

Meeting Report

The 18th meeting of the Issue Management Group on Sustainable Management in (IMG18) took place online on 10 June 2015. The meeting was attended by around thirty IMG focal points and observers. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex 1 and the List of Participants as Annex 2. The order of the agenda had to be changed during meeting to accommodate for unforeseen absences a scheduled speaker due to illness. The meeting report below follows the actual order of interventions.

Agenda Item 1: Opening

A. General Information

Ms Isabella Marras, Coordinator, Sustainable United Nations (SUN) facility, chaired the meeting. She started with a brief update on the SUN team and key activities. The Chair also went through the agenda and opened it up for any amendment.

B. Suggestions

C. Outcomes/ Results/ Action Points

The agenda was adopted with the modified order (Annex I).

Agenda Item 2: GHG emissions inventory and Waste management reporting pilot

A. General Information

Mr. Jacob Kurian, SUN, briefly presented an overview of the inventory process for 2015, which was initiated recently. The data collection files (flat files and BYO) were released in May 2015 and the latest version of the ICAO air travel emission calculator is expected in June 2015. The deadline for submitting the data is 15 September 2015, and the data has to be reviewed, finalized and re-uploaded if needed, by 15 October 2015.

This year, an additional section on waste management has been added to the data collection sheets (flat files), though the information will not be reported.

Two half day online trainings were conducted on 17th and 18th March 2015 and over 50 participants took part in it. For the organizations who missed the live training a recording is

available with the GHG help desk. SUN will be starting a round of phone/skype calls to the Focal Points in June 2015.

Imogen Martineau, SUN, outlined the plans for the publication of the Moving Towards Climate Neutral report. This year the report is expected to be released in the second half of November on time for the launch at the UNFCCC Conference of the parties which will take place in Paris between November and December 2015.

B. Suggestions

As per the advice of the IMG, this year there is a more earlier and stricter deadline for submitting the GHG emission inventory data. Agencies are encouraged to submit the data on time.

C. Outcomes/ Results/ Action Points

- If any agencies have a 2014 case study for the Moving Towards Climate Neutral UN report – please contact greeningtheblue@gmail.com.
- SUN to keep Focal Points updated on the preparation of Moving Towards Climate Neutral UN report

Agenda Item 3: Private sector reporting patterns

A. General Information

Ms. Elisa Tonda and Mr. Victor Valido from UNEP Division of Technology Industry and Economics in Paris, summarized the key findings of their upcoming publication titled “Raising the bar - Advancing Environmental Disclosure in Sustainability Reporting”, which takes stock and analyses current sustainability reporting practices and standards. Pressures from multiple sources such as government, industry associations, donors, civil society, have driven a large increase in sustainability reporting. Out of this, only around 4 % of GRI based sustainability reporting come from the public sector, hence it is good that the UN is taking a lead on it for the public sector. The report has a global scope and has also inputs from around 60 leading experts who were interviewed.

The key findings of the report are:

- Sustainability reporting is considered as an important management tool;
- Materiality assessment for sustainability reporting is not harmonized;
- Most reports give more stress to a few topics such as GHG emissions and resource management (energy, water, waste and materials) ;
- Collaborative reporting, as practiced by the UN, will help in multiple ways, such as for materiality assessment and data gathering.

The presentation also went into the details of each of these findings and elaborated issues and more detailed recommendations.

B. Suggestions

There was a discussion on how to improve reporting in the UN. Ms. Tonda suggested that the UN should aim to report on the programmatic aspects also, to ensure that the actual performance of the organization is better reflected in the sustainability reports

C. Outcomes/ Results/ Action Points

UNEP will share the report when published.

Agenda Item 4: Interagency developments: HLCM; CEB; INFM; Procurement network
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A. General Information

Ms Isabella Marras informed that the HLCM in its recent meeting gave considerable importance to internal sustainability issues in the UN, with around twenty interventions during a one hour session, mostly to support it and share experiences. The HLCM was optimistic that the UN system will be able to reach Climate Neutrality by 2020, in line with the recent call of the Secretary General. HLCM members underlined that Climate Neutrality should be done through emission reductions primarily. They also decided to include a section on internal sustainability in the programming of internal operations of the UN and the CEB has endorsed this decision.

Ms Marras outlined some of the key measures taken by the IMG and SUN for moving the UN system towards Climate Neutrality, such as: the Gap analysis of the UN GHG Inventory; efforts to reduce the delay in reporting the UN GHG emission inventory; efforts to share information and increase transparency with member states and partners; the work on implementing Environment Management System in the UN.

B. Suggestions

It was stressed by several participants that we need to be very clear and transparent about what we mean by Climate Neutral and if the organizations who claim climate neutrality are completely climate neutral or not.

C. Outcomes/ Results/ Action Points

A separate discussion on the definition for climate neutrality was agreed. Interested focal points are invited to participate.

Agenda item 5: UNFCCC campaign on climate neutrality and progress in UNFCCC
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A. General Information

Mr. Niclas Svenningsen, UNFCCC intervened to remind the focal points that Climate neutrality is one among the key actions being promoted to ensure that the increase in average temperature of the earth is limited to 2 deg c by the end of the century. From 2015, 22 September will be celebrated as the international Climate Neutrality day. UNFCCC is actively encouraging organisations to go Climate Neutral on that day, as well as by the UNFCCC COP 21. The French government is also expected to announce how they intend to make COP 21 Climate Neutral. For its GHG Inventory, UNFCCC has decided to include a Radiative Forcing Index (RFI) of 2.7 instead of the current value of 1 used by the UN. UNFCCC will also be contributing around 60 days of an expert for supporting the EMG peer review process.

B. Suggestions

There was a discussion about the deadlines for organisations to declare climate neutrality for the current efforts by COP 21 and for the 2020 deadline for the UN system. For the 2020 target, it was also not clear if the emissions of calendar year 2020 or 2019 should be considered for Climate Neutrality. UNFCCC and SUN clarified that a clear decision has not been taken on these issues and deadlines.

Agenda item 6: Touchstone review results and resolutions

A. General Information

Ms. Dominique Souris, SUN, presented the results of the Touchstone Review, an analysis of the internal and external communication practices of the SUN facility in its role of implementing the priorities of the IMG. The different tools and media were reviewed, their strengths and weaknesses identified and improvements suggested. Questionnaires were shared with Focal Points and interviews conducted during March 2015. 17 agencies contributed to this effort.

Some of the key finding were:

- In terms of information exchange, Unite Connections has several functions and could be a useful tool to focal points for information and documents sharing, however very few use it. On the other hand, the focal point area of Greening the Blue website has limited functionalities. Either one of these options has to be chosen as the main documents and working groups communications platform.
- The monthly bulletin was found to be very useful, but not many are reading it.
- Social media such as facebook and twitter, are not considered very useful for focal points.
- IMG meetings are useful, but Focal points demand more opportunities for interaction

B. Suggestions/ Discussions

- Better interaction between focal points is key: whether at IMG meetings, making interventions or sharing best practices.
- The Unite Connection facility is expected to facilitate these interactions and information sharing. There is a lack of clarity on which documents are located in Unite Connections and in the secure area of Greening the Blue website
- It is difficult to locate files and information on Unite Connections, though attempts have been made to organize information systematically.

C. Outcomes/ Results/ Action Points

- File sharing would be done through Unite Connections only, though the older, archived files in the secure area of Greening the Blue website will remain there as it requires lot of time to migrate it to Unite.
- Steps would be taken to review the effectiveness of Unite Connections and to make its use more user friendly. A UNITE Guide will be developed for focal Experts with library science or knowledge management expertise will be consulted in this regard .
- Focal points are invited to be more proactive in sharing progress and best practices.

Agenda Item 7: Options for training at IMG 19

A. General Information

Ms. Isabella Marras presented the working groups and training options for the next IMG meeting (IMG 19) that will be hosted by UN Women during 8 - 9 October 2015 in New York. In the days preceding the meeting (5 to 7 October), working groups and a training session will be organized by SUN.

B. Suggestions/ Discussions

It was suggested that a session of the working group on the GHG Inventory software could be held before the IMG, to discuss the needs and challenges for the a UN wide Sustainability software.

As training options, the following were suggested:

- *Initial steps in EMS implementation* (such as the initial environmental review, the baseline assessment, and the environmental policy).
- *Sharing field agencies experience on sustainability initiatives implementation.*
- *Waste minimization and management;*
- *LEED and other green building standards ;*
- *Green events ;*
- A training offered by *Natural Step*, a non-profit organization which provides learning programs to promote sustainability within organizations.
- *Gender and Environmental sustainability.* This could be an interesting option especially considering that UN Women will host next IMG meeting.
- *Internal communications, Greening the Blue (GtB) campaigns, staff engagement.*
- *Maintaining attention in agencies on sustainability on a long-term basis.*

C. Outcomes/ Results/ Action Points

- All participants were invited to send further suggestions on possible training sessions by email to Ms. Marras. WFP requested a training session on waste management.

Agenda item 8: Conclusions, next steps & meetings

Before concluding the IMG meeting Ms. Marras summarised the key decisions and action points. She also reminded of the next IMG meeting in new York hosted by UN Women during 8-9 October 2015. The meeting ended at 17.30 hours. All participants and Focal Points were warmly thanked for their presence and active participation.

ANNEX 1



18th Meeting of the Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management (IMG 18)
10 June 2015 - Online

IMG/ESM.18/01

EIGHTEENTH ISSUE MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

AGENDA

Time (CEST)	Item	Topic	Speaker
14.30		On-line meeting room opens	
15:00		Meeting starts	
15.00-15.10	1	Opening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome from Isabella Marras - Update from the SUN Team - Review and adoption of agenda 	Speak :Isabella Marras
15.10-15.50	2	GHG emissions inventory and Waste management reporting pilot	Speak : Jacob Kurian
15.50-16.20	3	Private and public sector reporting	Speak : Elisa Tonda, UNEP
16.20-17.00	4	Interagency developments: HLCM; CEB; INFM; Procurement network	Speak : Isabella Marras, Jacob Kurian
17.00-17.10	5	UNFCCC intervention on UN climate neutral efforts	Speak : Niclas Svenningsen, Anne Jona
17.10-17.30	6	Touchstone review results and resolutions	Speak : Dominique Souris, Imogen Martineau
17.30-17.35	7	IMG 19 on 8-9 October	Speak : Isabella Marras
17.30-17.45	8	Conclusions, next steps & meetings	Speak : Isabella Marras

ANNEX 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Name	Organization
1	Ilary Ranalli	FAO
2	Mitchell Hall	FAO
3	Tina Mittendorf	FAO
4	Kåre Pugerup	IFAD
5	Carolina Ferreira	ILO
6	Karina Holm	OHCHR
7	Andrew Wilson	SUN
8	Emma Håkansson	SUN
9	Imogen Martineau	SUN
10	Isabella Marras	SUN
11	Jacob Kurian	SUN
12	Kristina von Oelreich	SUN
13	Ariela D'Angiola	SUN
14	Dominique Souris	SUN
15	Delillah Miriti	UN Habitat
16	William Abi Abdala	UN Women
17	Susie Bolvenkel-Prior	UNAIDS
18	Anne Fernqvist	UNDP
19	Elisa Tonda	UNEP
20	Flavia Reale	UNEP
21	Shoa Ehsani	UNEP
22	Victor Valido	UNEP
23	Sachin Bhatt	UNESCO
24	Anne Jona	UNFCCC
25	Niclas Svenningsen	UNFCCC
26	Oliver Buhler	UNFPA
27	Peixun Pei	UNHQ, DM
28	Brennan Van Dyke	UNHQ, DoM
29	Nives Costa	UNOPS
30	Heidi Nabel-Meyer	UNV
31	Andy Cole	WFP
32	Georgina Stickels	WFP
33	Linda	WFP
34	Adam Rubinfield	World Bank Group
35	Monika Kumar	World Bank Group
36	Audio only	5 participants