



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



17th Senior Officials Meeting of the Environment Management Group

19 September 2011

Preparatory technical segment: 9 a.m. – 13:00 p.m.

Senior officials segment: 14:30–17:30 p.m.

Hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Hank Shannon Room, 21st floor, DC 1 building,

1 UN plaza, UN Headquarters, New York

EMG/SOM.17/04

29 August 2011

Distribution: EMG members

Proposed work plan 2012 - 2013

Note by the Chair

Introduction

1. This note presents a proposed work plan for EMG for the period 2012 – 2013. The plan builds on the first annual work plan adopted by the 16th Senior Officials Meeting of Environment Management Group in 2010.
2. The 16th Senior Officials Meeting of EMG adopted the 2011-2012 EMG work plan. The plan has been updated to a 2012-2013 EMG work plan which reflects the suggested actions presented in the document EMG/SOM.17/03.
3. It is proposed that the work plan, as was decided last year, be given a two year horizon, i.e. be a plan for 2012 to 2013, which is subject to annual approval by the senior officials. The reason for this approach is to capture activities which have a time span longer than one year. The plan, an overview of forthcoming activities and milestones for the next 24 months, has four main expected accomplishments which pertain to programmatic, management and operational issues as well as overall cooperation.
4. The work plan remains un-costed as there is no common budget for EMG activities. It is recommended that the work plan be implemented through in-kind contributions subject to the availability of resources. The in-kind contributions will be budgeted, programmed and reported on by each member and the UNEP secretariat within their own administrative processes.

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Environment Management Group work plan for 2012 – 2013

Expected accomplishment	Activities and milestones ¹
A. Management issues	IMG on Sustainable Management
Enhanced sustainability of management practices in the United Nations system	<p>1. UN Sustainable management Maintain regular IMG meetings to identify how sustainable management can be further developed and systematically implemented in the United Nations system by identifying barriers, enabling measures, providing input to relevant bodies and processes in the UN system, and providing respective reports and recommendations to the EMG. Prepare a progress report of the above work of the IMG to the 18th Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG in 2012</p> <p>(a) Identify possible options for a common structure to support implementation of the strategic plan and for resourcing the structure's operation.</p> <p>(b) Develop and implement organization-specific sustainability management systems (SMS) as outlined in the strategic plan. Members will be encouraged to design their respective SMSs, for consideration at the appropriate level within each organization, based on existing work (e.g. emission reduction strategies) and provide details on human and financial resources required.</p> <p>(c) The IMG will more specifically:</p> <p>(i) Prepare the third edition of the report "Moving towards Climate Neutrality in the UN System", to be released at the spring meeting of the CEB in April 2012;</p> <p>(ii) Provide inputs to EMG contributions to the UNCSD as part of advancing environmental and social sustainability in the UN system;</p> <p>(iii) Continue knowledge sharing, communication, training and awareness-raising activities, in particular based on the Greening the Blue platform, on issues such as sustainable buildings, procurement, events, travel, and e-communications; and to maintain the links created with related interagency networks;</p> <p>(iv) Seek resources and create partnerships to develop a tutorial for the UN system aimed at enhancing a culture of sustainability and enabling staff in their respective categories to contribute to the success of emissions reduction strategies and sustainability management;</p> <p>(v) Undertake other activities, as may be needed and possible within existing resources, to maintain the momentum of the UN climate neutral and overall sustainability effort.</p>

¹ Activities will be undertaken with the support by members in the form of personnel time, travel, in-kind and financial support, with support provided by the UNEP hosted EMG secretariat and for expected accomplishment And with the support provided by the UNEP Sustainable UN Facility (SUN).

B. Programmatic issues	
<p>Enhanced coherence in programming of environmental activities in the United Nations system, including for mainstreaming environmental concerns into sectoral programmes</p>	<p>1. IMG on biodiversity Further the cooperation among EMG members on a multi-sectoral contribution to the implementation of the post 2010 biodiversity agenda including the outcome of the General Assembly high level event on biodiversity and the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and report on its work to the 18th Senior Officials Meeting.</p> <p>(a) Ensure effective follow-up to the findings of the report “Advancing the biodiversity agenda, A UN system wide Contribution” and the statement by Executive Heads of EMG members.</p> <p>(b) Develop a practical and pragmatic approach to the implementation of the tasks entrusted to the EMG, and to report on progress to the Secretary-General, to the UNEP Governing Council and to the CBD bureau and the COP 11 through the Working Group on Review of Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.</p>
	<p>2. IMG on Land Prepare modalities for a joint coherent United Nations system-wide contribution response and agenda for action on dry-lands, including the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD).</p> <p>(a) Implement the findings of the report “Global Drylands, A UN system-wide Contribution” and the statement by Executive Heads of EMG members.</p> <p>(b) Respond to any requests made to the EMG from the UNGA high-level event on desertification, land degradation and drought, the 10th COP of the UNCCD and the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012 including the possible consideration of other land-related issues which warrant action by the IMG.</p> <p>(c) Prepare a report on the outcome of its work to the 18th Senior Officials Meeting.</p>
	<p>3. IMG on Green Economy Assess how the UN system can more coherently support countries in making the transition to a “green economy” and work on joint and consistent messaging on measures needed to support the transition to a “green economy”.</p> <p>(a) Finalize and submit the report to the Rio+20 preparatory process and undertake any preparations for the Conference and respond to any follow up work that may be requested by the Conference to the UN system on Green Economy.</p>
	<p>4. Consultations on the environmental pillar of the institutional framework on sustainable development (IFSD) and support to UNCSD Contribute to the UNCSD preparatory process for input to the Rio+20.</p> <p>(a) Keep members information about the international environmental governance reform efforts especially on issues which are of relevance to the role of EMG in contributing to the institutional framework for sustainable development.</p>

	(b) Submit a summary of the strategic discussions to the secretariat for the UNCSD preparatory process in response to the invitation from the Second Preparatory Committee of the UNCSD, highlighting: the work of EMG on the green economy, drylands and biodiversity; the development of a framework for environmental and social sustainability in the UN system and views of EMG members on the institutional framework for sustainable development.
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C. Operational issues	
Enhanced coherence in advancing environmental and social sustainability of the UN system	<p>1. Consultations on environmental and social sustainability Prepare options for scope of and modalities for the development of a possible United Nations system-wide approach to environmental and social safeguards for consideration by the EMG based on a review of existing policies such as the ongoing work by UNDG on a guidance note on environmental sustainability. Continue to facilitate the consultative process in close cooperation with the Issue Management Group on sustainable management with view to:</p> <p>(a) Support the implementation of the EMG statement and framework on environmental and social sustainability including developing a community of good practice or resource centre to share knowledge and lessons learned and continued coordination with the IMG on Sustainable Management to ensure synergies.</p> <p>(b) Explore options for issues under consideration, such as a common support and knowledge sharing function, accountability and the need for enhanced social expertise.</p> <p>(c) Provide a progress report on the outcome of its work to the 17th EMG Senior Officials Meeting.</p>
D. Overall cooperation	
Strengthened cooperation among EMG members in setting a common agenda, implementing joint initiatives and reporting on progress	<p>1. Senior Officials Meetings of the EMG Convene the 18th Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG in September 2012 based on consultations of options for dates, venues and agenda.</p> <p>2. Exchange of information and outreach Facilitate exchange of information and outreach on EMG activities including through maintaining the EMG website.</p> <p>3. Report to UNEP Governing Council on EMG accomplishments Preparations of a report by the EMG Chair reviewed by EMG members to UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its 12th Special Session.</p>