UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP EMG

1st Meeting of the Common Approach on Pollution
14 March 2023 14.00-16.00 (CET) | Microsoft Teams
List of participants (Annex I)

Summary Report

1. Welcoming remarks, adoption of the agenda

Hossein Fadaei (EMG) welcomed the participants followed by Lev Neretin (FAO) who as the chair of the meeting introduced the agenda.

2. Roadmap for preparation of the of UN system-common approach to transitioning towards a pollution-free planet

Lev Neretin (FAO) presented the Roadmap for preparation of the of UN system-common approach to transitioning towards a pollution-free planet. The roadmap was prepared by the EMG and circulated for comments to UN Agencies during November 2022.

In November 2022, a concept note on a roadmap for preparation of the common approach was prepared providing the structure and steps of the process. Through a Consultative Process (44 agencies) and a Small Drafting Group (8 agencies) including three Co-chairs (UNEP,FAO, WHO), the Common approach is planned to be delivered to the EMG SOM 29 for its approval in October-November 2023.

From September onwards, the common approach will be presented at the technical segment seeking for EMG Seniors Officials' endorsement. Other endorsements are still to be defined. Afterwards, the design of an implementation plan of the Common Approach is planned, for its uptake and use by UN agencies in their respective programmes.

3. Presentation on key findings of the mapping report: "An overview of UN Activities and Initiatives related to Pollution" and discussion of its outreach

In November, EMG began the preparation of a mapping exercise to identify synergies, opportunities, gaps, and overlaps in the existing efforts towards pollution by UN agencies. The mapping report is a living document, so comments are still welcomed. A new version will be prepared by the end of March 2023.

4. Update on the progress made by the Small Drafting Team (SDT) on the Common Approach on Pollution

In January 2023, a small drafting team (SDT) was established to help the EMG secretariat in preparing the common approach. Cristina Romanelli (WHO), Lev Neretin (FAO), and Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida (UNEP) are the co-chairs of the SDT. The SDT has produced a draft outline for the common approach, which was shared with the EMG members for commenting on 2 March. Currently the SDT is working in the draft common approach. A face-to-face meeting of the SDT will be held on 18 and 19 April. Afterwards, it is planned to share the draft document with EMG members giving them 4 weeks for comments. Another instance of comment by EMG focal points is planned before the finalization of the Common Approach. Finalization of common approach is planned for end of June.

Lev Neretin (FAO) presented the draft annotated outline of the Common Approach. In terms of structure, it will start with an overview, followed by a snapshot of what UN Agencies are currently doing in terms of pollution -based on the findings of the mapping exercise-, a few key guiding principles, to conclude with the specific areas of the common approach: Goal, Impact Areas, Objectives, Outcomes and Output. A section of next steps will be included.

Lev Neretin (FAO) stressed that feedback from experts within the agencies is essential, and there will be two opportunities for EMG representatives to provide comments and sensitize the text within their agencies.

5. Feedback on the annotated outline of the common approach on pollution by participants of the meeting

Andrea Rizzo (UNEP) proposed reflecting on the level of ambition of the work being undertaken with respect to the vertical integration of the United Nations Development System reform. He suggested using the QCPR (for adoption next year) as a measuring mechanism for the GA and the ECOSOC to measure the effectiveness of the development system and to also come up with some system-wide policy recommendations. He also suggested considering how the common approach could be taken up through regional mechanisms of the UN reform, such as issue-based coalitions and regional collaborative platforms. He suggested identifying which organizations might develop new strategies in the next two years and could serve as champions for the common approach to pollution to be mainstreamed and integrated already at the strategic level. He also suggested extending the participation to a representative from DCO Development Coordination Office to bring valuable insights and perspectives into the process.

Hossein Fadaei (EMG) agreed that the approach should be utilizable and useful for implementation at the country and regional level and should align with other frameworks such as the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. He also clarified that DCO colleagues were invited to join the process.

Maria Cristina Zucca (UNEP) asked for clarification about the roadmap and asked if it will be linked to the CEB. A representative from EMG noted that the common approach will be prepared and presented to CEB senior officials for approval. Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP)

highlighted that the Beyond 2020 framework being developed for chemicals and waste provides a forward-looking perspective and not just targets related to pollution.

Marie-Aude Even (IFAD) mentioned that the report should capture the One Health approach, and that the case study approach includes safeguard processes and standards to ensure pollution is systematically addressed.

Elena Santer (ECE) suggested that the integration of pollution in sectoral approaches should be clarified and that digitalization, green transformation, and circular economy should be included as an overarching approach.

Desiree Raquel Narvaez (UNICEF) highlighted the dimensions of pollution being considered by the SDT, including health and economics, and the importance of understanding the costs and benefits of action versus inaction. She recommended considering publications from the World Bank on pollution and emphasized the importance of child rights and taking a holistic view of the UN common approach to pollution.

6. Closure of the meeting

The chair thanked the participants and invited all to provide their comments and views along the process.

Annex I: List of participants

1. Alejandra Acosta (EMG)
2. Ana Paula Soza (OHCHR)
3. Andrea Rizzo (UNEP)
4. Benjamin Schachter (OHCHR)
5. Cristina Romanelli (WHO)
6. Desiree Raquel Narvaez (UNICEF)
7. Elaine Angeles (DOS)
8. Elena Santer (ECE)
9. Fatema Johara (EMG)
10. Federica Pietracci (CEB)
11. Friederike Breuer
12. Henrique Silva Pacini Costa (UNCTAD)
13. Hermelinda Plata (WFP)
14. Hossein Fadaei (EMG)
15. Hyun Sung (EMG)
16. Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP)
17. Josselyn Mothe (WHO)
18. Judith Okoli (UNICEF)
19. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida (UNEP)
20. Keira Ivess-Keeler (UNIDO)
21. Lev Neretin (FAO)
22. Magdalena Rathe (WHO)
23. Marie-Aude Even (IFAD)
24. Melissa Denecke (IAEA)
25. Philippe Bersuder (IAEA)
26. Sheilagh Louise Henry (OCHA)
27. Sofia Gutierrez (WTO)
28. Sofie Hermann (CITES)
29. Sophia Mylona (OZONE)
30. Stephanie Holzwarth (UNHABITAT)
31. Tetsuya Tanaka (ICAO)
32. Tessa Goverse (UNEP)