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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Outcome of the first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental  
Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP)  
(Geneva, 2-6 February 2026)  
- Report by the Presidency and the Commission

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Delegations will find in the [Annex](#) a report by the Presidency and the Commission on the main outcomes of the abovementioned meeting.

**First Session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals,  
Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP)**

**(Geneva, 2-6 February 2026)**

***- Report by the Presidency and the Commission -***

**Introduction**

At the resumed session of UNEA-5, held in February-March 2022, Member States adopted Resolution 5/8, which calls for the establishment of a new science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. An ad hoc open-ended working group was established to consider the establishment of this panel.

Following the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) was established at the Intergovernmental Meeting (IM), on 20 June 2025 in Punta de Este, Uruguay.

In the foundational document of the Panel, the EU, as a Regional Economic Integration Organization, is allowed enhanced participation in the sessions of the Plenary, including the rights to speak, reply, introduce proposals and provide views, and the ability to support the implementation of the work programme of the Panel through financial support among other means. A footnote in the foundational document states that this provision applies on an *interim* basis and that the Panel will decide by consensus on a resolution on the status of Regional Economic Integration Organizations in the Panel.

The first Plenary session of the Panel took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2-6 February 2026.

At the start of the session, 21 EU Member States were Members of the Panel. During the session, one more EU Member State joined the Panel.<sup>1</sup> Delegates from 127 member countries attended the session, including the United States of America, who also became a member of the Panel during the session.

Following the example of other scientific panels such as IPBES, the EU and its Member States that are members of the Panel, had prepared coordinated positions or – depending on the agenda item - orientation lines, that formed the basis of the views to be presented at the meeting.

## **Report**

The main objective of the EU and its Member States that are Members of the Panel was to make the Panel operational, for it to be able to start its substantive work as soon as possible. This meant in particular electing a Bureau, including a Chair to lead the proceedings of the Plenary, securing secretariat services from UNEP, requesting the Secretariat to establish a Trust fund and decide on the physical location of the Secretariat from the two offers received from Kenya and Switzerland, to host the secretariat in either Nairobi or Geneva. Furthermore, the priority of the EU and Member States focused on finalising the Rules of Procedure. If time would allow, the EU and its Members States would welcome work to be done on the Conflict-of-Interest Policy, providing guidance on the initial budget and initiating discussions on the financial procedures and on the process to determine the work program, as well as set out what work could be done intersessionally.

These objectives were shared by most of the attending countries but from the start of the session it became clear that a small group of countries was not willing to make progress on any of the agenda items before finalising the Rules of Procedure.

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

After electing the candidate from Chile, Mr. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez Pérez as Chair of the Plenary by acclamation, the work of the Plenary commenced, without adopting the session's agenda, with the sole mandate to finalise the Rules of Procedure. Halfway through the session, Bureau-members for four of the five UN-regions were elected by acclamation and the term for the Bureau members was confirmed for 2 years, unless it was otherwise decided in the Rules of Procedure. The Eastern-European Group could not agree on nominations from among its four candidates (Czechia, Ukraine, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Russian Federation) during this session.

Consultations held by the Chair to find a way forward to agree on the physical location of the Secretariat and agree on intersessional work, unfortunately did not yield any result.

Before the session was adjourned on February 6 afternoon, provisional agreement was reached on 21 of the 52 rules of procedure, with substantive issues still to be discussed, including on the composition of the interdisciplinary expert committee, the conduct of business and the venue of the meetings.

In conclusion, the Plenary agreed that the Bureau will decide on the dates and venue of the resumed session of first Plenary of the Panel.