



16th Senior officials meeting of the Environment Management Group

21 September 2010

Preparatory technical segment: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Senior officials segment: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Hosted by the United Nations Division on Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA)

DC2 building, Two UN Plaza, 23rd floor, UNDESA meeting room,

New York

EMG/SOM.16/04

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Distribution: EMG members

Proposed work plan 2011 - 2012

Note by the Chair

Introduction

1. The present note presents a proposed work plan for EMG the period 2011 – 2012. The plan builds on the first annual work plan adopted by the 15th senior officials meeting of Environment Management Group in 2009.
2. It is proposed that the work plan be given a two year horizon, i.e. be a plan for 2011 to 2012, but that the EMG continues to approve the plan annually. The reason for this approach is to capture activities which have a longer time span than one year. The plan gives an overview of forthcoming activities and milestones for the next 24 months. The plan is organized according four main expected accomplishments as they pertain to programmatic, management and operational issues as well as overall cooperation.
3. The technical segment of the 15th senior officials meeting encouraged the EMG secretariat to prepare a budget estimate as part of the development of the proposed work plan for next year. The budget estimate should as far as possible include expected contributions from members.
4. The secretariat has in considering the matter identified the following cost elements:
 - (a) secretariat costs which are born by UNEP;
 - (b) costs of organising meetings and tele-connections to meetings which are partly born by UNEP, but often born by a member the hosting the meeting;
 - (c) costs related to participation in meetings which are born by all members;
 - (d) costs in developing joint support material or services, such as through consultancies, which are born by UNEP, but increasingly also by members;
 - (e) costs related to preparation of report in terms of staff-time for writing and review as well as for publication which are born by UNEP and members.
5. The secretariat has come to the conclusion that it is difficult to cost activities as long as these are entirely based on in-kind contributions from members and from UNEP as a secretariat. The secretariat would therefore recommend that the plan remains un-costed as long as there is no common budget for EMG activities. It is also recommended that the work plan is implemented through in-kind contribution subject to the availability of resources. The in kind contribution will be budgeted, programmed and reported on by each member and the UNEP secretariat within their own administrative processes.

Environment Management Group work plan for 2011 – 2012

Expected accomplishment	Activities and milestones ¹
A. Management issues	IMG on Sustainable Management
Enhanced sustainability of management practices in the United Nations system	<p>1. Sustainable management Maintain regular IMG meetings to identify how sustainable management can be further developed and systematically implemented in the United Nations system by identifying barriers, enabling measures, providing input to relevant bodies and processes in the UN system, and providing respective reports and recommendations to the EMG. Prepare a progress report of the above work of the IMG to the special session of the senior officials meeting of the EMG in March 2011</p> <p>(a) Develop, by the 17th regular senior officials meeting of EMG (September 2011), a Strategic Plan on sustainable management for the consideration of EMG on how sustainable management systems may be introduced in the UN system organizations. The Strategic Plan would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) a proposal for a regular integrated process for reporting on greenhouse gas inventories with appropriate linkages to enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, ii) a proposal for inter-agency cooperation and reporting on emission reduction approaches in the UN system, supported by relevant interagency/HLCM networks. iii) a proposal for a long-term approach to maintain common inventories, reporting, communication, joint training and resource development in support of emission reductions and a common sustainable management approach in the UN system. <p>The Strategic Plan will include rationale, criteria, costs and savings associated with such systems.</p>
	<p>2. Climate neutral United Nations Facilitate cooperation among members of the Environment Management Group (EMG) on implementation of the statement by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) on moving toward a climate neutral United Nations.</p> <p>(a) Develop, in support of the development of the Strategic Plan, emission reduction plans approved for each UN system organization by the end of 2011, and report on their implementation in the annual implementation reports of the UN Climate Neutral Strategy</p>

¹ Activities will be undertaken with the support by members in the form of personnel time, travel, in-kind and financial support, with support provided by the UNEP hosted EMG secretariat and for expected accomplishment A with the support provided by the UNEP Sustainable UN Facility (SUN).

Expected accomplishment	Activities and milestones ¹
	<p>(b) Continue to work with the common UN networks with an aim to have by October 2012 recommendations/guidelines from each of the concerned networks on how to support emission reduction and sustainability improvement in the areas of buildings, travel, ICT, procurement and communications. The IMG/SUN will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Initiate a review of how common travel policies may be applied or revised to better support sustainable travel in UN in cooperation with IATN (ii) Develop a guideline, in cooperation with INFM, on sustainability criteria for UN facilities worldwide, as well as consider how a joint baseline environmental assessment of UN buildings worldwide can be conducted (iii) Develop, in consultation with ICT network, a recommendation on how ICT may be applied to support improves sustainability in the UN system, including through improved e-communication and sustainable ICT infrastructure. (iv) Prepare with the UN Communication Group, the Internal-External communication platform for the <i>Greening the Blue website</i> <p>(c) Submit a final recommendation on how to implement the offsetting part of the UN Climate Neutral Strategy to EMG at the special session of the senior officials meeting in March 2011.</p> <p>(d) Provide a proposal to 17th senior officials meeting on how budgeting of sustainability investments in UN may be approached, including identification of potential barriers and enabling measures to overcome the barriers</p>
	<p>3. Sustainable procurement</p> <p>Continue the development, in cooperation with the HLCM procurement network, of support services for integrating sustainable procurement practices into the United Nations system and take stock of the integration of these practices in the UN procurement function.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Assist the UN procurement Division in creating a more favorable ground for UN SP within the General Assembly with documents, concrete case studies, joint participation in meetings with delegates if /where necessary; (b) Continue training for requisitioners and procurers through face to face events and the online training module; (c) Continue document success stories and good practices related to sustainable procurement from within the United Nations system and assess the impact of these requisitions on the geographical balance of sourcing; (d) Continue the development and promotion of use of sustainable procurement practical tools; (e) Promote awareness on sustainability for the business community through business seminars in collaboration with the HLCM procurement network and the Global Compact; (f) Seek through HLCM funding to test the tools developed in a number of interested UN duty stations (preferably in one UN countries) to provide by 2012 to the General assembly concrete guidance of where and with which boundaries Sustainable procurement can be implemented in the UN system.

B. Programmatic issues	
Enhanced coherence in programming of environmental activities in the United Nations system, including for mainstreaming environmental concerns into sectoral programmes	<p>1. IMG on biodiversity Further the cooperation among EMG members on a multi-sectoral contribution to the implementation of the post 2010 biodiversity agenda including the outcome of the General Assembly high level event on biodiversity and the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and report on its work to the 17th senior officials meeting</p> <p>(a) Prepare a submission on the follow up to the UNGA high-level event on biodiversity, the 10th COP of the CBD and any biodiversity aspects of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to the special meeting of the senior officials of the EMG to be held immediately prior to the spring session of the Chief Executive Board in Nairobi in March 2010.</p> <p>(b) Ensure effective follow up to the findings of the report “Advancing the biodiversity agenda, A UN system wide Contribution” and the statement by Executive Heads of EMG members</p> <p>(c) Respond to any requests made to the EMG from the UNGA high-level event on biodiversity, the 10th COP of the CBD and the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.</p>
	<p>2. IMG on Land Prepare modalities for a joint coherent United Nations system-wide contribution response and agenda for action on dry-lands , including the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) 10-year strategic plan</p> <p>(a) Finalize and circulate for approval of the EMG members the United Nations system-wide rapid response report on dry-lands, together with options for follow-up actions,</p> <p>(b) Prepare a joint agenda for action on dry-lands and possibly on land that would propose opportunities for cooperation and joint action</p> <p>(c) Prepare a report on the outcome of its work to the 17th senior officials meeting</p>
	<p>3. IMG on Green Economy Assess how the UN system can more coherently support countries in making the transition to a “green economy” and work on joint and consistent messaging on measures needed to support the transition to a “green economy”</p> <p>(a) Prepare an assessment of how the UN system can more coherently support countries in making the transition to a “green economy”</p> <p>(b) Submit an interim version of the report to the Second Preparatory Meeting of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development</p> <p>(c) Prepare joint and consistent messaging on measures needed to support the transition to a “green economy”.</p>
	<p>4. Cooperation on international environmental governance (IEG) Contribute to requests made to the EMG from the twenty-sixth session of UNEP Governing Council on consultations on broader reform of the IEG system.</p> <p>(a) Prepare an EMG approved report ‘Environment in the UN system’ in time for twenty-sixth session of UNEP Governing Council and the UNCSD prep com II.</p>

C. Operational issues	
Enhanced coherence in mainstreaming environmental considerations in operational activities at the country level by the United Nations system	<p>1. Consultations on environmental and social safeguards Prepare options for scope of and modalities for the development of a possible United Nations system-wide approach to environmental and social safeguards for consideration by the EMG based on a review of existing polices such as the ongoing work by UNDG on a guidance note on environmental sustainability. Continue to facilitate the consultative process in close cooperation with the issue management group on sustainable management with view to:</p> <p>(a) Finalize the mapping exercise and gap-analysis and refine the conceptual framework for environmental and social safeguards;</p> <p>(b) Prepare options for a coherent UN system-wide approach to environmental and social safeguards for consideration by special meeting of the senior officials of the EMG immediately prior to the spring session of the Chief Executive Board in Nairobi in March 2010.</p> <p>(c) Prepare follow up response to the outcome of the extraordinary EMG senior officials meeting in March 2011.</p> <p>(d) Provide a progress report on the outcome of its work to the 17th EMG senior officials meeting</p>
D. Overall cooperation	
Strengthened cooperation among EMG members in setting a common agenda, implementing joint initiatives and report on progress	<p>1. Senior officials meetings of the EMG Convene an extraordinary senior officials meeting prior to the 2011 spring session of the Chief Executive Board which will be held at the UN Headquarter in Nairobi and the 17th senior officials meeting based on consultations of options for dates, venues and agenda.</p> <p>2. Exchange of information and outreach Facilitate exchange of information and outreach on EMG activities including through maintaining the EMG website</p> <p>3. Report to UNEP Governing Council on EMG accomplishments Preparations of a report by the EMG Chair reviewed by EMG members to UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its 26th regular Session and explore modalities by which the full report of the EMG can also be made available to the UNGA.</p>