

Ref.: C.L.10.2025

... The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to refer to the attached invitation letter from Ms Inger Anderson, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended Working Group (OEWG 3.2) on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, which will be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 15 to 18 June 2025.

Considering the importance of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention for the protection of human health, the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 (2022) specifically requested the World Health Organization (WHO) to play a role in the ad hoc open-ended working group.

Recognizing the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health through resolution WHA76.17 (2023), the World Health Assembly called upon Member States to engage in the ad hoc open-ended working group particularly regarding the inclusion of health aspects and participation of the health sector in the eventual panel and requests the Director-General to actively contribute and explore the full range of options for the future involvement of WHO in the work of the panel.

WHO's Fourteenth General Programme of Work, 2025–2028 (GPW 14) recognizes that more effective work is needed across multiple sectors to deliver better health outcomes from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination. Considering the significant disease burden that can be mitigated by addressing environmental risks, the work of the science-policy panel is highly relevant to WHO's mandate and many of its technical and scientific activities.

In light of this context, the Director-General of the World Health Organization invites Member States to collaborate and coordinate with ministries of environment for considering participation in the upcoming meetings to ensure that the health-related aspects of the panel's work are adequately supported. Background information and logistics details are included in the attached letter.¹

The Director-General of the World Health Organization avails himself of this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 9 April 2025

¹ The registration deadline noted in the attached invitation letter has been extended with additional flexibility by contacting UNEP Secretariat (spp-cwp@un.org).

... ENCL.: (1)

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4 March 2025

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to invite you to 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 ([SPP OEWG 3.2](#)). The session, which will be hosted by the Government of Uruguay in Punta del Este from 15 to 18 June 2025, is expected to finalize the proposals for the establishment of the panel, with priority given to the foundational document. The session will be preceded by informal and regional consultations on 14 June 2025.

As agreed at the first part of the third session (SPP OEWG 3.1), the resumed third session is organized back-to-back with the [Intergovernmental Meeting](#) to consider the establishment of the science-policy panel, scheduled from 19 to 20 June 2025 at the same venue.

Considering the relevance of the science-policy panel for multiple sectors, I would like to encourage participation from different sectors critical to the protection of human health and the environment. All representatives wishing to attend SPP OEWG 3.2 are requested to [register online](#) no later than 31 March 2025. Subject to the availability of resources and upon request, the United Nations Environment Programme will sponsor the participation of one representative per eligible country. Additional information on travel support is outlined in the annex to this letter.

Please note that the provisional agenda, the meeting documentation and other supporting information for SPP OEWG 3.2 is made available on the [OEWG 3.2 webpage](#).

Finally, I sincerely thank governments that have provided financial [support](#) to this important process and I invite others in a position to do so to provide additional funding to achieve the strategic objectives and advance overall success.

My colleague, Ms. Tessa Goverse, Principal Coordinator, and colleagues in the SPP OEWG secretariat (spp-cwp@un.org) remain at your team's disposal for any further information as needed.

I look forward to your active participation and the successful completion of the SPP OEWG process.

Yours sincerely,



Inger Andersen
Executive Director

To:
Ministers responsible for the Environment

CC:
Permanent Representatives to UNEP
National focal points nominated for the SPP OEWG process

[Annex: SPP OEWG 3.2 registration information](#)

Annex – SPP OEWG 3.2 registration information

Registration for participants is open until 31 March 2025.

All interested delegates are requested to [register online](#).

Delegations are requested to upload a formal and signed nomination letter from the Ministry or a note verbale from the Embassy or Permanent Mission. The letter should specify the full composition of each delegation and specify the name of the head of the delegation. All documents must be submitted in PDF format and formalized through a visible official signature.

Travel support to SPP OEWG 3.2 for eligible participants

To ensure broad participation at the meeting, and thanks to generous extrabudgetary support from several Member States, the secretariat is in a position to provide travel support to attend SPP OEWG 3.2, in accordance with established UN rules and practices, for maximum one representative per developing country and country with economy in transition. The funding will cover economy-class round trip air tickets, daily subsistence allowances for the meeting duration, and terminal expenses.

Delegates applying for such support are requested to confirm, through a formal letter from the Ministry or a note verbale from the Embassy or Permanent Mission, the name of the delegate who should be receiving the travel funding from their respective government.

Delegates applying for travel support should first register for the meeting through the link provided in the registration information section above, by 31 March at the latest, and await approval of their registration. Delegates will then be required to fill out a dedicated [online funded participant application form](#), and attach the following three documents, as soon as possible but no later than 31 March 2025.

1. Event ticket (approved registration for attendance at SPP OEWG 3.2).
2. Signed letter from the Ministry/Note Verbale in PDF-format nominating the delegate who should be receiving the travel funding.
3. Passport copy, valid for more than 6 months from the travelling date (bio-page).

Note: To ensure that travel arrangements are in compliance with standard United Nations rules and regulations, nominations of delegates received after the deadline will not be considered for funding support. The final decision on travel requests will be subject to the availability of financial resources.

For any questions on funded travel, please contact the secretariat (spp-cwp@un.org).