the IPBES capacity-building forum.
Activities

- **IPBES Capacity-building forum**
  - The IPBES capacity-building forum is a key vehicle for facilitating engagement, building cooperation and further enhancing collaboration among organizations and institutions supporting the work on capacity-building under IPBES.
  
  - One meeting of the CB forum organized per year.

  - Examples of topics from previous forum meetings:
    - youth
    - business & biodiversity
    - national platforms
    - indigenous and local knowledge
Feedback from IPBES fellows

“I can say that almost everything that happened in my career after the programme was somehow related to the contacts, networks and skills that I was allowed to develop as a fellow.”

“It meant the world to me”

“I learned a lot about different cultures, perspectives, points of view and it challenged me to think beyond the borders of my own perspectives”

Within IPBES, alumni fellows are now:

✓ coordinating lead authors/lead authors
✓ member of the multidisciplinary expert panel
✓ leading the social sciences and humanities network related to IPBES

As of March 2024:
131 IPBES fellows from 67 countries, 57% female, 43% male
AGENDA

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- Alexandru ROZNOV | Counsellor Assistant, General Directorate Waste & Contaminated Sites, Chemicals Unit; Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Romania | OEWG Bureau Member

Ongoing Discussions on the Capacity-building Function of the Panel
- Tessa GOVERSE | Head, Secretariat of the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Prevention of Pollution

Capacity-building Activities Carried Out by Relevant Organizations
- Zhanyun WANG | Secretariat of the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Prevention of Pollution

Presentation of IPBES Capacity-building Activities
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- Maysoun MUSTAFA | Nexus Assessment-Fellow, IPBES

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Open Discussion on the Capacity-building Function of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention

Conclusion and Next Steps
The Capacity-Building Function of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention: Lessons Learned from Existing Science-Policy Interfaces and Sharing of Views

Maysoun MUSTAFA
Nexus Assessment-Fellow, IPBES

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Joining the nexus assessment

Call for nominations of fellows to participate in the Nexus and Transformative change assessments
Timeline of activities

- **2022**
  - First Author Meeting
  - Online Authors intro
  - First Fellows Workshop @ IPBES 9
  - ILK Dialogue

- **2023**
  - Second Author Meeting
  - First External Review
  - Second Order Draft
  - Second Fellows Workshop
  - Second External Review
  - Second Order Draft
  - + IPBES Capacity Building Forum

- **2024**
  - Third Author Meeting
  - Final Draft
  - Third Fellows Workshop
  - IPBES 11

Online Authors intro
Network of Fellows

Peers to peer mentoring and knowledge exchange

Professional and academic collaborations

Career and community support
Networking with assessment experts

- Mentorship by a senior expert in nexus assessment
- Knowledge and skills sharing
- Career support and broader engagement
- Professional collaborations
- Working with nexus (and other) assessment experts
Bespoke skills development

- Grounded learning on IPBES processes
- Knowledge exchange with ongoing IPBES assessments
- UN and global environment governance
- Supporting capacity building functions (IPBES Capacity Building workshop)
- Technical and soft skills eg knowledge synthesis, communication
Authoring, and collaborating with experts on dedicated sections within assessment

Liaising with experts across assessment chapters for coherence and coordination

Cross-cutting working groups, e.g. on Indigenous and Local Knowledge

Engaging with internal, MEP and external reviews

Preparing nexus assessment
Bringing it all together

www.ipbes.net
Short term outcomes

- Equitable access to resources and skills
- Strengthened knowledge and awareness of science policy platforms
- Widening network of collaborators
- Strengthened community engagement and leadership

Contributions to IPBES Programme

- Strengthening knowledge foundations
- Assessing knowledge
- Building capacity

Nexus assessment

Research funding in Ireland

Civil society, experts and youth in Sudan
Thank you!
¡Gracias!
Merci !
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You may raise your questions in the Q&A box which you can find in the bottom right hand part of the screen.
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Open Discussion
OPEN DISCUSSION

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OPEN DISCUSSION

Click on the raise hand button to indicate that you wish to take the floor and speak.

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OPEN DISCUSSION

1. What should be the focus of priority capacity-building activities for the Panel to undertake?
2. How can we avoid overlap and duplication of work?
3. How can coordination and cooperation be promoted with relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, and others?
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Conclusion & Next Steps

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Conclusion and next steps

• The secretariat will draft an information document presenting a summary of the views expressed. It will be published on the OEWG website with the code: UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/INF/3.
Road to OEWG-3 – Timeline

**OEWG 2**
11–15 Dec 2023
Nairobi, Kenya

**OEWG-3 doc**
(6 UN languages available online)
early May 2024

**Regional consultations**
May 2024

**Webinar on Capacity building**
April 2024

**Webinars “road to OEWG-3”**
May & June 2024

**OEWG 3**
17-21 June 2024
Geneva, Switzerland
OEWG logistical arrangements

**Venue:** International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland

**Key dates:**

17 – 21 June 2024
OEWG 3

16 June 2024
Preceding meetings (informal, regional and stakeholder consultations)

**Website:**
https://www.unep.org/events/conference/oewg-3-science-policy-panel-contribute-further-sound-management-chemicals-and

https://www.unep.org/oewg-spp-chemicals-waste-pollution
THANK YOU!

Alexandru ROZNOV
Counsellor Assistant, General Directorate Waste and Contaminated Sites, Chemicals Unit, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Romania | OEWG Bureau Member

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Head, Technical Support Unit in Charge of Capacity-Building, IPBES

Maysoun MUSTAFA
Nexus Assessment-Fellow, IPBES

11 APRIL 2024 | ONLINE (WEBEX)
AM SESSION | 10:00 CEST / 11:00 EAT
PM SESSION | 14:00 CEST / 15:00 EAT

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NEXT ON GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES

VIRTUAL
Launch and Panel Discussion | Plastics Treaty: Aligning States Duties and Business Responsibilities with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
12 APR 2024 14:00 - 15:00
Online | Webex
OHCHR, GEN

VIRTUAL
Launch and Panel Discussion | Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer
15 APR 2024 16:00 - 17:00
Online | Webex
Basel Action Network, GEN

VIRTUAL
Plastic Production: Latest Views from Scientists and the Public
16 APR 2024 13:00 - 14:30
Online | Webex
Greenpeace, GEN

VIRTUAL
Plastic Chemical Threats to Children’s Health & Development: Opportunities to Protect Children’s Health and their Future in the Plastics Treaty
16 APR 2024 15:00 - 16:30
Online | Webex
IPEN, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics | Human Rights and Environment
SDG12

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