



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

联合国环境规划署



| | |
|--|---|
| 1st meeting of the EMG Consultative Process for the preparation of a System Wide Strategy on the Environment 27 January 2015 | Distribution: Members of the Consultative Process |
| Teleconference, 15:30-16:30, Central European Time (CET) | 9.2.15 |

Documents:

- A) Provisional agenda
- B) Terms of Reference for the Process of the System Wide Strategy
- D) Draft overview of environment-related mandates
- E) List of participants

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the EMG Consultative Process for the preparation of a System Wide Strategy on the Environment

1. Introduction

The first meeting of the EMG Consultative Process took place by teleconference from 15.30 to 16.30 (CET) on 27 January 2015, and was chaired by Hossein Fadaei on behalf of the Director of the EMG Secretariat, Elliott Harris. The list of participants is provided in **Annex I**. The Secretariat apologized for not being able to connect some of the EMG members to the call which was due to a technical problem with the teleconference bridge.

Following the chair's opening remarks, the meeting adopted its agenda (Annex II) and provided their comments on the TOR of the Consultative Process. They agreed to provide by email any additional comments to the revised TOR, which would also allow the EMG members who could not attend to the teleconference to express their views.

2. Discussion on the TOR, work-plan and role of the Consultative Process

The chair provided a background reminding the Consultative Process of the Rio+20 outcome document, the UNEA Resolution 1/11, as well as the EMG SOM20 Decision VIII on the System-Wide Strategy (ies) (SWS) for the Environment. He drew the attention of the meeting to the documents prepared by UNEP on this issue for the 20th meeting of the senior officials, the subsequent written comments received by the EMG members, the proposed TOR for the process and the recent draft overview of environment-related mandates provided by UNEP; and thanked the members for their comments. The chair outlined that the goal of the meeting was to consider the Terms of Reference and agree on the process ahead. Following this introduction, the meeting was invited to provide their comments and general perspectives about the process.

Environment Management Group Secretariat (EMG)

11-13 Chemin des Anémones, International Environment House, CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-917-8693 ♦ Fax: +41-22-917-8024 ♦ Email: emg@unep.ch

Key considerations

The following comments were expressed by the participants:

- UNECE requested further clarification on the gap analysis phase of the process. The secretariat explained that the gap analysis would be based on the overview of existing environment-related mandates prepared by UNEP, which has been sent to the EMG members for comments and completion.
- UNESCO requested that the ToR make reference to the language and mandate given by the Rio+20 Conference and the UNEA Resolution 1/11, consistently referring to system-wide strategy(ies), noting that referring simply to a single strategy at this stage could preempt the outcome of the exercise. Supported by ICAO, UNESCO suggested that an alternative option to address the environment from multiple perspectives could be to develop a Framework Strategy for the Environment.
- The CEB Secretariat drew the meeting's attention to the role of the CEB and its subsidiary bodies, and the timing of its inputs to the process. The Secretariat responded that the role envisaged for the CEB was to receive guidance where appropriate and to ensure a high level commitment to the strategy(ies) once ready.
- WMO, supported by UNESCO raised the issue of how the environment is defined in the context of the SWS, referring to the interpretation of the scope of the exercise, as well as the involvement of the governing bodies of relevant UN entities, in addition to the UNEA of UNEP. UNESCO suggested that the definition of environment in the Rio+20 Outcome Document be considered in the elaboration of the Strategy.
- UNDP emphasized the importance of collaborating with other coordination mechanisms in the UN system such as the UNDG, seeking their views at an earlier stage. UNDP reminded the group of the comprehensive analysis and information collection exercise on environmental efforts carried out by the OECD, which could offer useful insights for the gap analysis to be made in the context of the SWS.
- UNESCO welcomed the opportunity to complete the draft overview that was circulated to the Consultative Process in advance of the meeting and proposed a matrix approach to cover the complexity of environmental work carried out by UN agencies. UNESCO requested clarification as to why the MEAs were not included in the initial overview and emphasized the importance of considering them, as well as synergies between MEAs in the work going forward.
- UNECE inquired how governing bodies of other UN entities will be consulted and engaged in the development phase considering the SWS, once prepared, is expected to be integrated in their respective policies and programs.
- In support of UNECE's statement, FAO questioned whether funds would be made available to support the involvement of UN entities in the development phase, in addition to the funds reserved for consultancy inputs.

- UNDESA suggested that the Strategy consider the issue of mainstreaming the three dimensions of Sustainable Development from an environmental perspective; and that further emphasis be placed on the role and value of the SWS in relation to the regular reporting from the Secretary General to Member States.
- CEB reminded the group of ongoing related processes in the context of the HLPF, leading to a discussion among the meeting participants on the necessity to look at the hierarchy of governing bodies and mandates, and the SWS in relation to these.
- UNEP emphasized that the analysis of the mapping should also look at possible overlaps and opportunities for synergies, in addition to identifying gaps in environmental mandates; and inquired about the role of the SWS in building capacity in the UN system to exchange knowledge and share information about their environmental work.
- UNEP, supported by DESA, suggested that the mapping exercise focus on competencies, potential contributions to the strategy or environmental work of the UN system, instead of looking specifically at mandates of organizations.

Agreed Action:

The meeting agreed that a revised TOR of the process taking into account the discussions of the meeting be circulated to the members of the Consultative Process for final comments and subsequent approval. They also took note of the overview paper prepared by UNEP and will provide to the EMG Secretariat their inputs and comments by the given deadline .

The next teleconference of the Consultative Process will discuss the approach for defining the SWS and more in-depth discussions on the focus , objectives, scope and other modalities of the Strategy.

3. Any Other Business

Members of the Consultative Process were invited to complement and comment on the draft overview of environment-related mandates by email to the EMG Secretariat by February 20, 2015.

4. Closure of the meeting

The chair apologized to those who were unable to attend the meeting due to technical problems. He closed the meeting on January 27, 2015 at 16.30 CET.

ANNEX I

List of Participants

| | Name | Organization |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Sinead Brophy | UNOV/UNODC |
| 2. | Maria-Teresa Pisani | UNECE |
| 3. | Salvatore Arico | UNESCO |
| 4. | Corli Pretorius | UNEP |
| 5. | Brennan van Dyke | UN DM |
| 6. | Xenia von Lilien | CEB Secretariat |
| 7. | Federica Pietracci | UNDESA |
| 8. | Dyonissia Geka | UNEP OFO |
| 9. | Tim Scott | UNDP |
| 10. | Richard Choularton | WFP |
| 11. | Paul Egerton Natalie XX | WMO |
| 12. | (Representative on behalf of Daniele Violetti) | UNFCCC |
| 13. | Frederik Haag | IMO |
| 14. | Jane Hupe | ICAO |
| 15. | Karsten Steinfatt | WTO |
| 16. | Alex Heikens | UNICEF |
| 17. | Marina Maiero | WHO |

| | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------|
| 18. | Cecilia Lopez y Royo | UNOPS |
| 19. | Representative (on behalf of by Valerie Hickey) | World Bank |
| 20. | Isabella Marras | UNEP/SUN |
| 21. | Hossein Fadaei Jannica Pittannen Dominique Souris | EMG Secretariat (chair) |

Annex II

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1st meeting of the EMG Task Team for preparation of a System Wide Strategy on the Environment 27 January 2015 Teleconference, 15:30-17:00 hrs, Geneva time Chaired by Elliott Harris, Head of the EMG Secretariat | Distribution: EMG Task Team members |
|---|-------------------------------------|

Documents:

Provisional agenda

Terms of Reference for the Process of the System Wide Strategy

Provisional Agenda

1- Introductory remarks

Background and the overall process envisaged for preparation of the System Wide Strategy on the Environment (SWS)

2-Terms of the Reference, work-plan and role of the EMG Task Team

Consideration and discussion of the proposed TOR, work plan and modalities of work of the Task Team

3-Next steps and next meeting of the Task Team

4-Any other matters

5-Closure of the teleconference