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EMG

"Supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by enhancing UN system-wide collaboration and coherent responses on environmental matters"

Mid-Term Technical Segment of the 23rd Senior Officials Meeting	EMG SOM23/mid-term/
09 May 2017	03 May 2017
By video-audio conference (connection details in logistics note)	Distribution: EMG Members
from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. Geneva time	

Mid-Term Progress Report

Note by the Secretariat

This note is prepared to support the discussions of the mid-term technical segment of the 23rd Senior Officials Meeting by providing a short progress report on the work of the EMG Issue Management Groups, Task Forces and Consultative Processes, as well as the next steps of their work in line with the decisions taken by the 22nd Senior Officials Meeting in September 2016.

1. The Issue Management Group on e-waste

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
Invite the IMG to proceed with the implementation of the tasks as outlined in the ToR.	Ongoing The desk-based mapping exercise gathering information on UN e-waste initiatives prepared by the Secretariat was shared with EMG Members for comments and input in November 2016. In addition, a survey was carried out among IMG members to seek their views on the e-waste arena in the context of the UN and the 2030 Agenda. Based on the information gathered, the EMG Secretariat with the support of UNU prepared the draft analytical report "The United	Finalise the report based on comments from EMG and IMG members. Consider the recommendations of the mapping report and the role of the IMG in their possible follow-up at the IMGs third meeting planned to be held in May 2017. Develop a Note detailing proposed next steps for the E-waste IMG and address the recommendations to the EMG Senior Officials at their 23 rd



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	<p>Nations and e-waste – a coordinated approach” (<i>Please see Reference Document 01</i>).</p> <p>The draft report was discussed at the IMG’s second meeting held on March 29, 2017.</p> <p>An update on the IMG’s work was presented to the BRS COPs in April 2017 in the form of an intervention by the EMG Secretariat.</p>	<p>meeting for further follow up.</p>
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2. Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations system

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
<p>1- Agree to revise the Interim Guide, informed by lessons learned from the piloting of the Framework, turning it into a living guide/source book with the aim to concretely guide agencies’ sustainability efforts at the three entry points of the Framework.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A work stream (WS1) was established in November 2016 to work on updating the Interim Guide. Following its first meeting on December 15, 2016, a revised outline for the Guide was prepared. Funds are currently being raised for the engagement of a consultant to work with the re-drafting of the Guide.</p> <p>The work stream is chaired by UN Environment.</p>	<p>Engage a consultant in preparing the revised Guide.</p> <p>Finalise the Guide, taking into consideration lessons learned in the ESS pilot phase.</p>
<p>2- Agree to elaborate, possibly in collaboration with the UNDG, a common approach for environmental and social standards for UN programmes and projects, including at country level, with the potential to inform the UNDG process to pilot and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A work stream (WS2) on moving towards a common approach to environmental and social standards for programmes/projects was established and held its first meeting on February 22 where the ToR for the work stream was</p>	<p>Members of the working stream will complete a template for their organization which will contribute to the comparative analysis of safeguards. A summary report of the results is expected by the end of May</p>



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<p>rollout the new UN Sustainable Development Framework Guidance (UNSDG).</p>	<p>agreed (<i>Please see Reference Document 02</i>).</p> <p>The work stream will develop a Comparative Analysis of Agency Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies discussed at its second meeting held in March, as well as hold themed teleconferences (on topics such as Accountability Mechanisms, Labour Standards, Public Disclosure, etc) and prepare a final report with recommendations for a common normative framework for social and environmental safeguards, to be presented to the EMG Senior Officials at their 23rd meeting.</p> <p>The work stream is co-chaired by UNDP and IFAD.</p>	<p>2017.</p> <p>Present the final paper to the EMG Senior Officials at their next meeting in September 2017.</p>
<p>3- Agree to develop options for enhancing communication, knowledge sharing and peer exchange on environmental and social sustainability issues among the UN agencies, including clarifying the link between the ESS Framework and the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and exploring options for a possible UN-wide hub to support exchange on ESS efforts at program/project level and build a community of practice.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A draft ToR is under preparation for a third work stream tasked to produce a communications piece that shows how the ESS Framework is linked to the 2030 Agenda, articulates the way the UN system itself implements the SDGs through ESS measures and explains how the work on ESS contributes to mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable developing in the UN system.</p> <p>The work stream is co-chaired by WHO and UNOPS.</p>	<p>Arrange the first meeting of the work stream and finalise its ToR.</p> <p>Prepare the first draft of the communications piece.</p>



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3. The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations system

Tasks	Progress	Next Steps
<p>1- Request the IMG to collaborate with the appropriate committees within the CEB to ensure that environmental management and the Roadmap for a Climate Neutral UN by 2020 is well integrated in the CEB discussions for internalizing SDGs in the work of the UN system at all levels.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Greening the Blue report containing the greenhouse gas emissions and waste management inventories for 2015 activities and operations was published, covering 66 UN entities, agencies and organizations. Total greenhouse gas emissions amounted to 2 million tonnes of CO₂eq, while 550 kg of waste per capita were reported.</p> <p>Assessment of waste management practices in the UN system. This task is performed together with WFP and although it has suffered some delays, the report should be finalized by end of May 2017.</p> <p>The Sustainable UN team participated of the SUN retreat, which took place in Geneva at the beginning of February. It was a successful meeting attended by all team members and that focused on the accomplishments so far and the next steps for the future phase of SUN.</p> <p>Delivery of the IMG23 meeting, held online on March 9th 2017. Participation was high and the</p>	<p>A Joint webinar with UNFCCC and the UN Staff College to focus on UN internal sustainability and what that means in terms of SDG implementation in UN work practices.</p> <p>The acquisition of the environmental software has greatly advanced in the last months. Bidding companies were evaluated and 5 were chosen for a demo presentation, which took place beginning of April 2017. The new environmental software will be ready towards the end of the year and its try-out phase and data migration will start then.</p> <p>The development of a sustainable events tool is underway. This tool will assess the environmental impacts of events, covering greenhouse gas emissions as a first step with further development to include waste and water. The tool will be implemented as a pilot on the Ocean Conference that will be held in New York in June.</p> <p>The Greening the Blue report containing the greenhouse gas emissions and waste</p>



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	<p>meeting tackled the launch of the next environmental inventory cycle and focused on waste management practices within the UN system.</p> <p>Delivery of 4 training sessions on greenhouse gas and waste management by the end of March 2017 with attendance of 50 participants on average from different UN entities.</p>	<p>management inventories for 2016 activities and operations will be published by November 2017.</p>
<p>2- Provide a brief note on progress made in the areas of environmental sustainability management and climate neutrality in the UN system for information of the CEB at its second regular session of 2016.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>A note on progress was submitted to the CEB in December 2016 (<i>Please see Reference Document 03</i>). The release of the Greening the Blue report 2016 took place at the CEB meeting.</p>	

4. Peer-Review of Environmental Profiles of UN Organizations

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
<p>Take note of the preparation made by the UNFCCC Secretariat to undertake a peer review of its headquarters.</p>	<p>Under consideration</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the UNFCCC Secretariat on the modalities of the Peer Review.</p>	<p>Awaiting confirmation from the UNFCCC including date of the peer review</p> <p>Agree on a scope and themes of the Peer Review UNFCCC headquarters including the collection of the necessary data for peer review site visit.</p>
<p>Welcome the interest expressed by UNRWA, WFP, UNOPS and UNDP to pilot the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A Peer Review site visit of the field offices of UNRWA and WFP</p>	<p>Prepare the Peer Review Report of UNDP/Amman and arrange a Peer Review Body</p>



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<p>peer review concept in their field offices in Amman, Jordan and the progress made in preparing the peer reviews of these agencies.</p>	<p>in Amman, Jordan took place in December 2016, followed by the preparation of the Peer Review Reports for the two agencies. The Peer Review Body met on 30 April- 3 May 2017 to consider and review the draft Peer Review Reports.</p> <p>A site visit of the UNDP regional and country office in Amman took place in connection with the Peer Review Body Meeting in April/May.</p>	<p>Meeting where the report is discussed.</p> <p>Discuss with UNOPS and UNHCR a possible Peer Review of their HQ or field operations in 2017-2018.</p> <p>Considering piloting the peer review methodology in reviewing environmental profile of a UN agency at policy , program and management level</p>
<p>Encourage the reviewed agencies to consider sharing their peer review reports with the EMG Members, as well as share information on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of their Peer Review reports with other EMG Members.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Executive summaries of the completed Peer Reviews of UN Environment, IMF, UNIDO (VIC) and WMO are being prepared to be published in 2017 (Please see Reference Document 04 a-d).</p>	<p>Publish the executive summaries on the EMG website.</p> <p>Prepare executive summaries of the Peer Review reports of UNRWA and WFP once the reports are completed.</p>
<p>Consider developing guidelines and documenting good practices to support agencies who wish to undertake peer reviews independently, as an output of the peer review process.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A brochure on the EMG Peer Review process and its benefits is under preparation to be published in 2017 (Please see Reference Document 05).</p>	<p>Publish the brochure on the EMG website.</p>

5. Linkages Among EMG processes on Internal UN Sustainability and Possibilities for Synergies and Consolidation

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
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<p>Explore options for whether or not to streamline the EMG processes on UN internal sustainability to maximize their effectiveness and delivery for consideration of the Senior Officials.</p>	<p>Under consideration</p> <p>A note was prepared suggesting areas and options for consolidating EMG's work on UN internal sustainability.</p>	<p>Share the note "Consolidating sustainability processes within the Environment Management Group" with the EMG Members for comments and feedback.</p>
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6. Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
<p>Support the follow-up of the Framework, including the process for preparation of the Synthesis Report as outlined in the Framework.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A survey to gather information on UN entities' support and contribution to the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda was prepared in consultation with EMG Members, following the SWFS workshop in September 2016. The survey on the System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment was carried out from December 2016 to February 2017.</p> <p>Information gathered with the help of the survey is being analysed and compiled into a Zero Draft of the first SWFS Synthesis Report, which will be shared with EMG Members for comments before its consideration by the next meeting of the Consultative Process planned for the end of May 2017.</p> <p>A note providing preliminary findings of the survey was shared with EMG Members in March 2017 (<i>Please see Reference</i>)</p>	<p>Organise the 8th Meeting of the Consultative Process in May 2017 to discuss the 0-draft of the Synthesis Report.</p>



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	<i>Document 06).</i>	
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7. Maximizing the Effectiveness of the EMG in Enhancing Coordination on the Environment in the UN System in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
1- Invite the EMG Members to finalize the report “Supporting implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs - identifying linkages between the SDGs and existing international environmental goals and processes” and to use it as a tool in their efforts to support implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs.	Completed Following the Senior Officials Meeting, the report was shared for final comments by EMG Members in October 2016 and finalised based on the comments received.	
3- Prepare a proposal on implementation of the recommendations contained in the EMG effectiveness report for consideration of SOM23 and the third session of the UNEA.	Completed Following the Senior Officials Meeting and based on the EMG Effectiveness Report, a draft revised ToR and Rules of Procedures for the EMG was prepared, supported by two discussion notes. EMG Members provided comments on the draft between December 2016 and February 2017, leading to agreement on the final version to be presented to the EMG Senior Officials (<i>Please see Reference Document 07</i>).	The final version of the draft ToR and Rules of Procedures for the EMG will be presented to the EMG Senior Officials for approval at their 23 rd Meeting.

8. EMG Nexus Dialogues



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Tasks	Progress	Next steps
<p>1- Arrange regular and more frequent meetings of EMG with focus on UN system cooperation and collaboration around some of the nexus issues embedded in the 2030 Agenda.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A collaboration with Stockholm Environment Institute was commenced in December 2016 with the purpose to arrange a series of Dialogues on applying a nexus approach to the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.</p> <p>A brainstorming workshop was arranged in Geneva in January 2017 with participation of colleagues from the UN system and beyond, based on which a Concept Note was prepared and shared with EMG Members for comments in February.</p> <p>The first EMG Nexus Dialogue was arranged in Geneva on 26-27 April, 2017 where challenges and opportunities of the integrated approach to implementing the SDGs was discussed, as well as the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen policy coherence and integrated policy development, using the nexus approach.</p>	<p>Three more Dialogues are envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dialogue 2 on the humanitarian/environment nexus in Geneva in June 2017.- Dialogue 3 on Poverty and Environment in connection with the HLPF in New York in July 2017.- Dialogue 4 on health, urban pollution and sustainable development in connection with UNEA3 in Nairobi.



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9. Other achievements

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
EMG Newsletter	<p>The first EMG Newsletter was released in April 2017, to keep EMG members and other stakeholders informed on progress and achievements made within the UN system in responding to the environmental dimensions of the 2030 agenda. Through the newsletter the EMG Secretariat will provide updates on environmental initiatives which UN entities are engaged in, based on inputs received from EMG Members.</p>	<p>The EMG Newsletter will be released on a quarterly basis.</p>
EMG website and social media activity	<p>The EMG website has gone and will continue to undergo renewal to better serve EMG Members and other stakeholders in helping them access relevant and updated information.</p> <p>An EMG Twitter account was created in connection with the first EMG Nexus Dialogue.</p>	<p>The EMG website will be redesigned during summer 2017.</p> <p>A social media strategy for the EMG Secretariat will be developed.</p>
EMG Knowledge Exchange Network	<p>An EMG Knowledge Exchange Network is being developed under the One UN Knowledge Exchange Network as a community space to help EMG Members share information and learn about interesting initiatives across member agencies, as part of the process of implementing the SWFS. This space will also be used as the main avenue for collaborative</p>	<p>The knowledge exchange network will be launched and piloted for collaborative work on the draft SWFS Synthesis Report.</p> <p>The online consultation space will be launched in connection with the next EMG Nexus Dialogue.</p>



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	<p>document editing, document repository, and data sharing.</p> <p>A space for <u>online consultation</u> has been created to enhance the content and discussion of the EMG Nexus Dialogues. This consultation will enable the EMG to invite participants to contribute to the dialogue who will not physically attend the events, enriching the discussion through a wider base of input. Inputs will be used to bring new ideas, questions and experiences to the events, and to grow the analysis.</p>	
Other communication updates	<p>A new corporate identity and logo was created for the EMG to be used in communication, as appropriate.</p> <p>An EMG brochure is under preparation, updating the outdated publication that explains the role of the EMG and provides examples of its work.</p>	The updated brochure is expected to be published by September 2017.