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| <p><b>23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting of the Environment Management Group</b></p> <p><b>Technical Segment, 18 September 2017 (9 a.m.-17:00 p.m. NY time)</b><br/> <b>UN HQ Conference Building, Conference Room 9 (CR9) 1st basement</b></p> <p><b>Senior Segment, 20 September 2017, (9.00 a.m-12.30 p.m.)</b><br/> <b>UN HQ GA Building, Conference Room F (CR-F) 1st basement.</b></p> | <p><b>EMG/SOM23/3/2017</b></p> <p>04 September 2017<br/>           Distribution: EMG<br/>           Members</p> |
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**Progress Report on EMG's ongoing work and suggested directions for further work**

**Note by the Chair**

**Executive summary**

The present report has been developed with the aim of supporting agenda item 3 of the Technical Segment of the 23rd Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the Environment Management Group (EMG). It reports progress on ongoing work by the EMG Issue Management Groups (IMGs), Task Forces and Consultative Processes, and proposes actions and directions for further work of the EMG in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It proposes that the Senior Officials:

### **Suggested Action I: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Tackling E-waste**

The Senior Officials:

1. Take note of the achievements made by the IMG on Tackling E-waste, including preparation of the E-waste Synthesis Report and the Joint Statement, which outlines the commitments of respective Heads of agencies towards the follow-up of the recommendations listed in the Synthesis Report;
2. Decide to extend the IMG for one more year to:
  - a. Undertake a gap analysis for identifying possible long-term programmatic cooperation and collaboration on tackling e-waste;
  - b. Establish means for further and systematic sharing of knowledge among UN agencies on e-waste management partnerships and programmes, including developing a repository of project expertise, country level information and related data;
  - c. Deepen the liaison between the IMG on Tackling E-waste and the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the UN, through further reciprocal briefings and exchanges of best practices, information and case studies.

### **Suggested Action II: Consultative Process on Enhancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System**

The Senior Officials:

1. Take note of the progress made in the three work streams as well as of the briefing note and draft brochure prepared to facilitate communication on the importance of UN organizations foreseeing and managing the environmental or social impacts of their own activities and on the relevance of a common approach on ESS measures;
2. Welcome the progress made by UN agencies in introducing and integrating environmental sustainability at the three entry points outlined in the ESS Framework and recognize the utility of the Framework in this regard;
3. Agree to extend the Consultative Process for one more year to:
  - a. Complete the comparative analysis and continue the preparation of a common approach to environmental and social safeguards for programming in the UN system and to initiate a voluntary phase of application of the common approach;
  - b. Complete the brochure explaining the ESS Framework and its links to the 2030 Agenda;
  - c. Building on the Interim Guide, develop a webpage on the EMG website where guidance material and agency examples on the implementation of the ESS Framework and other related information will be shared;
  - d. Consider opportunities for knowledge sharing, collective learning and coherence in corporate sustainability reporting in UN entities;
  - e. Report on progress to the next Senior Officials' meeting.

### **Suggested Action III: System-wide Commitments on Environmental Sustainability Management**

The Senior Officials:

1. 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;
2. 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.

### **Suggested Action IV: Environmental Management Peer Reviews of United Nations organisations**

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the continued interest by EMG members to be reviewed on their environmental performances and take note of the usefulness of the Peer Review Process as a means to enhance environmental sustainability in the Headquarters and Field Operations of the UN agencies;
2. Welcome the concluded Peer Review Reports of WFP and UNRWA and thank the contributing UN entities for taking part in the review process;
3. Welcome the continuation of the Peer Review Process and the interest expressed by UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNOPS and DFS to engage in the next phase of the peer reviews;
4. Consider developing guidelines and documenting good practices to support agencies that wish to undertake peer reviews independently, as an output of the peer review process.

### **Suggested Action V: Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment**

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the finalization of the 1st Synthesis Report of the System-Wide Framework of Strategies as a significant contribution to identifying illustrative examples of system-wide cooperation and collaboration on the environment in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda;
2. Extend the Consultative Process to support the implementation of the Framework, including preparation of the second edition of the SWFS Synthesis Report, delineate plans for future Synthesis Reports, and foster ongoing information sharing via the SWFS Knowledge Exchange Network and interagency fora such as the EMG Nexus Dialogues;
3. Request the Consultative Process to provide a report on its progress to the next meeting of the Senior Officials.

**Suggested Action VI: 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**

The Senior Officials:

1. Endorse the updated Terms of Reference and new Rules of procedure for the Environment Management Group and mandate the Secretariat to report on progress on the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the effectiveness report to the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in line with its Resolution 2/5;
2. Decide to conclude the work of the Task Team in light of the completion of its mandate.

**Suggested Action VII: EMG Nexus Dialogues**

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the Nexus Dialogue Series as a new modality under the EMG for continued exchange of knowledge and information and for enhancing cooperation and partnerships between the UN system and other stakeholders on the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda;
2. Invite UN agencies to sponsor and identify themes for dialogues and to provide comments for improving the organization of the future dialogues.

**Introduction**

The following sections provide the progress reports of the IMGs, Task Teams and Consultative Processes, as well as suggested actions for further work. All EMG documents referred to in these reports can be found on the [EMG webpage for SOM 23](#).

**I. The IMG on Tackling E-waste: Towards Eco-design and a Life-cycle Approach for E-products - Coordinating delivery by the United Nations**

1. As per the [Terms of Reference of the IMG on Tackling E-waste](#), a mapping exercise was undertaken, including coverage of prior, existing and potential initiatives to tackle e-waste carried out by UN agencies and programmes. Through a Synthesis Report (attached to the meeting documents as [\(INF/1\)](#)), information was gathered on existing standards, guidelines, projects and partnerships. The United Nations University provided support to the EMG Secretariat in preparation of the Report.
2. A desk-based mapping exercise began in early autumn 2016, identifying over 150 e-waste initiatives undertaken by UN agencies including entities active in e-waste outside the UN system such as the OECD, INTERPOL and SPREP. During 2016/2017, the EMG Secretariat distributed a survey to all 19 IMG Members and received 15 responses. The survey probed the work of UN entities across the life-cycle of electrical and electronic equipment (e-products), the streamlining

of initiatives and collaboration towards tackling e-waste. Other questions looked into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the challenges which e-waste poses.

3. A first draft of the Report was reviewed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> teleconference of the IMG, held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Furthermore, at the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, an intervention was made, with the intention of briefly describing the work of the IMG and the findings of the Report to Member States and other interested stakeholders. The key findings include the need for recognition by UN agencies, of the full life-cycle of electrical and electronic equipment, when carrying out projects and programmes to tackle e-waste. The need to focus on e-waste generation at its source in advanced economies was also addressed, along with the necessity to collaborate with the private sector, especially by strengthening the cooperation between UN agencies and manufacturers of e-products in areas such as production and design, and extended producer responsibility.
4. In order to increase collaboration and coordination on tackling e-waste, the recommendations propose undertaking a gap analysis by the EMG Secretariat to identify the programmatic strengths and weaknesses of agencies, concerning their mandates on e-waste. It is envisaged that this will lay the ground work and provide a strong understanding of the possible entry points for future programmatic cooperation and collaboration. A joint work plan on e-waste has been proposed for the long-term, steered by a lead agency or agencies for further collaboration and coordination, once the extended terms of the IMG have been completed.
5. It has also been proposed that a platform or hub be developed for knowledge sharing around UN e-waste projects and country data and statistics, or a similar existing domain to be adopted for these purposes. In addition, the potential for the IMG on Tackling E-waste to support internal e-waste management practices, within the facilities of the UN, was highlighted. In particular, this points towards the provision of support for guidance on e-waste management being developed by the Sustainable UN (SUN) team at UN Environment.
6. In the lead up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> teleconference of the IMG, held on 1<sup>st</sup> June, a series of bilateral discussions were undertaken with several Members of the IMG; including ITU, the BRS Secretariats, UNITAR, UNU, the IETC and UN Environment's Economy Division. These discussions helped develop thoughts for consolidating the follow-up recommendations presented in the Synthesis Report and the Action Points for the forthcoming work of the IMG.
7. During the teleconference, these thoughts and ideas were further deliberated upon, and it was agreed that a [Note on Action Points for 2017/2018](#) would be prepared for consultation by Members of the IMG. The Note built on the recommendations of the Report, by providing more detailed suggestions towards following-up on the Report's findings. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> teleconference, it was also agreed that a Joint Statement be prepared to facilitate commitment by Heads of respective EMG Member agencies based on the findings and recommendations of the Report. The Joint Statement is attached as ([INF/2](#)).
8. The 4<sup>th</sup> teleconference of the IMG on Tackling E-waste took place on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017, where the finalisation of the Report, the Note on Action Points and the Joint Statement were discussed. In light of the Terms of Reference of the IMG on Tackling E-waste, which detail the potential for liaison with the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management, the World Food Programme

was invited to present corporate work on e-waste management in the UN system, undertaken by the SUN team.

In light of the progress so far, the technical segment of the EMG Senior Officials suggests the following actions for the IMG for consideration:

#### **Suggested Action I: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Tackling E-waste**

The Senior Officials:

1. Take note of the achievements made by the IMG on Tackling E-waste, including preparation of the E-waste Synthesis Report and the Joint Statement, which outlines the commitments of respective Heads of agencies towards the follow-up of the recommendations listed in the Synthesis Report;
2. Decide to extend the IMG for one more year to:
  - d. Undertake a gap analysis for identifying possible long-term programmatic cooperation and collaboration on tackling e-waste;
  - e. Establish means for further and systematic sharing of knowledge among UN agencies on e-waste management partnerships and programmes, including developing a repository of project expertise, country level information and related data;
  - f. Deepen the liaison between the IMG on Tackling E-waste and the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the UN, through further reciprocal briefings and exchanges of best practices, information and case studies.

## **II. Consultative Process on Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System**

9. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting agreed to extend the Consultative Process on Advancing the Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system to revise the Interim Guide, informed by lessons learned from piloting the Framework; to explore options for strengthening a common approach for environmental and social standards for UN programmes and projects and 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.
10. Following the Senior Officials' Meeting, the Consultative Process agreed to approach the implementation of the SOM decision through the establishment of three work streams: Work Stream 1 led by UN Environment focusing on updating the Interim Guide, Work Stream 2, co-chaired by UNDP and IFAD focusing on a common approach to environmental and social safeguards in programming and Work Stream 3, co-chaired by WHO and UNOPS focusing on communication aspects of the [ESS Framework](#). Members of the Consultative Process were invited to nominate focal points to the three work streams.

11. Work Stream 1 held its first meeting in December 2016 to agree on an approach to the preparation of a revised version of the Guide for the consideration of the Consultative Process. Following its first meeting, an outline for the revised guide was prepared based on the feedback and recommendations from the pilot phase. It was proposed that the revised guide would provide practical guidance for implementing the Sustainability Framework, clarifying concepts and adding more illustrative examples to support in particular agencies with little or no previous experience of ESS measures. Consultations were held with regard to the clarification of the policy entry point of the Framework, which had given rise to alternative interpretations during the pilot phase.
12. Work Stream 2 held its first meeting in February 2017, whereby its [Terms of Reference](#) were agreed upon by members of the work stream. The work stream agreed to prepare a detailed analysis of volunteer agencies' (FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS) programme/project level safeguard policies, procedures and accountability mechanisms with the aim to identify where there is a basis for commonality. It was acknowledged that a common approach to safeguards would demonstrate a commitment to Delivering as One by ensuring the normative principles of the UN are consistently operationalized through country level programming in particular. Ultimately, the work stream will prepare a final report outlining a recommended set of common minimum requirements for social and environmental safeguards. The common approach will build on the ESS Framework and the [Interim Guide](#) and will recognize that its implementation will depend on each agency's policy, procedural and accountability frameworks. A briefing note for communicating with EMG members' senior management about the rationale and benefits of the common approach has been prepared and is attached as [\(INF/3\)](#).
13. Work Stream 3 held its first meeting in June, 2017 to agree on its tasks towards enhancing communication about environmental and social sustainability measures within the UN, the Sustainability Framework and its links to the 2030 Agenda. It was agreed to produce a concise communications piece with the aim to attract broader interest in sustainability measures and to explain their relevance, especially among entities whose programmatic work is not directly linked to promoting environmental or social sustainability.
14. A workshop was organized in Copenhagen on June 28-30, 2017, hosted by UNOPS, to discuss initial findings of the comparative analysis undertaken by Work Stream 2 and to clarify the vision for a common approach to environmental and social safeguards. Initial results of the comparative analysis show that there is commonality across the different safeguards frameworks being put in place by agencies. The workshop focused on gaining clarity on the objectives and content of the common approach. Additionally, the workshop focused on three out of a total of eleven thematic areas included in the comparative analysis as a starting point: biodiversity, indigenous peoples and human rights. It was agreed to expand the comparative analysis to include a comparison of how agencies (particularly humanitarian agencies) apply safeguards in emergency/crisis contexts. It was further agreed to arrange regular teleconferences around the remaining thematic areas to discuss proposed minimum requirements to be included in the common approach and to exchange lessons learned and possible challenges around implementation of the requirements. The minutes from the workshop are attached as [\(INF/4\)](#).

15. The workshop also discussed progress made in work stream 1, including the outcome of the consultation on the clarification of the policy entry point of the Sustainability Framework. Meeting participants concluded that the need for a separate implementation guide for the Framework was no longer evident, taking into consideration the targeted outputs from Work Stream 2 on a common approach to environmental and social safeguards and also guidance that is being developed on the implementation of Environmental Management Systems. Instead, it was proposed that existing guidance (including that of the Interim Guide), best practices and other relevant information be compiled in the form of web links or documents on an online platform linked to the EMG website, with the aim of facilitating access to information related to corporate sustainability, both for UN entities interested in the topic as well as external stakeholders.

The technical segment of the EMG Senior Officials and the Consultative Process suggest the following actions for the Consultative Process, for consideration by the Senior Officials:

**Suggested Action II: Consultative Process on Enhancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System**

The Senior Officials:

1. Take note of the progress made in the three work streams as well as of the briefing note and draft brochure prepared to facilitate communication on the importance of UN organizations foreseeing and managing the environmental or social impacts of their own activities and on the relevance of a common approach on ESS measures;
2. Welcome the progress made by UN agencies in introducing and integrating environmental sustainability at the three entry points outlined in the ESS Framework and recognize the utility of the Framework in this regard;
3. Agree to extend the Consultative Process for one more year to:
  - a. Complete the comparative analysis and continue the preparation of a common approach to environmental and social safeguards for programming in the UN system and to initiate a voluntary phase of application of the common approach;
  - b. Complete the brochure explaining the ESS Framework and its links to the 2030 Agenda;
  - c. Building on the Interim Guide, develop a webpage on the EMG website where guidance material and agency examples on the implementation of the ESS Framework and other related information will be shared;
  - d. Consider opportunities for knowledge sharing, collective learning and coherence in corporate sustainability reporting in UN entities;
  - e. Report on progress to the next Senior Officials' meeting.

### **III. The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations system**

Between September 2016 and August 2017, the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations System progressed as follows:

## 1. UN Environmental Inventory and Climate Neutrality

16. The environmental inventory for the UN system – Greening the Blue—The UN system’s environmental footprint and efforts to reduce it- (2016 GtB report) was published on the 7th November 2016. The total reported GHG emissions in 2015 amounted to 2.04 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>eq from 66 reporting entities. Forty-two entities reported on their waste management practices and quantities. The UN-wide annual per capita waste generated was 547 kg.
17. The 2016 GtB report marked progress in a number of areas: a) the first waste management inventory was carried out with 44 participating entities; b) the number of entities reporting on GHG was higher and their efforts resulted in higher quality data and improved scope; c) the number of climate neutral entities rose to 32 from 20 in 2014; d) 28 entities are undertaking systematic efforts via a strategy or an environmental management system to tackle their environmental footprint. An infographic is available, as ([INF8](#)).
18. In March 2017, the UN environmental inventory for 2016 emissions was launched. The 2017 GtB report will be released in early November 2017 before the UNFCCC COP. The IMG developed the basis of a harmonised system to track and report water management from 2018 onwards. Quantitative and qualitative data on water management and good practices are being collected in 2017 as a pilot with the plan to have the first public UN Water management inventory added to the other two in 2018.
19. The Sustainable UN is finalising the procurement of an environmental software to track and report the environmental performance of UN system. The procurement is suffering severe delays due to bureaucracy but the purchase should be finalised by September 2017.

## 2. Greening the Blue

20. The web-based [Greening the Blue](#) campaign continues to engage staff and provides entities with an opportunity to showcase their environmental inventory and efforts to improve their environmental performance. Throughout the present period, over 30 news stories were reported on Greening the Blue and followers on social media increased.

## 3. Reducing the UN environmental Footprint

21. The IMG has continued its intense work towards a more systematic approach to environmental management with the help of the two staff on loan provided by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.
22. The Sustainable UN, together with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), have developed a methodology on Sustainable Events to estimate, reduce the environmental impact of events and offset their GHG emission. The three partners will fundraise to implement the tool and are testing it in the meantime with a few UN events (UN Ocean conference June 2017, UN Environment Assembly and ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in October 2018).

23. The Sustainable UN with the World Food Programme (WFP) have developed guidance on Waste Management practices. The materials are currently under review by the IMG. The collaboration on Sustainable Procurement between UNOPS, UN Environment and ITCILO has been revamped with the redrafting of the Sustainable Procurement Chapter in the UN procurers handbook which is the reference for all UN procurers, trainings on Sustainable procurement for UN procurers in Rome and Geneva and an active Working group within the HLCM procurement network.
24. Following the request of the EMG interim meeting in May 2017, Sustainable UN is working on a “10-years after” report that will show achievements during the first 10 years of the UN Climate Neutral Strategy.

#### **4. Connection between EMG Climate Neutral Work, and the other EMG work streams**

25. UN Environment and UNFCCC continue supporting entities in their path to climate neutrality, with the aim to reach a climate neutral UN system by 2020.
26. The IMG on environmental sustainability management and the IMH on e-waste collaborate on e-waste as part of the overall work on improving UN waste management.
27. Work carried out by the IMG on Peer Review was presented on several IMG sustainability meetings, attended by over 40 sustainability focal points.

#### **5. Reach beyond the UN system**

28. The methodologies developed by the IMG start to find followers beyond the UN system: the Italian government, requested the Sustainable UN to estimate the environmental footprint of the G7 ministerial meeting on Environment following the UN approach and made the event Climate Neutral. Two UN mission in New York asked the EMG to be assisted in greening their premises. The International Olympic Committee has approached Sustainable UN to exchange experiences on greening events.
29. In October 2016, the Sustainable UN and the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the UN system received the UN Secretary General award for its commitment and efforts to green the UN system.

In view of the above progress report, the IMG submits for consideration of the EMG Senior Officials the following action points for 2018:

#### **Suggested Action III: System-wide Commitments on Environmental Sustainability Management**

The Senior Officials:

1. 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;

2. 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.

#### IV. Peer-Review of Environmental Profiles of UN Organizations

30. The EMG Senior Officials decided at their 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting in 2016 to continue the peer review process established in 2012, and to peer review additional UN agencies, with the purpose of enhancing environmental management within the UN system and to develop guidelines, and document good practice as outputs of the peer review process.
31. During 2016 and 2017, a further 3 entities joined the peer review process. The field offices of WFP, UNRWA and UNDP in Amman, Jordan, were reviewed as pilot projects. This is the first time that the peer review process has involved field offices.
32. The peer reviews of WFP and UNRWA started with an exploratory mission during the last week of July 2016 and a preparatory mission in the second half of November 2016, followed by a 4-day site visit from 4-7 December 2016. During the site visits of UNRWA and WFP, reviewers from the EMG Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UNOPS and the World Bank visited the facilities which were reviewed against the following topics chosen by UNRWA and WFP: greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and facilities, greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, and communication and outreach. Upon preparation of these pilot peer review reports, guidance will be prepared to support agencies that wish to undertake such field peer reviews independently.
33. Consultations have started regarding the next stage of peer reviews which are likely to include the headquarters of the UNFCCC and selected field offices of UNOPS, UNICEF and UNHCR refugee camps.
34. From an awareness and communications perspective, a peer review brochure has been developed and printed, and is attached to the meeting documents as [\(INF/5\)](#). The brochure depicts the main features of the peer review process as well as some experiences so far and the benefits of being peer reviewed. In addition to a brochure, the EMG Secretariat has also begun putting together a peer review executive summary series, comprising condensed summaries of each peer review report. The release of the findings from the peer review reports, through these executive summaries, was agreed upon during the IMF peer review body meeting held in Rome, in autumn 2016.
35. The Peer Review of the environmental profiles of UN organizations has proven to be a very beneficial process for the UN entities who have been reviewed, including those who are involved in the mutual-learning experience as part of the review team. Through this process, more and more entities across the UN system are receiving support through non-binding recommendations helping them to improve their environmental performance and make real changes. Some of these examples include improving energy efficiency, waste management and

recycling, improvements in staff health and safety, and cost reductions for facilities and operations.

The technical segment of the EMG senior officials suggests the following actions for the peer review process for consideration by the Senior Officials:

#### **Suggested Action IV. Environmental Management Peer Reviews of United Nations organisations**

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the continued interest by EMG members to be reviewed on their environmental performances and take note of the usefulness of the Peer Review Process as a means to enhance environmental sustainability in the Headquarters and Field Operations of the UN agencies;
2. Welcome the concluded Peer Review Reports of WFP and UNRWA and thank the contributing UN entities for taking part in the review process;
3. Welcome the continuation of the Peer Review Process and the interest expressed by UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNOPS and DFS to engage in the next phase of the peer reviews;
4. Consider developing guidelines and documenting good practices to support agencies that wish to undertake peer reviews independently, as an output of the peer review process

#### **V. Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment**

36. The Senior Officials at their 22st meeting welcomed the finalisation of the [System-Wide Framework of Strategies](#) as a significant step forward in system-wide cooperation and collaboration on the environment in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda; decided to extend the Consultative Process to support the follow-up of the Framework, including the process for preparation of a Synthesis Report on UN System-wide Contributions to the Implementation of the Environmental Dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals as outlined in the Framework; and requested the Consultative Process to provide a report on its progress to the next meeting of the Senior Officials for submission to the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 3) in response to its [Resolution UNEA 2/5](#).
37. In follow up of this decision, the Consultative Process engaged in preparing the first edition of the Synthesis Report. Through an online Survey launched in mid-November 2016, 31 agencies provided submissions to the report. The report is attached to the meeting documents as [\(INF/6\)](#).
38. Following the data collection the Consultative Process held three meetings in May and July 2017, focusing on preparing and finalising the SWFS Synthesis Report, based on an annotated outline which delineated its intended purpose, guiding principles and key features and functions. A [UN SWFS Knowledge Exchange Network](#) was created to allow for enhanced information sharing

among Member Agencies. This platform was also designed to allow for real-time editing and collaboration with regards to the drafting of the SWFS Synthesis Report.

39. The Consultative Process is envisaged to discuss the preparation of the next edition of the SWFS Synthesis Report as well as management of the data collected through the SWFS Knowledge Exchange Platform. The second edition of the Synthesis report will build on and provide updates to 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 technical segment proposes the following action to the Senior Officials:

#### **Suggested Action V: Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment**

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the finalization of the 1st Synthesis Report of the System-Wide Framework of Strategies as a significant contribution to identifying illustrative examples of system-wide cooperation and collaboration on the environment in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda;
2. Extend the Consultative Process to support the implementation of the Framework, including preparation of the second edition of the SWFS Synthesis Report, delineate plans for future Synthesis Reports, and foster ongoing information sharing via the SWFS Knowledge Exchange Network and interagency fora such as the EMG Nexus Dialogues;
3. Request the Consultative Process to provide a report on its progress to the next meeting of the Senior Officials

#### **VI. 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**

40. At their 22nd meeting, the Senior Officials acknowledged Resolution 2/5 of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, requesting the Executive Director of UNEP to report on progress on the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the report [Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). The meeting decided to extend the Task Team for another year to 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.
41. In response to the decision by the Senior Officials, the Secretariat prepared two notes to facilitate discussion by the Task Team on the rationale and proposals for updating/revising EMG's Terms of Reference and on strengthening and renewing EMG modalities and procedures of work. Furthermore, an updated Terms of Reference for the EMG was prepared for the Task Team's comments.

42. Updates on the Terms of Reference include making reference to the 2030 Agenda, the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment and to the corporate environmental sustainability work undertaken within the framework of the EMG, which was not mentioned in the previous ToR. Additionally, existing working modalities were clarified and spelled out in a new document “EMG Rules of Procedures” which are annexed to the draft ToR.
43. Members of the Task Team and EMG Focal Points provided comments on the draft Terms of Reference between December 2016 and February 2017, leading to a final draft, which was presented to the Midterm Meeting of the EMG Technical Segment in May 2017. The finalised draft is attached as [\(INF/7\)](#) for the endorsement of the Senior Officials.
44. Information on the updated TOR will be included in the EMG updates for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to be held in Nairobi from 4-6 December, 2017, in response to its [Resolution 2/5](#).
45. Taking into consideration that the Task Team will have completed its task upon adoption of the updated Terms of Reference, the Senior Officials may wish to consider bringing the work of the Task Team to a close.

**Suggested Action VI: 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**

The Senior Officials:

Endorse the updated Terms of Reference and new Rules of procedure for the Environment Management Group and mandate the Secretariat to report on progress on the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the effectiveness report to the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in line with its Resolution 2/5;  
Decide to conclude the work of the Task Team in light of the completion of its mandate.

## VII. EMG Nexus Dialogues

46. The Senior Officials at their 22nd meeting called for 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. In response to this call, the EMG Secretariat prepared [a series of EMG Dialogues on environmental nexus issues](#), with the aim to contribute to a common understanding of the integrated goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the requirements and opportunities which these bring to UN agencies in supporting the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coherent and collaborative manner.
47. In order to define the shape of the Dialogues and to ensure their added value to already existing initiatives, an informal brainstorming workshop was organised in Geneva in January, 2017, attended by 9 UN entities and two government representatives. A collaboration was entered

into with Stockholm Environment Institute that provides technical support to the preparation of the Dialogues and facilitates their execution through the delivery of i.a. nexus analyses.

48. Following the workshop, [a Concept Note](#) was shared with EMG Members in February, outlining a series of four Nexus Dialogues that would provide UN entities and other stakeholders with the opportunity to view the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals from a nexus perspective, to acquaint themselves with available nexus methodologies and to identify practical strategies for integrating the nexus approach into their mission and work.
49. The [launching Dialogue](#) was held in Geneva, hosted by WMO on April 26-27, 2017 convening more than 70 participants to a technical and a high level segment where different environmental nexus areas were discussed and the nexus approach was considered as a means of supporting the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The technical segment heard presentations of case studies at global and national level of how agencies and countries have approached the implementation of the SDGs, applying a nexus perspective. Participants explored ways to establish and maintain nexus partnerships among agencies, ministries, private sector and NGOs. The high level segment heard a panel discussion among UN Senior Officials, Member States, academia and civil society on the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen policy coherence in implementing the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.
50. [The second Nexus Dialogue](#) was held in New York on July 13-14, 2017, followed by a high level side event held on the July 19 within the frames of the High Level Political Forum. The Dialogue focused on the Poverty-Environment nexus, arranged in close collaboration with the UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative. The technical segment deliberated on ways in which to better integrate poverty and the environment simultaneously into policymaking, legislation, investments and budgetary processes. During the policy segment a panel of experts addressed poverty-environment nexus challenges and opportunities for enhancing partnerships and issues requiring strategic planning by the UN system, including through the work of the EMG. The high-level side event featured a discussion among senior officials on the importance of an integrated approach involving many stakeholders in order to eradicate poverty at the international, national and local level.
51. The [third Nexus Dialogue](#) will be held on 19 October, 2017 in Geneva, focusing on the humanitarian-environment nexus. The fourth Dialogue will be held in December 2017 in the margins of the third session of the UN Environment Assembly, with a focus on the urban pollution, health and sustainable development nexus.
52. The EMG Nexus Dialogue Series provides an appreciated occasion for UN agencies and other stakeholders to identify areas of mutual interest in the area of environment and to better understand the transmission channels through which an action in one sector may impact the outcomes of another. With its integrated approach and indivisible nature, the 2030 Agenda challenges agencies of the UN system to ensure that their specialized policy decision making and response systems are well suited to uptake and effectively support the integrated SDGs, including the environmental dimension of the goals and targets. The EMG Nexus Dialogue Series provides an opportunity to cultivate innovative thinking and practice to promote the efficiency of the UN system in implementing the Goals to identify ways to increase coherence, enhance synergies in governance and policy planning, put in place effective institutional architecture and decision-making processes, and scale up financing and partnerships.

53. Building on the outcomes of the EMG Nexus Dialogues arranged in 2017, several new environmental nexus areas have been identified to be the focus of future Nexus Dialogues in 2018. It is therefore proposed that the Nexus Dialogue Series is continued for another year to focus on issues such as the nexus approach and UN system support to SDGs implementation at the national level, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Green Jobs, Biodiversity and Environment and Finance.

#### **Suggested Action VII: EMG Nexus Dialogues**

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the Nexus Dialogue Series as a new modality under the EMG for continued exchange of knowledge and information and for enhancing cooperation and partnerships between the UN system and other stakeholders on the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda;
2. Invite UN agencies to sponsor and identify themes for dialogues and to provide comments for improving the organization of the future dialogues.