



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Geneva, 26 January 2023

Dear Mr. Helps,

I am pleased to address you in advance of the resumed first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, which will take place in Bangkok, from 30 January to 3 February 2023.

The future science-policy panel should be informed by human rights laws, standards and principles, including those concerning non-discrimination, information, participation in decision making process, the enjoyment of the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, and on corporate political engagement.

As such, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) would like to share with the OEWG the following documents which can inform and guide a human rights-based approach to the science-policy panel's work:

- OHCHR-UNEP, [Key Messages on human rights and hazardous substances](#)
- OHCHR, [Key human rights considerations for the negotiations to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution](#)
- Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Report on the *Right to science in the context of toxic substances* ([UN Doc. A/HRC/48/61](#))
- The [work](#) of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes including his Report on *Implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes* (e.g. [UN Doc. A/76/207](#))
- Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, Report on *Corporate influence in the political and regulatory sphere: ensuring business practice in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* ([UN Doc. A/77/201](#))

- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, [General Comment 25: Science and economic, social and cultural rights](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact Ana Paula Souza (ana.souza@un.org) for any questions and comments on the above.

Please accept my warmest regards and the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin A Schachter

Benjamin Schachter
Coordinator, Environment Team
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Kevin Helps
Principal Officer of the Secretariat of the Ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention

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