

CYMG Priorities for OEWG3:

Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

Derived from the [Children and Youth Major Group \(CYMG\)](#)'s intersessional work ahead of OEWG3, these priorities reflect a collective effort to address the challenges of establishing a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution. The insights presented here distill the essence of the Demands of children and youth, outlining clear and concise priorities that emphasize inclusivity, innovation, meaningful participation, and adaptability in navigating the complexities of our global environmental landscape.

1. **Prioritize Intergenerational Equity:** Integrate intergenerational equity into the existing operating principles, ensuring that the Panel's structure and work incorporate intergenerational perspectives and foster active engagement of children and youth.
2. **Inclusive Plenary Functions to ensure multi-stakeholder collaboration:** Ensure that the functions of the plenary reflect inclusivity by referencing Major Groups and other Stakeholders recognized by the agenda 21 of the Rio 1992 Summit, ensuring a broad representation of expertise and perspectives in the panel. The recognition of these well-established stakeholder groups shall also address the aspect of multistakeholderism by seeking collaboration partnerships, coordination and synergies with the major groups which comprises of people from academia, industries and businesses, major groups, intergovernmental bodies, and other stakeholders to enhance knowledge sharing and cooperation, foster innovation, and strengthen collective action.
3. **Establish a Youth Expert Advisory Group:** Institutionalize the Youth Expert Advisory Group as a sub-committee of the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee to integrate the voices of youth experts and early career professionals in the panel's work programme, to facilitate engagement and outreach with youth communities, and to ensure the production of inclusive, forward-looking, and sustainable outcomes. This group should have equal representation across regions, and genders, with a specific focus on inclusion from vulnerable and marginalized communities.
4. **Embed Human Rights-Based Approach:** Adopt a human rights-based approach to the management of chemicals and waste and preventing pollution by recognizing, respecting,

and meaningfully documenting and incorporating the knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, while addressing existing and mitigating the intersectional vulnerabilities faced by communities in health, conflicts, and economic factors.

5. **Flexible and Iterative Approach:** Emphasize the need for a flexible approach, allowing continuous learning and adaptation to new evidence, rapid technological advancements, shifts in information consumption trends, and changing circumstances to address the evolving nature of global challenges.
6. **Complementarity with Specific Principles:** Support specific principles on transparency, gender equality, accountability, and capacity building while ensuring that they complement and reinforce each other in the overall framework.
7. **Incorporation of the principle of Conflict of Interest:** Ensure that the scientific evidence presented in this panel, the policy outcomes of this panel, and the implementation of such policies are not guided by entities, organizations or groups that stand to gain from the unsound management of chemicals and waste, or from poor implementation of sustainable policies.
8. **Capacity Building and Awareness:** Ensure active outreach and awareness raising to inform and educate broader audiences about the Panel's work and the impact of its findings. This would foster a deeper understanding of the issues among diverse communities and build capacity for meaningful participation by tailoring information communication approaches to the specific needs of each audience and targeted community.
9. **Flexible Outreach Mechanism:** Develop a flexible outreach mechanism, leveraging sustainable and ethical technological advancements and learning from successful science policy platforms and panels, such as GEO. This includes producing different forms of final outputs with accessible language to cater to the diverse perspectives of stakeholders, informed by the assessments, and dissemination of the same to all stakeholders affected by them through effective capacity-building.
10. **Focus on Vulnerable Communities:** Prioritize finding solutions and capacity-building efforts for communities in vulnerable situations, with a specific focus on considering intersectional factors that contribute to vulnerability, ensuring that these communities receive the necessary support and resources, including financial and technical assistance, to effectively address and manage challenges associated with unsound management of chemicals, waste, and pollution.



To learn more about the Children and Youth Major Group's work on the OEWG SPP process, kindly visit:
www.cymgenv.net/youth-oewg-spp

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