



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

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22nd Senior Officials' Meeting of the Environment Management Group	EMG/SOM.22
Technical Segment, 21 September 2016, New York	Distribution: EMG
Senior Segment, 22 September 2016, New York	members

Report of the Meeting

I. Summary of proceedings

1. The twenty-second meeting of the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group was held in New York on 21 and 22 September 2016. The meeting consisted of two segments as set out in the annexed agenda (Annex I). The technical segment was co-chaired by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Environment (UNEP). The senior segment was chaired by the Deputy Director of UN Environment, representing the Chair of the Environment Management Group.
2. The technical segment met on 21 September to consider the progress report of the EMG Issue Management Groups and Processes and to prepare the strategic discussion and actions for the future work of the EMG for the approval of the senior officials.
3. Subsequently, the senior segment met on 22 September to engage in a high-level strategic discussion and to approve the action points and work plan for the EMG for 2017. The strategic discussion included deliberations on the role and contribution of the EMG in addressing the UN system's support to Member States in the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, as well as in enhancing the environmental and social sustainability of the internal UN operations. The meeting was attended by representatives of 23 member agencies (Annex II). The working and information documents of the meeting are available on the EMG website: www.unemg.org.

A. Technical Segment

4. The technical segment was opened at 8.30 a.m. with introductory remarks by the co-chairs, Mr. Elliott Harris, Director of the EMG Secretariat, and Mr. Daniele Violetti, Chief of Staff, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Following the adoption of the agenda (Annex I), the technical segment discussed the actions on future work of the EMG, as contained in the document: "Progress Report on EMG's On-going Work and Suggested Directions for Further Work" (EMG/SOM.22/02/), and prepared decisions for the endorsement of the senior segment on the focus of the EMG's work going forward. A summary of revised

action points was submitted to the senior officials through its co-chairs. The meeting of the technical segment was declared closed at 12.30 p.m.

B. Senior Officials Segment

5. The Senior Officials segment was opened at 9.00 a.m. on September 22 by the alternate Chair Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment.
6. In his opening remarks, the Chair recognized the EMG as being well placed to address the integration of environmental considerations as part of the holistic 2030 Agenda, referring to the multiple entry points in which the environment interlinks with the social and economic dimensions. He stressed in particular the role of the environment and natural resources in conflicts and migration as a topic that could benefit from EMG coordination.
7. After adopting the agenda, the Chair invited the Senior Officials to present themselves and requested an oral presentation of the outcome and recommended actions of the technical segment from its co-chairs. The conclusions and actions agreed upon by the Senior Officials are presented in part II.A and II.B below. The Senior Officials then engaged in a Strategic Discussion about the role and added value of the EMG in the context of implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, encapsulated in section II.B below. Following the adoption of actions and the strategic discussions, the twenty-second meeting of the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group was declared closed at 12.00p.m.

II Conclusions

A. Technical Segment

Considerations of ongoing work and recommendations to the Senior Officials segment

The IMG on the Sound Management of Chemicals

8. The technical segment was briefed on the outcomes of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on the Sound Management of Chemicals by the EMG Director. Taking into consideration the successful completion of the IMG's assigned tasks, including the preparation of the Synthesis Report "United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management – Coordinating delivery for Member States and sustainable development" and the Joint Statement included therein, it was proposed that the IMG would be terminated. The technical segment was informed of the recurring Inter-agency Meeting on Sound Chemicals convened by the Inter-Organization Programme For The Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), to which all EMG Members are invited, as a promising platform for continuing inter-agency collaboration in this area of work following the closure of the IMG.
9. The BRS Secretariat supported the recommended action and suggested that it could be useful for the EMG to receive a report from the IOMC in the course of time, on how the coordination is proceeding.
10. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Action I: The Issue Management Group on the Sound Management of Chemicals

The Senior Officials:

1. Take note of the achievements made by the IMG including the preparation of the Synthesis Report “United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management – Coordinating delivery for Member States and sustainable development” including the Joint Statement by Heads of Agencies;
2. Welcome the initiative taken by the IOMC to follow-up on the recommendations in the EMG Synthesis Report and the Joint Statement, including by convening a regular Inter-Agency Meeting of the UN agencies on the Sound Management of Chemicals which met for the first time in May 2016 to identify collaborative activities on sound chemicals management in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Further welcome the interest expressed among agencies to continue to meet in this context going forward;
3. Invite the IOMC to inform the EMG at regular intervals on their progress in this area;
4. Decide to conclude the work of the IMG in light of the progress made by the Group and its achieved objectives.

The IMG on Tackling e-Waste

11. The technical segment was briefed on the progress made in the IMG by the United Nations University (UNU) since its establishment in spring 2016. An overview of the tasks agreed in the IMG’s Terms of Reference, as well as the definition of e-waste by which the IMG works, were provided. EMG Members were alerted of an upcoming request for information on their e-waste related initiatives, that will contribute to a system-wide mapping of e-waste related activities in the UN.
12. The EMG Director highlighted the nexus aspect of e-waste issues that are linked to thematic areas such as health, sustainable consumption and production and chemicals.
13. The Department of Field Support (DFS) referred to the aspects of e-waste generation related to its work and expressed its interest in engaging more actively in the work of the IMG.
14. The World Food Programme (WFP) welcomed the launch of the IMG and highlighted the importance of this area of work. While being cognisant of the focus of the IMG on e-waste support provided to Member States, WFP suggested that this work could also be relevant and interesting from the point of view of UN agencies’ in-house efforts to reduce and deal with its own e-waste.
15. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Action II: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Tackling E-waste

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the Terms of Reference of the IMG on Tackling E-waste and invite the Group to proceed with the implementation of the tasks as outlined in the ToR;
2. Invite the Group to provide a report on progress made, to the 23rd meeting of the EMG Senior Officials.

The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations System

16. The technical segment was given an update on the ongoing work of the IMG and on the progress made towards climate neutrality in the UN system by the Sustainable United Nations (SUN) secretariat. The tracking and reporting of new environmental indicators including internal waste management of UN entities was highlighted. The technical segment was encouraged to consider the connections between the work of the various EMG work streams on internal sustainability management and the SDGs.
17. The EMG Director pointed to the linkages between the IMG's work and the UN Climate Neutral Strategy approved by the CEB, and suggested that the EMG could communicate an information note for the CEB's attention on progress made towards climate neutrality. The CEB Secretariat took note of the suggestion and reminded the technical segment that a comprehensive report on the status of climate neutrality in the UN system was discussed at the fall meeting of the CEB in 2015.
18. Being the department with the highest environmental footprint in the UN System, DFS informed that while being committed to climate neutrality, its focus is on reducing the environmental impacts of its operations including in other areas than carbon emissions, and that full climate neutrality may be difficult to achieve within this year as a result.
19. UNCCD stated its commitment to achieve climate neutrality and stressed the need for resources, especially for small organizations, to succeed in this endeavor. The EMG was invited to reflect on the funding for climate neutrality initiatives. The EMG Director acknowledged the challenge and related it to possible future implications of more expensive carbon offsets. For sustainable progress towards climate neutrality, Member States would need to be convinced of the need for budgetary resources for investments in emission reductions. Recourses could be mobilized either agency by agency or through a pooled approach.
20. The SUN secretariat explained that the agreement by the CEB Members in 2015 to integrate environmental sustainability management in the planning for the facilities and operations of UN entities implies that the reflection on funding options and available resources lies with each agency internally. A note to the CEB in 2015 on how agencies fund this work showed that resources are normally found within an agency's corporate support services or set aside in specific trust funds that are replenished e.g. through a tax on travel. Further information exchange among agencies on their solutions to resource allocation could be arranged by the IMG.
21. WFP informed of its continued focus on reducing emissions and the intention to declare climate neutrality also for 2015. The organization stressed the significance of and

underlined its support to the work on waste management and considered it timely to bring this issue to the attention and consideration of the HLCM and the CEB.

22. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Action III: System-wide Commitments on Environmental Sustainability Management

The Senior Officials:

1. Endorse the above report on activities of the IMG on environmental sustainability management and invite the EMG to continue its joint work, including with HLCM, to ensure progressive implementation of the UN Roadmap for Climate neutrality by 2020 including the new streams of work related to waste management, water management and staff awareness;
2. Welcome the proposal of the IMG to prepare a note for HLCM attention/decision on a UN-wide approach to an improved and more responsible waste management system in UN offices and operations, in line with the goals of the above mentioned Roadmap;
3. Request the IMG to collaborate with the appropriate committees within the CEB to ensure that environmental management and the Roadmap for a Climate Neutral UN by 2020 is well integrated in the CEB discussions for internalizing SDGs in the work of the UN system at all levels;
4. Provide a brief note on progress made in the areas of environmental sustainability management and climate neutrality in the UN system for information of the CEB at its second regular session of 2016.

Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System

23. An overview of the work accomplished in the context of the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) in the UN system was provided by UNDP. The technical segment was informed that the focus of the Consultative Process has been on concluding the pilot process where the Interim Guide was tested as a tool for implementing the ESS Framework in seven agencies, and on reflecting on the future of the Process in light of lessons learned and results of the pilot. The interest among agencies to look into the option of moving towards a common approach on standards/safeguards in programming and the need to communicate around the work on ESS as part of the 2030 Agenda and the discussion on fitness for purpose were highlighted.
24. WFP expressed its appreciation for the pilot process, and encouraged other agencies to make use of the self-assessment procedure described in the Interim Guide . Among the benefits yielded, the organization mentioned identification of in-house synergies and guidance for the drafting of an environmental policy.
25. UNDP stressed the need to link closely to the work of the UN Development Group in the context of developing a common approach to standards/safeguards in programming at the country level.

26. UNESCAP pointed to the relevance of standards in programming at the regional and sub-regional levels in addition to the country level, and requested the work of the Consultative Process to be inclusive of this.

27. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Action IV: Consultations on Advancing the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System

The Senior Officials:

1. Take note of the findings of the Synthesis Report on the piloting of the Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) Framework and the progress made by the EMG members in integrating and implementing the Framework at its three entry points of policy/strategy, program/project and facilities/operation, including the recent strategic considerations of the ESS Consultative Process on its future work;
2. Acknowledge that the ESS Framework as it stands can serve as the basis for a common approach and a system-wide commitment to advancing environmental and social sustainability in the UN system, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. Recognize the role the Consultative Process plays to inspire individual agencies to undertake corporate commitments to ESS and the facilitative role the Consultative Process can play in promoting coherence at the institutional and policy level, as well as interagency collaboration in monitoring progress towards the SDGs, as required by SDG17;
4. Welcome the progress made by a significant number of UN agencies in introducing and integrating environmental sustainability in their operations and facilities management, with the support of the IMG on Environmental Management and the SUN Initiative;
5. Agree to revise the Interim Guide, informed by lessons learned from the piloting of the Framework, turning it into a living guide/source book with the aim to concretely guide agencies' sustainability efforts at the three entry points of the Framework;
6. Agree to elaborate, possibly in collaboration with the UNDG, a common approach for environmental and social standards for UN programmes and projects, including at country level, with the potential to inform the UNDG process to pilot and rollout the new UN Sustainable Development Framework Guidance (UNSDF);
7. Agree to develop options for enhancing communication, knowledge sharing and peer exchange on environmental and social sustainability issues among the UN agencies, including clarifying the link between the ESS Framework and the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and exploring options for a possible UN-wide hub to support exchange on ESS efforts at program/project level and build a community of practice;
8. Agree to extend the Consultative Process by one year to accomplish the above mentioned tasks and report on progress to the next Senior Officials' meeting.

Environmental Peer Reviews of EMG members

28. The technical segment heard a summary by the EMG Director, pointing to the interest among UN entities to be peer reviewed for the environmental management of their facilities and to the utility that peer reviewed agencies have experienced having been part of this process. Peer reviewed agencies were urged to share their reports to maximize the utility of the recommendations and lessons learned. The development of guidelines for how to conduct a peer review was seen as a way to facilitate and increase the number of peer reviews among interested agencies going forward.
29. UNFCCC restated its interest in peer reviewing its headquarters in Bonn, for which preparatory work has started.
30. In response to an inquiry by ECLAC, it was clarified that peer review reports are only made public if the peer reviewed agency so decides. It was suggested that an agreement on the publication of the report could be made already before the review has been conducted, in order to ensure that a larger number of agencies can benefit from the results. The EMG Secretariat informed that it is consulting with the peer reviewed agencies on the possibility to produce and publish condensed versions of the peer review reports that would exclude any confidential information.
31. The SUN Secretariat confirmed that there is an increased interest in environmental sustainability management in the field and suggested that the Peer Review could be an excellent tool for field based agencies to get started. Echoing the comment by ECLAC, the SUN Secretariat highlighted the explicit interest among agencies to learn from each other and proposed that the peer review reports could be shared within the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management to allow for peer learning. The technical segment was requested to bring this suggestion to the attention of their senior officials.
32. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Action V: Peer-Review of Environmental Profiles of UN Organizations

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the preparation of the draft Peer Review Report of the IMF and thank the contributing UN entities for taking part in this review process;
2. Take note of the preparation made by the UNFCCC Secretariat to undertake a peer review of its headquarters;
3. Welcome the interest expressed by UNRWA , WFP, UNOPS and UNDP to pilot the peer review concept in their field offices in Amman, Jordan and the progress made in preparing the peer reviews of these agencies ;
4. Encourage the reviewed agencies to consider sharing their peer review reports with the EMG members, as well as share information on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of their Peer Review reports with other EMG members;

5. Consider developing guidelines and documenting good practices to support agencies who wish to undertake peer reviews independently, as an output of the peer review process.

Linkages among EMG UN Sustainability Processes

33. The Co-Chair referred to the note (EMG-SOM22-INF1) that had been prepared by the EMG Secretariat in response to decision IV of the 21st Senior Officials Meeting, that requested a note on linkages between the EMG led UN internal sustainability processes with a view to enhance coherence between these initiatives and consider consolidated reporting on their progress to the Senior Officials in the future. The EMG Secretariat presented the note, highlighting that the expectation is to stimulate discussion, not to agree on any specific options at this stage. The Secretariat informed that the focal points of the concerned processes will be invited to consider the note and to prepare a proposal on how the processes could be streamlined.
34. WFP congratulated the EMG Secretariat on the note that was seen as a constructive input to a necessary discussion about how the sustainability processes could be further streamlined. As a preliminary reaction to the note, WFP favored the options to create a consolidated sustainability webpage and to arrange regular calls between the focal points of the different processes over the described option to merge the three processes into an umbrella group on internal UN sustainability.
35. UNDP echoed WFP's comments and looked forward to continuing the discussion, remarking that the value added and pros and cons of a major change such as creating an umbrella group would need to be carefully considered. A draft ToR of such an umbrella group could help shed light on these issues.
36. UNDESA seconded UNDP's comments and welcomed the suggested action to continue exploring the options in consultation with EMG Members.
37. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Action VI: Linkages Among EMG processes on Internal UN Sustainability and Possibilities for Synergies and Consolidation

The Senior Officials :

Request the EMG Secretariat in consultation with the EMG members to explore options for whether or not to streamline the EMG processes on UN internal sustainability to maximize their effectiveness and delivery for consideration of the Senior Officials .

Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment

38. The Co-Chair informed the technical segment of the workshop of the Consultative Process that preceded the Senior Officials meeting, where the data collection and outline of the first Synthesis Report under the System-Wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS) were considered. UNDP that had served as co-chair of the workshop briefed the technical segment on the discussions and outcomes.

39. The EMG Director stressed the difference between the SWFS and the System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender. Contrary to the SWAP, the SWFS is not intended as a vehicle to achieve a minimum obligatory outcome. The SWFS is instead a facilitating mechanism intended to promote dynamic information sharing on who is doing what in the area of environment in the context of the 2030 Agenda, which may lead to the identification of areas where there is scope for closer collaboration and more intense collaboration. Ultimately, similarities in the approaches to implement the environmental agenda may lead to system-wide strategies.
40. WFP expressed concern about the amount of time and work that may be required to prepare the synthesis report, and hoped that this concern would be taken into account when the data/information collection is planned. Further, the clarification of the objective of the SWFS as a mechanism to enhance UN agencies' support to Member States was supported. WFP enhanced that the data collection should include information on internal support operations in addition to information about policies and programmes. For example, the synthesis report could include information on how local populations are supported through the UN's presence and how UN agencies are managing their own environmental sustainability. The organization considered it interesting to also include information that demonstrates how UN agencies are embodying the SDGs themselves, and how they align their behaviour accordingly.
41. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Action VII: Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the finalization of the System-Wide Framework of Strategies as a significant step forward in system-wide cooperation and collaboration on the environment in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda;
2. Extend the Consultative Process to support the follow-up of the Framework, including the process for preparation of the Synthesis Report as outlined in the Framework;
3. Request the Consultative Process to provide a report on its progress to the next meeting of the Senior Officials for submission to the third session of the UNEA.

Maximizing the Effectiveness of the EMG in Enhancing Coordination on the Environment in the UN System in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

42. The technical segment was briefed on the status of the work by the Task Team on maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG and the progress made in its two work streams by the EMG Director. He drew the meeting's attention to the draft report on synergies between the implementation of the SDGs and international environmental objectives (EMG-SOM22-INF2) and acknowledged the concerns expressed by some agencies on the slow progress towards following up on the effectiveness report and implementing its recommendations. While the Senior Officials would not be expected to discuss the two

reports in detail, their strategic discussion would provide guidance on where the Task Team should focus its efforts in the year ahead.

43. UNDESA thanked the EMG Secretariat for providing the draft report on synergies between SDGs and other international environmental objectives, and requested an opportunity to provide comments and factual corrections to the draft report. For example, the part on sustainable consumption and production has the potential to be linked to other SDGs than only SDG12.
44. The EMG Secretariat clarified that the purpose of the draft report, developed with the support of UNITAR, is to showcase examples of linkages between the SDGs and already existing environmental goals, including those under the MEAS, to point out already existing governance structures that may serve to support the implementation of the SDGs in an efficient way. The report could, for example, be used for training purposes or for replication of the methodology used to identify linkages in other issue areas. The draft report will be shared separately for comments by the EMG Members.

Action VIII: Maximizing the Effectiveness of the EMG in Enhancing Coordination on the Environment in the UN System in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Senior Officials:

1. Take note of the draft report “Supporting implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs - identifying linkages between the SDGs and existing international environmental goals and processes”; and invite the EMG members to finalize the paper and use it as a tool in their efforts to support implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs;
2. Take note of Resolution 2/5 of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, requesting the Executive Director of UNEP to report on progress on the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the effectiveness report;
3. Decide to extend the Task Team for another year to prepare a proposal on implementation of the recommendations contained in the EMG effectiveness report for consideration of SOM23 and the third session of the UNEA.

III. Preparation of the strategic discussion during the senior segment

53. The EMG Director introduced the Strategic Note (EMG/SOM22/4), followed by a discussion by the technical segment in preparation for the strategic discussion by the Senior Officials, focusing on UN system support to Member States in delivering on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs - implementing the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS).
54. The technical segment discussed the modalities of the Senior Officials meeting and suggested a concentration and decrease of the questions posed to the Senior Officials to facilitate a focused

discussion. It was agreed that the following three key points would be circulated to the Senior Officials by the EMG Secretariat in advance of their meeting:

- a. UN system's support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular its environmental dimensions. *What does implementing the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda imply for UN agencies from the perspective of system wide cooperation?*
- b. Enhancing the environmental and social sustainability of the internal UN operations and facilities in the context of the 2030 Agenda. *How can the UN system ensure that it responds to the 2030 Agenda, in particular the environmental dimensions, in the management of its own programs, operations and facilities?*
- c. Role and contribution of the EMG in supporting the UN system in addressing the above. *Are the current mandate, approach and modalities of work of the EMG adequate and relevant to support the UN-system in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?*

IV. Environment Management Group Work Plan for 2017

55. The technical segment considered a draft work plan for 2017, organized according to expected accomplishments and milestones over a 12-month period as they pertain to programmatic, management and operational issues, as well as to overall cooperation, as presented in document EMG/SOM22/05.
56. The EMG Secretariat explained that the previous tradition of two-year work plans had been abandoned due to the way the EMG works and the difficulty in foreseeing tasks for longer than one year at a time, decreasing the value of an extended work plan. The work plan remains un-costed as there is no common budget for EMG activities. It was understood that the work plan would be updated based on the decisions taken by the Senior Officials.
57. It was noted that the work plan has more emphasis towards overall cooperation than programmatic cooperation. With regard to the indicated time frames, it was understood that these may fluctuate. EMG Members were encouraged to take enough time to go through necessary internal consultation, especially with regard to issues that require consultation with colleagues that are not usually involved in EMG matters, such as on issues related to the EMG effectiveness.
58. UNDP requested a specification that the in kind contribution refers to in kind contributions in terms of allocation of time to EMG work.
59. The EMG Secretariat clarified that the work plan guides the work of the EMG Secretariat, not the EMG Members.
60. ECLAC inquired what level of detail can be expected in the outputs described in the work plan by the end of 2017, in order for agencies to be prepared to become operational on the findings.
61. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Action IX: Approval of the EMG Work Plan for 2017

The Senior Officials approve the EMG work plan for 2017 based on the understanding that the EMG Secretariat will revise the plan presented in document EMG/SOM.22/05 to ensure that the plan fully reflects the actions agreed by the 22nd Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG. The work plan will be implemented on the basis of in-kind contributions from members and is subject to the availability of resources.

V. Reporting to the second session of the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA)

62. The technical segment was reminded of the standard reporting request by the United Nations Environment Assembly to receive a report on the work of the EMG. In addition, the second session of the UNEA requested a separate report on progress in the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the EMG effectiveness report and the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment for the United Nations system. The technical segment was informed that the third Environment Assembly (UNEA III) will be held in December 2017.

63. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Action X: Reporting to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP

The Senior Officials welcome the opportunity to inform the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP on the work of the EMG by providing a summary report by the Executive Director of UNEP in his capacity as Chair of the EMG.

VI. Date and Venue of the next Senior Official's Meeting

64. The technical segment agreed to continue the tradition of organizing the Senior Officials Meeting in New York during the week of the General Assembly. It was suggested that the 23rd meeting of the EMG Senior Officials take place early during the General Assembly week in September 2017. Taking into consideration the logistical challenges, the technical segment may be organized as a video-conference.

65. EMG Members requested more space between the meeting of the technical segment and the senior segment to allow for more time to prepare the Senior Officials for their discussions and agreement on the action points.

66. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Action XI: Date and venue of the next Senior Officials' Meeting

The Senior Officials request the EMG Secretariat to circulate to the EMG Members the date and venues for the 23rd Meeting of the Senior Officials, and consult with Members on its agenda. The Technical segment of the EMG Senior Officials meeting will take place a week before the Senior Segment of the meeting if possible by audio-video conference .

VII. Any other business

67. No other issues were discussed.

68. The co-chairs of the technical segment closed the meeting at 12.30 p.m.

B. The Senior Officials Segment

1. Opening

69. In his introductory remarks, the Chair Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, recognized the opportunity provided by the 2030 Agenda to fully integrate the environmental agenda with the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. He stressed the link between migration, inter-state conflicts and the environment and considered it a topic that should be brought up in the context of the EMG. Finally, he referred to the multiple other entry points, where the environment intercepts with the social and economic nexus such as health, green economy and the urban agenda.

2. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations from the technical segment

70. The Senior Officials were briefed by the EMG Director on the outcomes of the preceding technical segment, including a description of the recommended actions for approval of the Senior Officials as well as an overview of the common views expressed in discussions. The following remarks were made:

- E-waste was recognized as a major issue, especially in fragile countries. The IMG's inclusive definition of e-waste and focus on a holistic life-cycle approach was welcomed and the work of the IMG was supported.
- The Peer Review was seen as a very useful and helpful initiative. To maximize the benefits, overall results and best practices from completed reviews should be extracted and shared with the wider EMG membership. UN Habitat's interest in being peer reviewed was noted.
- The recommendation to explore options to integrate and enhance synergies among the different internal sustainability processes under the EMG was welcomed.
- The System-Wide Framework of Strategies was commended for promoting the valuable and necessary process to address the development agenda and specific sets of commitments under, for example the MEAs, in a coherent and coordinated manner. The continuation of the Consultative Process on the SWFS was hence supported.
- The work on maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG was seen as an opportunity to define the relevance of the EMG in the UN system in the context of the 2030 Agenda. It was recognized that an effective follow-up of the recommendation on the effectiveness report would benefit from intercessional engagement by EMG Members.

71. The suggested actions were then reviewed and adopted by the senior officials.

3. Strategic directions for future work of the EMG

72. The Senior Officials engaged in a forward-looking discussion that provided strategic directions for the future work of the EMG. The strategic debate was focused on UN system-wide support to the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the role and contribution of the EMG.

73. The Senior Officials provided their views and perspectives on the above issues as follows :

I. System-wide support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular the environmental dimensions

- **Addressing the nexus issues.** UN agencies, each operating within their respective mandates can support integrated policy formulation and the implementation of “nexus” issues such as Environment and Health, Environment and Energy, and Environment and Land Management.
- **Sharing of data and indicators.** Through a platform such as the EMG, the UN should make sure that the information provided to Member States on the implementation of the environmental dimension is credible and comparable. Hard data by organisations (e.g. FAO and WHO) that monitor changes in different areas – needs to be brought together through nexuses to give the best support to the 2030 Agenda. Agencies need to look at how they can collect and share different types of data and how to put them together effectively to support implementation on the ground.
- **Addressing the Green Agenda.** Having dealt with the “brown agenda”, including issues such as emissions, chemicals and waste, EMG should also look into system-wide cooperation around topics on the “green agenda” such as invasive alien species and climate change, bringing a different set of agencies around the table.
- **Coherence in reporting on the environmental dimensions.** Regarding reporting on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, including those under the current Multilateral Environmental Agreements, a better link should be established between reporting under the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). This would help ensure clearer and more coherent messaging to Member States.
- **Supporting the 2030 Agenda at country-level.** The UN system should define approaches to translate its global policy into country level support. Synergies between the EMG’s work at the global level and UN Development Group (UNDG)’s work on supporting UN country team work should be enhanced, e.g. through normative input from the EMG in formulation and implementation of UNDG guidelines on environmental sustainability for country-programming.
- **The UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS).** The SWFS is a very important tool which agencies can use to bring themselves together and to build synergies, and in doing so ensuring that the reporting systems which they build are aligned as much as possible to the other reporting exercises which they undertake, and to the 2030 Agenda. The SWFS could also cover the UN system’s internal sustainability work towards meeting the SDGs at global and country level, including on climate change and biodiversity. While being thematically focused on the environmental dimension, the Framework should not distract agencies from undertaking an integrated approach.
- **Need to integrate the development agenda with the environmental agenda.** The EMG should look at how other SDG Targets, such as those on gender equality and education, support the environmental dimensions and vice versa. How can we learn from what is happening on the ground, and bring this to the international level? A horizontal and vertical exchange of information will be necessary to meet the SDGs.

- **A UN system strategic approach on climate change action.** The proposed roadmap towards a strategic approach on climate change action, by the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) is less of an outright strategy and more of a stock-taking of who does what. In terms of climate change many agencies are contributing directly or indirectly to the Paris Agreement, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. Establishing a strategic approach to guide the UN system on how to support Member States will be important. The Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action should provide guidance as to how the 2030 Agenda inspires different areas and sectors to work differently on climate change. It should make sure that the goals under the Paris Agreement and Goal 13 under the SDGs are considered as one integral agenda at the country level.
- **Inter-agency platform on climate change.** Following the conclusion of the mandate of the working group on climate change in HLCP last year, there is currently no clear inter-agency forum for bringing the agencies together to discuss system-wide cooperation on climate change. At this point, it may be worthwhile for the EMG to prepare a note, mapping out the ongoing processes on climate change and possible synergies in moving forward through a system-wide platform. With the appointment of the new Secretary General and in the context of implementing the Paris Agreement, the UN system might need to come together and define its approach.
- **Enhancing the environmental and social sustainability of the internal UN operations and facilities in the context of the 2030 Agenda.**
- **The Framework for enhancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in internal work of the UN system.** The 2030 Agenda should be seized as an opportunity for the UN system to enhance its efforts to improve sustainability of its own operations and management. The EMG Framework on Enhancing the Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system provides a basic architecture for integrating environmental and social sustainability measures. The Framework which has been piloted by 7 UN agencies can be tested by others as a tool for integrating the 2030 Agenda into policies, programmes, and operations of the UN agencies. Agencies can share their experiences and lessons learned on how they have overcome the implications of this process as well as the results and benefits.
- **A system-wide common approach to environmental and social safeguards at program and project level.** There are potential benefits of moving towards a common approach to environmental and social safeguards in projects and programs which would allow for shared trainings, tools, learning, etc. Such an approach would collectively demonstrate to partners and stakeholders that the UN system is Fit for Purpose to support countries on the 2030 agenda by ensuring that:
 - o there is a credible, transparent, coherent and effective approach to environmental and social standards and accountability, built on international norms and best practice;
 - o we are positioned to respond to donor expectations that increasingly imply or explicitly require social and environmental safeguards; and

o the UN is positioned to build the capacities of countries to internalize environmental and social standards as a key enabler to achieving progress on the SDGs.

- With a focus on strengthening Delivering as One at the country level, several agencies noted the need to link this work with the UNDG process to develop the new UN Sustainable Development Assistance Framework Guidance. Shared tools/guidance could eventually be incorporated into the package of tools used to implement the UNSDAF guidance.
- **UN agencies' corporate environmental management strategies and strategic plans.** Thanks to the EMG, some of the agencies with vast field operations have started measures to report and reduce their emissions and are in the process of putting in place a strategic plan to prominently place the environment and climate change on their agenda.
- **EMG's support to UN agencies to link the environmental SDG Targets with aspect of agencies' operations and management.** The EMG can serve as a platform to give guidance and to identify how agencies themselves can contribute to meeting the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. UN agencies could structure their programming statistics to report on efforts targeting the minimization of resource use and increasing resource efficiency. Targets to promote green procurement would also be desirable. UN agencies can also use the SDGs to rethink the way they plan projects and activities that should become "SDG-proofed".

II. **Role and contribution of the EMG in supporting the UN system in addressing the above**

- **EMG's relevance and contribution to the 2030 Agenda.** Principals expressed their support and commitment to the work of the EMG and stressed the need for the Group, as one of the main drivers facilitating better coordination in the UN system. The increasing scope and importance of the EMG as a platform for interconnectedness, synergies, data sharing and exchange in best practices in the context of the 2030 Agenda was recognized and willingness to enhance the role of the EMG in this regard was expressed.
- The EMG was viewed as a useful hub to explore the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, enhance cooperation among partner organizations focused on the 2030 Agenda and bring environmental issues of cross-sectoral relevance to each other's attention.
- Exchanging information on internal sustainability management would be very important, especially for agencies that do not have a direct environmental mandate supporting the reduction of the environmental footprint of the UN system
- Given the large amount of work the EMG has done (the importance and scope of EMG work is growing) some agencies recognized the need for the EMG Secretariat to be better resourced.
- **Improving EMG modalities of work.** The Senior Officials considered Issue Management Groups on key environmental issues as a good configuration. However, it was suggested

that the approach could also include and be arranged around conceptual issue groups targeting multiple SDG targets related to the environment. The work of the EMG should also be better linked to other existing cooperation mechanisms at the national, regional and global level, such as the work of the UNDG in revising UNSDAF guidelines, and the Regional Coordination Mechanisms.

- **EMG serving as platform for data collection** – EMG can serve as a platform for certain types of data collection (without duplicating other SDG reporting) and data sharing to support an effective implementation of the SDGs. This way, the EMG could support data monitoring and the necessary redefinition of aspects of the SDGs along the way.
- **Strengthening Institutional cooperation between EMG and CEB:** The relationship between the EMG and CEB, HLCP and the UNDG should be clearly identified and formalized to strengthen the messages from and enhance agencies' buy-in to the EMG. There should be a way for the EMG to report directly to the CEB or other high-level forums with regard to the environmental dimension of the SDGs – not just on an ad-hoc basis. The work of the EMG should also be recognized as contributing to the work on the 2030 Agenda under the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Synergies between the work of the different coordination mechanisms should also be enhanced.
- **EMG Secretariat Resources:** Given the small size of the EMG Secretariat, it will be important for it to be fully resourced in order to meet its Work Plan and new issues emerging from the 2030 Agenda. EMG members should consider providing some form of support, on an ad-hoc basis or staff time provisions – on a case-by-case basis, when they suggest an issue for consideration of the EMG.
- **More frequent meetings:** EMG members recognized that their commitment in terms of time to EMG work would lead to more rapid progress in the Group's work. More frequent meetings at the technical and Senior level was proposed as a means to enhance engagement and promote progress.

Closure of the meeting

74. No other issues were discussed.

75. The Chair closed the meeting on 22 September at 12pm.

Annex I

22nd Senior Officials' Meeting of the Environment Management Group	EMG/ EMG/SOM22/1
Technical Segment, 21 September 2016 (8.00 a.m.- 13.00 NY time) at the UN HQ GA Building Conference room 8 (CR8) 1st basement	05 September 2016
Senior Segment, 22 September 2016, (9.00 a.m-12.30 p.m. NY time) at the UN HQ GA Building Conference room 8 (CR8) 1st basement	Distribution: EMG members

Introduction

The technical segment of the 22nd meeting of the EMG Senior Officials will meet on 21 September in advance of the senior segment of the Senior Officials Meeting to consider the progress reports of the IMGs, Consultative Processes and Task Teams, and to discuss and agree on the suggested action points for their future work. The Senior Officials are expected to formally endorse the report of the technical segment on the 22nd of September without further discussion, including any decisions contained therein, unless there is a specific request for discussion by a participant.

Provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

A. Provisional agenda for the preparatory technical segment of the 22nd Senior Officials Meeting of the Environment Management Group

21 September, 2016

1. Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Considerations of ongoing work and recommendations to the senior officials segment:
 - (a) The IMG on the Sound Management of Chemicals
 - (b) The IMG on Tackling E-waste;
 - (c) The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations System;
 - (d) Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System;

- (e) Peer-Reviewing of Environmental Management Profiles of United Nations Organisations;
 - (f) Linkages Among EMG processes on Internal UN Sustainability and Possibilities for Synergies and Consolidation;
 - (g) Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment;
 - (h) Task Team on Maximizing the Effectiveness of the EMG in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. Preparation of the discussion during the senior segment on UN system support to Member States in delivering on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs - implementing the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS)
 5. Environment Management Group work plan for 2017
 6. Date and venue of the next Senior Officials Meeting
 7. Any other business
- B. Provisional agenda for the senior officials segment of the 22nd Senior Officials Meeting of the Environment Management Group**

22 September, 2016

1. Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations from the technical segment of the meeting on actions related to the ongoing and future work of the Environment Management Group
4. Strategic directions for the future work of the EMG
UN system support to Member States in delivering on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs – implementing the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment
5. Any other business

C. Proposed organization of work of the technical segment on Wednesday, 21 September

Time (NY)	Nr.	Agenda Item	Associated Document	Presentation by
8:30-8:40	Agenda item 1	Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs (tbc)		Co-Chairs
	Agenda item 2	Adoption of the agenda	EMG/SOM.22/1	<i>Co-Chairs</i>
8.40-9:50	Agenda item 3	<p>Consideration of ongoing work and recommendations to the Senior Officials segment:</p> <p>a) The IMG on the Sound Management of Chemicals</p> <p>b) The IMG on Tackling E-waste;</p> <p>c) The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations System;</p> <p>d) Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System;</p> <p>e) Peer-Reviewing of Environmental Management Profiles of United Nations Organizations;</p> <p>f) Linkages Among EMG Processes on Internal UN Sustainability and Possibilities for Synergies and Consolidation;</p>	<p>EMG/SOM.22/2</p> <p>EMG/SOM.22/3</p> <p>EMG/SOM.22/INF/1</p>	<p><i>EMG Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>UNU</i></p> <p><i>EMG-SUN</i></p> <p><i>UNDP</i></p> <p><i>EMG Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>EMG Secretariat</i></p>
9-50- 10.00		COFFEE BREAK		

10.00-11.00	Agenda item 3 cont.	<p>g) Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment;</p> <p>h) Task Team on Maximizing the Effectiveness of the EMG in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>EMG/SOM.22/2</p> <p>EMG/SOM.22/3</p>	<p><i>EMG Secretariat and UNDP</i></p> <p><i>EMG Secretariat</i></p>
11.00-12.15	Agenda item 4	<p>Preparation of discussion during the senior segment on UN system support to Member States in delivering on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs – implementing the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment.</p>	EMG/SOM.22/4	<i>EMG Secretariat</i>
12.15-12.45	Agenda item 5	<p>Environment Management Group work plan for 2017</p>	EMG/SOM.22/5	<i>EMG Secretariat</i>
12.45-12.50	Agenda item 6	<p>Date and venue of the next senior officials' meeting</p>		
12.50-13.00	Agenda item 8	<p>Any other business</p>		
13.00		<p>Closure of the technical segment of the meeting</p>		

D. Proposed organization of work of the Senior Segment on Thursday, 22 September

Time (NY)	Nr	Agenda Item	Associated Document	Presentation by
9:00-9:15	Agenda item 1	Opening remarks by the Chair		Chair Tour de table of the of the new Senior Officials
9.15	Agenda item 2	Adoption of the agenda	EMG/SOM.22/1	
9:15-9:45	Agenda item 3	Consideration and adoption of the recommendations from the technical segment of the meeting on actions related to the ongoing work of the Environment Management Group	<i>Table of decisions prepared by the technical segment)</i>	EMG Secretariat
Coffee Break				
9.45-10:00				
10.00-12.20	Agenda item 4	Strategic directions for the future work of the EMG on the theme “ <i>UN system support to Member States in delivering on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs – implementing the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment</i> ”	EMG/SOM.22/4	Chair and Senior Officials
12:20-12.30	Agenda item 5	Any other business		
12:30 p.m.		Closure of the senior officials’ meeting		

Annex 2

List of Participants

Technical Segment of the 22ND SOM, New York, 21.09.2016

	Organisation	Name	Title	
1	OCHA	Barnaby Jones	Executive Officer, Administrative Services Branch (ASB)	
2.	FAO	Armine Avagyan	Natural resources management and climate change expert	
3.	UNEP	Mamadou Kane	Senior Programme Officer	
		Juan Chebly	Lead Adviser	
		Loreley Picourt	Intern	
4.	BRS Secretariat	Maria Cristina Cardenas	Policy and Strategy Advisor	
5.	CBD Secretariat	Nandhini Krishna		
6.	UNESCO	Ana Persic	Science Specialist	
7.	UNDP	Tim Scott		
		Holly Mergler		
8.	DFS	Sophie Ravier	Environmental Officer	

9.	UNCCD	Melchiade Bukuru	Head, NY Office	
10.	UNFCCC	Daniele Violetti		
		James Grabert		
11.	UNECE	Marko Keiner		
12.	UN Habitat	New York Liaison Office		
13.	UNICEF	Cristina Colon	climate / environment policy specialist	
		William Abi Abdallah	greening specialist	
14.	UNDESA	Federica Pietracci	Senior Economic Affairs Officer	
15.	CEB Secretariat	Xenia von Lilien	CEB Programme Officer	
		Catherine Zanev	Associate Expert on Climate Change	
16.	ITU	Kadiatiou Sall-Beye	Project Officer LDC	
17.	ESCAP	Stefanos Fotiou	Director Environment and Development Division	
18.	ECLAC	Luiz Fernando Krieger Merico		

		Renata Briones S.		
19.	WFP	Julie McKenzie		
		Micol Mulon		
20.	UNIDO			
21.	UNU	Ruediger Kuehr		
22.	UNEP-SUN	Isabella Marras		
		Emma Hakansson		
		Hala Jamhoury		
23.	EMG Secretariat	Elliott Harris	ASG, and Head of EMG Secretariat	
		Hossein Fadaei	Senior Liaisons Officer	
		Jannica Pitkanen-Brunnsberg	Associate Programme Officer	
		Monica Villegas	Intern	
		Garam Bel	Intern	

List of Participants

22nd meeting of the EMG Senior Officials, New York 22 September 2016

	Organisation	Name	Function
1	UNFCCC	Patricia Espinosa	Executive Secretary
		Daniele Violetti	Chief of Staff
2	UNDFS	Atul Khare	Under-Secretary-General for Field Support
		Sophie Ravier	Environmental Officer
3	BRS	Mrs Maria-Christina Cardenas	Policy and Strategy Advisor
4	FAO	Armine Avagyan	Natural resources management and climate change expert
5	WIPO	Lucinda Longcroft	Head, WIPO Coordination Office, NY
6	OCHA	Mr. Barnaby Jones	Executive Officer
7	UNEP	Ibrahim Thiaw	Chair, Deputy Executive Director
		Marlene Nilsson	Special Assistant to the DED
		Mamadou Kane	Senior Programme Officer

		Juan Chebly	Lead Adviser
8	UNDP	Tim Scott	Senior Policy Adviser
9	UNESCO	Flavia Schegel	Assistant Director-General
		Dr Ana Persic	Science Specialist
10	UNCCD	Melchiade Bukuru	Head, NY Office
11	UNECE	Christian Friis Bach	Executive Secretary
12	ESCAP	Dr. Shamshad Akhtar	Executive Director
		Stefanos Fotiou	Director
13	WFP	Mr. Stanlake Samkange	Director, Policy and Programme Division
14	UNOPS	Ms. Grete Faremo	Executive Director
15	UN DESA	Thomas Gass	ASG
		Federica Pietracci	Senior Economic Affairs Officer
16	UNCTAD	Isabel Garza Rodriguez	Economic Affairs Officer
17	UNISDR	Glenn Dolcemascolo	Head on UNISDR Office – N.E Asia

18	CEB	Xenia von Lilien	Programme Officer
19	ECLAC	Romain Zivy	Deputy Chief of Office
20	WMO	Paul Egerton	Representative to United Nations
21	UN-Habitat	Aisa Kacyira	Deputy Executive Director
		Filiép Decorte	Chief technical advisor
22	UNICEF	Cristina Colon	Policy Specialist
23	CBD	David Cooper	Deputy Executive Secretary
	ITU	Kadiatiou Sall-Beye	Project Officer LDC
24	UNEP – EMG Secretariat	Elliott Harris	ASG, and Head of EMG Secretariat
		Hossein Fadaei	Senior Liaisons Officer
		Jannica Pitkanen-Brunnsberg	Associate Programme Officer
25	UNEP-SUN	Isabella Marras	Programme Officer
