



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



24th Senior Officials Meeting of the Environment Management Group Technical Segment, 17 th September 2018 (15:00 -17:00 Geneva time) Via audio-video conference	EMGSOM.24(a)_2_Progress Report_Recommended_Actions Distribution: EMG Members
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All documents referred to in this progress report can be accessed on the [EMG website](#)

Progress Report and Recommended Actions

Executive summary

The present report has been developed with the aim of supporting agenda item 3 of the Technical Segment, of the 24th EMG Senior Officials Meeting. It reports progress on ongoing work by the Issue Management Groups and Consultative Processes. It also proposes actions and directions for further work of the EMG, to the Senior Officials.

I. Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste

1. Following the 23rd Senior Officials Meeting, the draft synthesis report: [United Nations System-wide Response to Tackling E-waste](#) was edited and professionally designed. It was also made available in [brochure](#) format during the 3rd United Nations Environment Assembly, in December 2017.
2. Since September 2017, the IMG on Tackling E-waste initially focussed on three work streams. Under work stream one, the IMG began developing an analysis looking into strengthening programmatic collaboration. The aim was to complement the findings of the aforementioned report, by looking further into organisations' programmes of work, their available resources and decisions and stakeholder engagement. Ultimately, the objective was to identify comparative advantages across the UN system; however, this analysis was eventually discontinued to allow time and resources for the development of the E-waste Coalition which is presented later.
3. Under work stream two, the IMG began preparing a proposal for the development of an online e-waste knowledge sharing platform. As part of this exercise, a short survey was distributed to IMG Members, asking for their opinion on the most important and useful 'types' of knowledge to share.
4. In tandem with the IMG's work stream 2, a Terms of Reference (ToR) has been developed by the United Nations University (UNU) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), detailing the costs and key areas of work required for the continued maintenance and expansion of the existing online e-waste statistics portal, by the [Global E-waste Statistics Partnership](#) (ITU-UNU-International Solid Waste Association).
5. Efforts are underway to involve the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) in this statistics partnership and to begin joint fundraising activities by the heads of UN Environment and ITU; to develop an interactive online, open-source and publicly available platform for the purpose of sharing the world's e-waste statistics and data, and country information. The ToR ([EMGSOM24 INF - 1](#)) will be shared for comments with the other UN entities.
6. As part of work stream three and in collaboration with the Sustainable UN team, the Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste liaised with various UN entities on the topic of e-waste management in the procurement of ICT equipment. A survey received over 30 replies in response to general questions on recipients' ICTs procurement practices and several organisations shared recommendations on e-waste management and the procurement of ICTs. The survey responses and recommendations will be shared with interested entities shortly.
7. On 21st March, 2018, a Letter of Intent ([EMGSOM24 INF - 2](#)) was signed among the heads of UN entities most active in addressing the global e-waste challenge including ITU, UN Environment, UNU, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and International Labour Organization (ILO). The signing of the document, which aims to strengthen support to tackling e-waste at the higher-level, took place during the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2018, at the event: [An End to Electronic Waste: Building the E-waste Coalition](#). A panel discussion followed the signing ceremony, moderated by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
8. The Letter of Intent signatories, alongside WEF and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), have been developing programme areas for an e-waste coalition, which will also involve stakeholders from outside the UN system. The World Health Organization is currently in the process of signing the Letter of Intent. The preparation of a Concept Note ([EMGSOM24 INF - 3](#)) for the E-waste Coalition is ongoing.

9. During spring and early summer, workshops were held at WEF and ILO in Geneva, focussing more specifically on a communication campaign and report launch during Davos 2019; different to the United Nations system-wide report which was produced by the IMG. This report will bring together all of the findings from across the UN, while engaging large electronics multinationals, in order give a full picture of the current state of the electronics value chain, the negative externalities of the current system and articulate a new vision for electronics and a circular system.
10. At the ILO workshop, a national intervention model was discussed, to provide support to Member States on tackling e-waste issues. A following workshop is currently being organised, to be held in October and hosted by BRS, UN Environment and UNITAR at the International Environment House, in Geneva. This will help further conceptualise the intervention model and also develop a concept around an electrical and electronic waste awards.
11. An intervention was made by ITU during the Partnership Exchange event, at the 2018 High-Level Political Forum in New York, highlighting the partnership approach of the E-waste Coalition and its objectives.
12. As part of the development of the E-waste Coalition, a meeting of private sector entities will take place, including major electronics manufacturers, during the Autumn of 2018. The meeting, to take place in Geneva, will bring these manufacturers together with UN entities, to discuss collaboration as part of the E-waste Coalition. This meeting will be co-organised by WEF and WBCSD.
13. A session focussing on e-waste and the electronics industry has been secured at WEF's Sustainable Development Impact Summit in New York, on Monday 24th September. Invitees to the session include senior management from major electronics manufacturers and heads of international organisations, including from several of the E-waste Coalition members.
14. At a later stage, as the E-waste Coalition is developed, other partners outside the United Nations system, are likely to be explored; such as the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) which could support outreach to the private sector including small and medium enterprises.

Suggested Action I: Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste

The Senior Officials:

- a. Welcome the initiative by the Letter of Intent signatories and the subsequent concept note, developed by these signatories and other stakeholders, detailing plans for the development of an e-waste coalition. Further welcome continued engagement with other UN entities and stakeholders outside the UN system;
- b. Decide to extend the work of the IMG on Tackling E-waste for one more year, in order to build a stable arrangement for the E-waste Coalition and any continued future collaboration.

II. Issue Management Group on Environment and Humanitarian Action

15. At their 23rd meeting, the Senior Officials welcomed the organization of a Nexus Dialogue on the integration of the environment into humanitarian action and requested the Secretariat to prepare a Terms of Reference (ToR) for an Issue Management Group in this area, building on the outcomes of the Nexus Dialogue.

16. The [EMG Nexus Dialogue on Environment in Humanitarian Action](#) was held in Geneva on 19th October 2017. The Dialogue brought together the United Nations system and other stakeholders to strengthen the interlinkages, to identify trade-offs and to set targets for entry points in the environmental-humanitarian nexus. A technical segment highlighted ongoing initiatives to integrate environmental sustainability into humanitarian action and identified various opportunities for more long-term and systematic approaches to this work. A high level segment heard the views of senior officials on opportunities and needs to strengthen partnerships between the environmental and humanitarian sectors within the context of the 2030 Agenda. The Dialogue concluded that there is a need for a more systematic, coherent approach requiring a diverse set of actors and collaborations, supporting the establishment of an Issue Management Group on the integration of environmental sustainability into humanitarian action building on the outcomes of the Dialogue.
17. The Issue Management Group was officially established in January 2018 through a letter to Members of the EMG by its Director, inviting agencies to nominate focal points to the Issue Management Group and to provide comments on the first draft ToR prepared by the Secretariat in close collaboration with the UN Environment/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Joint Unit. In response to this call, 22 agencies nominated focal points to the Issue Management Group.
18. Benefitting from the presence of focal points, the Issue Management Group held an informal meeting in the margins of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva on February 8. The meeting discussed the draft ToR, providing feedback on the objective of the Group and its proposed deliverables.
19. The first official meeting of the Issue Management Group, held on 28th February, discussed a revised version of the ToR, including the feedback received during the informal meeting. The meeting stressed the importance of coordination of the work of the Issue Management Group with other subgroups under the EMG, such as the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability and the Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management. It was suggested that a prioritization of the suggested tasks be made and that collaboration with relevant non-UN actors be considered, for example through the Interagency Standing Committee and the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network.
20. Following the first meeting, the [ToR](#) and work plan for the implementation of the planned deliverables were finalized, spreading the suggested activities over a two-year period. The focus during the first year is on supporting the finalization of the online Framework for Environment in Humanitarian Action prepared by the Joint Initiative, preparing advocacy material linking humanitarian outcomes with climate change and other global policy agendas, providing input to a Common Approach on Environmental and Social Standards developed by the EMG Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability and on compiling case studies of aligning humanitarian funding with environmental, peace & security, Disaster Risk Reduction, health, and climate finance flows.
21. Three working groups were established to address the Common Approach on Environmental and Social Standards (work stream one), case studies on alignment of funds (work stream two) and advocacy and outreach respectively (work stream three).
 - a. Following the release of the draft Common Approach to Environmental and Social Standards, the Consultative Process and the Issue Management Group met on 28th August to discuss the Common Approach from the point of view of emergency response. The two groups will continue to collaborate to address the application of sustainability standards in emergency settings.
 - b. Work stream three held a brainstorming session on 23rd August to define an approach to the preparation of the envisaged deliverables, including preparing advocacy material on climate

change and humanitarian outcomes as well as an interagency statement to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in December 2018.

c. Work stream two will start its work in September.

22. Working in close collaboration with the Joint Initiative on Coordination of assessments for environment in humanitarian action, IMG members will be invited to provide feedback and input to the online Framework for Environment in Humanitarian Action in September.

Suggested Action II: Issue Management Group on Environment and Humanitarian Action

The Senior Officials:

- a. Welcome the Terms of Reference of the IMG on Environment and Humanitarian Action and invite the Group to proceed with the implementation of the tasks as outlined in the ToR and through the established working groups;
- b. Invite the Group to provide a report on progress made, to the 25th meeting of the Senior Officials.

III. Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations

23. Following the extension of its mandate provided by the 23rd Senior Officials Meeting, the Consultative Process has continued its work through its work streams, focussing on the development of a Common Approach to Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming. The work stream composed of UNDP, IFAD, WFP, FAO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNOPS, ILO, UNICEF, UN Habitat, UNHCR and OHCHR, co-chaired by UNDP and IFAD, has made significant progress, leading to the presentation of a draft Common Approach to the Senior Officials at its 24th meeting. The members of the working group have contributed both substantially and financially to the process, ensuring efficient delivery and anchoring of the process in existing good practice and internal and external expertise.

24. The Comparative Analysis of seven volunteer agencies' (FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS) programme/project level safeguard policies, procedures and accountability mechanisms was finalised in early March 2018, informing recommendations for moving towards a common approach to social and environmental standards. The Comparative Analysis identified areas of convergence and divergence in the scope and requirements of programme/project-level safeguard policies and procedures and accountability mechanisms, showing significant alignment and complementarity in structure, thematic coverage and content of the reviewed entities' environmental and social standards.

25. A 0-draft of the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming was discussed by the work stream in late March. It was highlighted that the Common Approach would not be a prescriptive document. Instead, the Common Approach is to be used as a voluntary benchmark document for agencies developing and updating their environmental and social standards, outlining minimum requirements and core basic principles. It was further stressed that the common approach can be applied flexibly by each agency in line with their own mandates and operating modalities. The briefing document presented to SOM23, explaining the background, purpose and benefits of the Common Approach, was updated.

26. Building on the 0-draft, the work stream held seven teleconferences between April and June. Each meeting was co-led by different agencies and focused on a specific area of standards allowing an in-depth discussion on the specific topic and consultation with experts. Based on this exchange, a revised draft of the Common Approach was prepared. The revised draft served as the basis for discussion during a workshop hosted by WFP in Rome from 3rd to 4th July. The workshop provided

input to the finalisation of the draft Common Approach which was shared with EMG Members for comments in August. The latest draft document “Moving Towards a Common Approach on Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming”, which takes into consideration comments received during the consultation with EMG Members, is attached as an information document (EMGSOM24 INF - 4.). The draft will be presented to the Working Group on Environmental and Social Standards of the Multilateral Financial Institutions in November 2018.

27. Preceding the workshop, the Consultative Process, hosted by WFP, held its 7th meeting in Rome on 2nd July. The meeting took stock of accomplishments and lessons learned since the establishment of the Consultative Process in 2009 and discussed strategic directions for environmental and social sustainability measures in the UN system going forward, including the development of a possible holistic corporate sustainability strategy for the UN system towards 2030, following the completion of the Climate Neutral Strategy in 2020. Such a holistic strategy would cover all three entry points of the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System. This initiative will be further discussed by the Consultative Process in close collaboration with the Sustainable UN Facility, along with options to strengthen collaboration among existing sustainability work streams within the EMG such as the Environmental Peer Review and IMG for Environment and Humanitarian Action.
28. In addition to preparing the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Standards, members of the Consultative Process provided input to a desk study of corporate sustainability reporting practices in the UN system in June. The desk study, prepared by the EMG Secretariat in consultation with the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management is being finalised with the purpose to provide an overview of existing reporting practices and methodologies used, and to identify possible opportunities for collaboration, exchange of good practice and enhanced coherence with regard to sustainability reporting in the UN system. The desk study will be shared with members of the Consultative Process for comments.
29. A joint UN session on experiences with sustainability measures in the UN system in relation to the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals was organised by UN Environment, IFAD, UNOPS and FAO during the 38th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment in Durban in May. The UN Framework was presented through the showcasing of models and cases at the three entry points (policy/strategy, programmes/projects and facilities/operations). The conference provided a good opportunity for the UN to demonstrate its ability to cooperate, engage in dialogue and Deliver as One.
30. Against this background, taking into consideration progress made over the past year, the technical segment of the EMG Senior Officials suggests the following actions for the Consultative Process, for consideration by the Senior Officials:

Suggested Action III: Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations

The Senior Officials:

- a. Welcome the draft "Moving Towards a Common Approach on Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming" (Common Approach), recognizing it as a significant contribution to moving the UN system towards greater alignment, transparency and accountability in its programmes, in particular at country level;
- b. Agree to extend the Consultative Process for another year to:
 - i. Conduct a public consultation process to receive inputs from stakeholders and experts on the draft Common Approach;
 - ii. Finalise the Common Approach and initiate a phase of application by volunteer agencies;
 - iii. Facilitate shared learning to support implementation of the Common Approach;
 - iv. Identify possible entry points to link the Common Approach to the work of other relevant UN platforms and processes such as the UN Sustainable Development Group the Sustainable UN Facility etc., and articulate ways in which the Common Approach can contribute to other processes, i.e. the UN development system reform;
 - v. Based on the findings of the desk study, prepare recommendations for enhanced collaboration in the UN system in the area of organizational sustainability reporting in close collaboration with the Sustainable UN Facility;
 - vi. Support UN entities to strengthen their own environmental and social sustainability by facilitating access to relevant guidance and tools;
 - vii. Prepare a draft sustainability vision and strategy for the UN system beyond 2020 by a task team composed of interested members of the Consultative Process and the Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management for consideration of the EMG Senior Officials at their next meeting.

IV. Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues

31. The Senior Officials at their 23rd meeting called for continuation of the EMG Dialogues Series on environmental nexus issues, with the aim to contribute to a common understanding of the integrated goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the requirements and opportunities which these bring to UN agencies in support of the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coherent and collaborative manner.
32. Since September 2017, three Nexus Dialogues have been successfully planned and organized by the EMG Secretariat.
33. [The Nexus Dialogue on Environment and Humanitarian affairs: Strengthening partnerships between the environmental and humanitarian sectors in the context of the humanitarian change agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals](#), was held on 19th October 2017 in Geneva consisting of a technical segment and a high-level segment featuring a panel discussion. The Dialogues also served as an opportunity for Member States to consider how a nexus approach could support collaboration among different governmental departments. The outcome of this Dialogue was the creation of an [Issue Management Group on Environment and Humanitarian Action](#). The IMG on Environment and Humanitarian Action is composed of UN entity focal points nominated by EMG members and is open to observers from academia and NGOs whose knowledge, activities, expertise will be relevant to IMG work streams.

34. [Nexus Dialogue on Environment and Urban Health](#): *Realising the Sustainable Development Goals - Integrating the environment and health agendas into policies for urban settings* was held on 3rd December 2017 in Nairobi along the margins of the 3rd United Nations Environment Assembly. The Dialogue discussed the adverse health effects from pollution and possible strategies contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Dialogue was co-hosted by EMG, UN Environment, WHO and UN-Habitat and consisted of a technical segment and a policy-level panel discussion. As an outcome of this Dialogue, EMG is exploring further collaboration with ICLEI at the moment.
35. [Nexus Dialogue on Biodiversity and human Security](#): *Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the context of Human Security and Wellbeing* was held from 2nd to 3rd May 2018 in Geneva. The Dialogue was organized in collaboration with the CBD secretariat and with support from the Swiss Government with technical contributions from UN Environment, IUCN and WWF International. The report of this Dialogue [Nature Opportunities for Human Security](#) consists of 8 key recommendations aiming to strengthen the recognition of the role of biodiversity in achieving human security and wellbeing outcomes. The recommendations identified during the dialogue are meant to support progress towards existing biodiversity targets and the development of a post-2020 global strategy for biodiversity. The outcome of the Dialogue was presented and promoted at the High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2018.
36. Further contribution of the EMG towards renewing system-wide collaboration on biodiversity will be further discussed during the senior segment of the 24th Senior Officials Meeting in September, with possible follow up workshops and dialogues planned for the CBD Conference of the Parties in both Egypt and China.
37. The upcoming Nexus Dialogues:
- a. Greening with jobs: A just transition to environmental sustainability, in collaboration with International Labour Organization, 23rd October, 2018 at ILO in Geneva;
 - b. Nexus Dialogue on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste with a close look at textile production, December 13 – to be confirmed – 2018 in Geneva;
 - c. Peace and Environment in collaboration with Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), 24th January, 2019;
 - d. Sustainable Consumption and Production, on the margins of the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly, March 2019 in Nairobi.

Suggested Action IV: Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues

The Senior Officials:

- a. Welcome the Nexus Dialogues as opportunities for identifying collaboration amongst agencies on SDGs interlinkages and for a continued exchange on lessons learned and good practices;
- b. Invite UN agencies to sponsor and identify themes for future Nexus Dialogues and to share their ideas for how the dialogues can be further improved;
- c. Encourage UN agencies to participate and contribute to future Dialogues by sharing their experience and exchanging ideas on innovative solutions to environmental challenges with other stakeholders.

V. A United Nations System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment

38. Following the approval of the first synthesis report of the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment titled [*UN Collaboration on the Environment: Synthesis Report on UN System-wide Contributions to the Implementation of the Environmental Dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals*](#), the Consultative Process has focussed on the preparation of the next iterations of the SWFS Report.
39. The Consultative Process agreed on the preparation of an annual thematic report, complemented by a comprehensive triennial Synthesis Report on UN System-wide Contributions to the Implementation of the Environmental Dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals as outlined in the Framework.
40. Through consultation with EMG Members, it was decided that the topic for the the 2018 SWFS thematic report section would focus on a cross cutting theme of biodiversity. The resultant review will provide information about ongoing efforts by the UN system to protect biodiversity, their focus (including in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals targets that they impact), challenges, and opportunities for further engagement with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Examples of partnerships among UN agencies, potential gaps in implementation of the biodiversity agenda, and areas of intersection between biodiversity and other development, human rights and humanitarian issues will be illustrated with a view to harnessing further collaboration. Finally, the report will highlight opportunities for UN agencies to enhance their own core objectives by advancing the biodiversity agenda; areas within the UN system that may benefit from further collaboration among agencies at a strategic level; innovations that can help mainstream the UN system's work on biodiversity, globally; and synthesize recommendations gathered from among UN agencies. Members of the Consultative Process have been invited to consider a draft outline and to provide substantive input to the thematic report.
41. The UN SWFS Knowledge Exchange Network was created to facilitate information sharing among UN agencies and to gather data for the SWFS reports. The platform also allows for real-time editing and collaboration with regards to the drafting of future SWFS Reports. In addition, in response to a call by members of the Consultative Process for improved dissemination of information online, the EMG secretariat has prepared the launch of a dedicated webpage for the SWFS that can serve as a one-stop-shop for focal points.
42. The Consultative Process is envisaged to discuss the second edition of the SWFS Synthesis Report which will build on and provide updates on the information collected and presented in the first edition with a view to highlight potential development in terms of contributions to the implementation of the environmental dimension in the SDGs. The EMG secretariat has also proposed the organisation of an annual event to convene the UN system to consider progress made in the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs and to showcase member agencies' best practices and interagency collaboration efforts. The event may be informed by previous SWFS reports and provide ideas to future iterations.

Suggested Action V: A United Nations System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment

The Senior Officials:

- a. Encourage UN agencies to provide input to the second edition of the SWFS Report, with a thematic focus on biodiversity, including case studies of illustrative interagency collaboration on the topic;
- b. Welcome the proposal to convene an expert group meeting of EMG Members prior to the High Level Political Forum to consider progress made by the agencies in the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, nexus areas and interlinkages, and to showcase best practices and interagency collaboration efforts on the environment. The Senior Officials further request the EMG Secretariat, in close collaboration with UNDESA, to prepare a proposal outlining the organisation of such meeting for the consideration of EMG members;
- c. Extend the Consultative Process to support the continued implementation of the Framework, including the preparation of the third edition of the SWFS Synthesis Report, and the facilitation of information sharing via the SWFS Knowledge Exchange Network.

VI. Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management

Between September 2017 and August 2018, the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations System progressed as follows:

43. **UN Environmental Inventory and Climate Neutrality:** The UN System report "[Greening the Blue—The UN system's environmental footprint and efforts to reduce it](#)" was published in November 2017. The 2017 Greening the Blue report marked progress in a number of areas: 56 entities reports on waste management inventory compared to 42 in 2016; and the number of climate neutral entities rose to 39 from 32 in 2016. A [Traffic Light System](#) was introduced as performance indicator for agencies' progress against key milestones of the UN Climate Neutral Strategy; and a pilot inventory on fresh-water use (non-public) took place to set a baseline for water management reporting for the following years.
44. The inventory collecting data for the 2018 Greening the Blue report was launched in August 2018. For the first time, the results will be compiled using the new "UN Environmental Inventory Software". The Software will facilitate data collection, reporting and yearly monitoring for the upcoming years. It will automate the calculation and graphing of the data, a work that was in part done manually. The 2018 Greening the Blue report will be released in December 2018. For the first year, data on water consumption will be included in the report and be available to the public.
45. **Greening the Blue:** The web-based [Greening the Blue](#) campaign continues to engage staff and provides entities with an opportunity to showcase efforts to improve their environmental performance. Throughout the present period, over 15 news stories were reported on Greening the Blue and until June 2018; the number of website users (32,772 users in total) and followers on social media (11,387 and 8,442 followers on Twitter and Facebook respectively) is continuing to grow.
46. **Reducing the UN environmental Footprint:** The IMG has continued its work towards a more systematic approach to environmental sustainability management. The 3-year partnership with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Swedish EPA) was concluded on 30th June, 2018. A final workshop

on “Environmental Management System (EMS) in the UN - Knowledge sharing and evaluation of UN EMS implementation experiences” was held on 24th May, 2018 in Geneva. 34 participants from 19 different organisations shared experiences and learnt from each other on the concrete development and implementation of an EMS in the UN system.

47. The 4 EMS pilots and other organisations implementing systematic efforts to reduce their environmental footprint will now continue their work on EMS with the help of the Sustainable UN team. To facilitate this, the Sustainable UN team and the Swedish EPA launched in May 2018 [“The UN Environmental Management Systems Toolkit”](#), an online application that holds guidance on EMS. It also contains existing examples of relevant EMS documentation from different UN organisations.
48. As highlighted by three years of waste reporting, waste management in the UN system is an area with high risks and opportunities for improvement. With the goal of helping IMG members improve waste management practices in UN facilities and operations around the world, the Sustainable UN team with the World Food Programme (WFP) launched in early 2018 the [‘Say Yes to Less’](#) package. It includes a series of factsheets, a guidance manual and staff awareness material on waste management. To reach out to a wider audience, the campaign material was translated to seven languages through a collaboration with the Rapid Environment and Climate Technical Assistance (REACT) facility which is a partnership between the Department of Field Support and UN Environment for UN field missions.
49. In support of World Environment Day 2018, the Sustainable UN team facilitated a webinar on “UN Beats Plastic Pollution, Understanding More on Single-use Plastic Waste at the United Nations” on 15th May, 2018. It was attended by 41 participants from 29 different entities. The purpose of the event was to trigger an internal debate on single-use plastics. The webinar was well received and led to a raise of interest on the issue by UN organisations. 2 UN compounds have eliminated single-use plastics from their cafeteria and more are working towards achieving this. A letter from the EMG Chair, Erik Solheim, encouraging UN principals to join him in his efforts to “Beat Plastic Pollution” was sent in August 2018.
50. A new project on Sustainable Procurement (SP) “Tracking SP implementation within the UN system” is being implemented by UN Environment and UNOPS within the framework of the High-Level Committee on Management Procurement Network (HLCM PN). It aims at establishing an approach to systematically monitor, measure and report on sustainable procurement based on quantifiable indicators. The procurement departments of close to 10 UN agencies are taking part in the piloting exercise to test the SP set parameters.
51. UN Environment and UNFCCC continue supporting entities in their path towards climate neutrality, with the aim to reach a climate neutral UN system by 2020.
52. **Reach beyond the UN system:** The International Finance Institutions, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and a number of humanitarian organisations have been in contact with UN Environment to exchange experiences in internal sustainability management and have taken part as observers in the meetings of the IMG.
53. In November 2017 the principals of UN Environment and UNFCCC sent a letter to heads of 30 international organizations offering them to join the United Nations goal for sustainability and climate neutrality. A number of these organizations responded positively to the call. Collaboration in this area will consist of mobilizing the respective expertise of UN Environment and UNFCCC to assist these organizations in measuring, reducing and offsetting their climate footprint using the tools and methods that are publicly available and in place for UN organizations.

54. **Looking ahead:** The Task Team on Common Premises (TTCP) is an inter-agency group tasked with providing guidance and tools for UN country teams (UNCTs) which intend to engage in UN House/UN Common Premises renovation, construction and/or relocation projects. The TTCP is also tasked with studying and recommending solutions to enhance efficiencies and increase the number of UN House/UN Common Premises worldwide. The move to establish common premises offers an opportunity to realise several environmental benefits through early engagement (i.e. getting it right from the outset), effective utilisation of shared natural and human resources, and systematic approach to environmental management. The Sustainable UN team is in the process of developing documents to submit to the IMG so that the Group can use its expertise to assist in promotion and implementation of environmental benefits with UNCTs and senior management.
55. Sustainable UN and the IMG suggest more investment be made in terms of time and resources to expand the work of the IMG to support UN field offices and their internal sustainability management so as to contribute -via concrete examples of UN offices on the ground- to the sustainable development of countries where the UN resides.
56. The UN Climate Neutral Strategy's deadline of 2020 is fast approaching. The goal of a fully Climate Neutral UN is in progress but far from completion with about 60% of the UN system's Climate Footprint still not offset.
57. In September 2017, on the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of the UN Climate Neutral Strategy, the IMG submitted to the Senior Officials Meeting a report assessing progress made on the implementation of the Strategy between 2007 and 2017. Clear and well defined common goals, the existence of the IMG, the opportunity given to UN organizations to commonly define a set of measurements and reduction methodologies, and the regular (and incremental) reporting on the global UN environmental footprint have been key to the achievements under the Strategy. The participation of 20 to 30 organizations per meeting is a testimonial of the interest that corporate environmental sustainability has amongst facilities and operations' managers.
58. Following the completion of the Climate Neutral Strategy in 2020, the EMG should consider how to maintain the vision of a United Nations that walks the talk towards 2030. Environmental sustainability management in UN facilities and operations has new factors to integrate such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN reforms and the impact these have in terms of increase in UN Common Premises and on improving delivery at country level. Other EMG work streams also have a growing impact on the overall UN sustainability performance such as the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system, the Environmental Management Peer Reviews of UN organizations, the IMG on tackling E-waste and the IMG on Environment and Humanitarian Action.
59. As mentioned in paragraph 27 of this report, a new UN corporate sustainability strategy could be proposed that would cover all three entry points of the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System and facilitate synergies between them on matters such as for instance reporting. From the perspective of the IMG on environmental sustainability management, this strategy would need to allow adapted focus and set of responsibilities depending on the entry point. For facilities and operations, the strategy would maintain attention on the environmental aspects only while taking better account of the new landscape.

Suggested Action VI: Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management

The Senior Officials:

- a. Endorse the above report on activities of the IMG on environmental sustainability management and invite the EMG to continue its joint work, 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;
- b. Welcome the new tools at the disposal of the UN system to reduce the environmental footprint of facilities and operations, in particular the "Say Yes to Less" waste management guidance and campaign materials; the online Environmental Management Systems tool kit and the Environmental Management software;
- c. Commit to expand existing efforts to bring environmental sustainability management to UN offices in the field, including Common Premises and UN country offices;
- d. Renew their commitment to Climate Neutrality by 2020, requesting the EMG to boost its efforts to assist the UN system in reaching this vision within the agreed timeframe;
- e. Establish a task team composed of interested members of the IMG and the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system to propose by September 2019 for a draft UN corporate sustainability vision and strategy beyond 2020. For facilities and operations, the strategy should build on the Climate Neutral Strategy, taking into consideration the progress achieved over the past 10 years, the existing Chief Executive Board Decisions of 2007, 2013 and 2015, the call of Member States made to the UN system in the 2012 Rio+20 Outcome document to integrate sustainable development considerations in facilities and operations with the goal to achieve resource efficiencies, and the renewed ambitions for UN walking the talk on the Sustainable Development Goals that the UN reform has brought about.

VII. Environmental Management Peer Reviews of United Nations Entities

60. The Peer Review of UNICEF, the UN Compound, WHO and UN Women in Beijing took place from 23rd - 27th October 2017, with the first two days involving a more detailed review of UNICEF.
61. The corresponding Peer Review body meeting was held in March 2018, in Beijing where the report's findings and recommendations were presented by the technical consultants of the EMG Secretariat. The individual Peer Review reports for the four organisations reviewed, are currently in the process of being finalised; the corresponding executive summaries will be available online shortly.
62. Several executive summaries, from previous Peer Review missions, are available on the [EMG website](#).
63. In January 2018, a preliminary fact-finding mission was undertaken to the UNHCR Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, with the support of colleagues at UNHCR. A note which helped outline the scope and focus of the planned peer review, was prepared by the EMG Secretariat, based on the observations and meeting reports of those involved in the initial mission.
64. Following the fact-finding mission, a site visit took place in Kakuma, May 2018. Alongside the EMG Secretariat, this mission involved several participating international organisations, including: UNHCR, WFP, FAO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Energy4Impact. One of the findings highlighted the opportunity for individual projects, to be developed into greater economic prospect and to be replicated across the camp.

65. The Peer Review report of the Kakuma review is currently in the process of being drafted and will be made available for any comments and feedback shortly. In addition, a Peer Review body meeting will be organised to present the report's findings and recommendations.
66. For the next phases of Peer Reviews for 2019 and 2020, the EMG Secretariat is involved in ongoing communication with colleagues from several locations, including an Asia-Pacific site of UNOPS, a peace-keeping operation of DFS, and UN offices in Colombia and Ethiopia.

Suggested Action VII: Environmental Management Peer Reviews of United Nations Entities

The Senior Officials:

- a. Welcome the continued interest by UN agencies in being reviewed and the usefulness of the Peer Review Process for improving the environmental management, including on waste, as well as energy and cost efficiency of agencies' facilities and operations;
- b. Take note of the concluded Peer Review reports of UNICEF, UN Compound, WHO and UN Women in Beijing, and the Kakuma refugee camp of UNHCR in Kenya;
- c. Welcome the continuation of the Peer Review Process, including the peer review of the UN in Ethiopia and Colombia in 2019-2020, and the UN Department of Field Support in 2020, as part of the next phases of the Peer Review Process;
- d. Invite reviewed agencies to consider the Peer Review reports as a guidance and baseline for improving environmental sustainability measures and developing environmental management systems, as well as encourage other agencies to reference the reports in development of their own environmental sustainability measures and program development.

VIII. Update on Promoting the Progressive Development of Law for Environmental Sustainability

Progressive Development of Law: a new item for the Environment Management Group

67. The Environment Management Group's Senior Officials Meeting has agreed in September 2017 to include the promotion of law for environmental sustainability as one of the issues benefitting from enhanced coordination and collaboration among EMG members¹. Senior Officials suggested the following action:
- a) Invite Members of the Environment Management Group to nominate focal points to an informal network of legal practitioners across UN entities and MEA secretariats to start identifying areas of common interest on environmental law;
 - b) Organize a Nexus Dialogue on law for environmental sustainability;
 - c) Based on the outcome of the Dialogue, identify potential areas for collaboration in the area of law for environmental sustainability, including in capacity building through training and learning on environmental law, especially for public policy officials, and submit a proposal for further consideration of the Senior Officials.

¹ Note: the other two proposals referred to greening humanitarian work and tackling air pollution; the latter has been subsumed in the high level discussion of the theme of UNEA III – Towards a pollution free planet.

Why better coordination and enhanced coordination in the UN system on the progressive development of law can advance the Sustainable Development Goals

68. Law is a key ingredient for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals require multidisciplinary and holistic approaches to address the inter-connected dimensions of sustainable development and for sustaining transformational changes. Having in place the necessary governance foundations, strong legal frameworks and the capacities to implement them, is a precondition for success. This is particularly important for the environmental dimension of the Agenda, which however cannot be addressed in isolation from the multiple dimensions of each of the Goals.
69. Legal frameworks addressing environmental issues need to also address social and economic implications. Similarly, legal frameworks primarily aimed at regulating other sectors need to integrate environmental considerations. To achieve this, there is a need for connecting various disciplines of law, promoting integrated approaches to the development of legislation, and strengthening the capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors, including the private sector, to understand and act on these implications.
70. UN agencies can join forces to put in place stronger legal frameworks to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Many UN agencies and entities have either dedicated environmental law programmes, or law programmes that have an influence on environmental sustainability. Enhanced coordination and collaboration among these entities can lead to more holistic law development efforts, and more impactful country level support, to advance the achievement of Goals that directly address the environment, Goals primarily aimed at strengthening governance and law (Goal 16), and Goals primarily addressing health or social issues (for example Goals 1 and 3), for which environmental sustainability is a precondition.
71. Enhanced coordination and collaboration can result in more effective and efficient ways of addressing the interconnected goals of Agenda 2030. Building on the many examples of good collaboration among UN entities on both environmental law and nexus issues (e.g. on human rights and environment) a UN-wide approach can help:
- a) identify additional areas requiring collaborative approaches;
 - b) broaden the scope and range of existing partnerships;
 - c) align law programmes around common priorities; and, as a result,
 - d) enhance the impact potential of individual entities.

Next Steps for the Environmental Management Group

72. Based on the action suggested by the Senior Officials in 2017, and keeping in mind the advantages of interagency collaboration, the following steps are suggested.

Establishing an Informal network

73. The Environment Management Group secretariat could invite UN entities and MEA secretariats to nominate focal points for an informal network of legal practitioners and develop Draft Terms of Reference for the role of the network and its members.

Organizing a dialogue

74. The Environment Management Group secretariat could invite the focal points to participate in a Nexus Dialogue on Law for Environmental Sustainability. This dialogue could focus on emerging priorities and could contribute to ongoing global processes, as explained in the following paragraphs.
75. It is proposed that the dialogue is linked to the implementation of Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law. The Dialogue's findings could contribute to the Montevideo review process.

76. The Programme is a ten-year strategy for the progressive development of environmental law, endorsed by the UN Environment Programme. Although the Montevideo Programme is led by the UN Environment Programme, it is also relevant to other UN agencies and Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The fourth version of the Programme is coming to an end and a review of its effectiveness is ongoing and may lead to the development of a new programme from 2020. The findings of the global review will be submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session in March 2019, pursuant to UNEA Resolution 2/19².
77. A possible theme for the dialogue could be identified on the basis of UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/19, which requests UN Environment to "Prioritize action on environmental law ... to support delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consistent with the environmental objectives, and public health benefits such as those related to air quality, identified in recent United Nations Environment Assembly and Governing Council resolutions and decisions, ...". Specific themes could be: (a) addressing pollution through the law, including a strong focus on plastic pollution, air pollution and legislation addressing lead contamination, or (b) addressing the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

Programmatic collaboration

78. Based on the outcome of the Dialogue, the invited experts could identify areas for intensified collaboration in the near term, focusing on law for environmental sustainability, including on capacity building. These findings would also input into the Montevideo Programme review process. These suggestions could be submitted for further consideration of the Senior Officials.
79. An immediate result from the dialogue could be intensified information exchange among interested agencies on areas of common interest, and follow up on specific action points that may emerge during the meeting.

² The Resolution can be found here:

http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/11192/K1607197_UNEPEA2_RES19E.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y