



# UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement      Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде      برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



## 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting of the Environment Management Group

Technical Segment, 21 September 2015 (9 a.m.-12 p.m. NY time) at the UN HQ GA Building Conference room 8 (CR8) 1st basement

EMG/SOM.21/05/Rev.1

18 September 2015

Distribution: EMG members

Senior Segment, 24 September 2015, (8.30 a.m.-11 a.m.) at the UN HQ, Secretariat Building Conference Room A (CR-A) 1st Basement

## Work plan 2016 - 2017

### Note by the Chair

### Introduction

1. This note presents the work plan for the Environment Management Group (EMG) for the period 2016 – 2017. The draft plan builds on the work plan adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> senior officials' meeting (SOM) of the EMG in 2014, and will be updated to reflect the decisions adopted by the 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).
2. The work plan is given a two-year horizon, which is subject to annual approval by the senior officials. This approach is meant to capture activities which have a time span longer than one year. The plan, an overview of planned activities and milestones for the next 24 months, has four main expected accomplishments which pertain to programmatic, operational and management issues, as well as overall cooperation.
3. The work plan remains un-costed as there is no common budget for EMG activities. It is recommended that the work plan be implemented through in-kind contributions, subject to the availability of resources. The in-kind contributions will be budgeted, programmed and reported on by each member and the UNEP secretariat within their own administrative processes.

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## Environment Management Group work plan for 2016 – 2017

Expected accomplishment	Activities <sup>1</sup>
<b>A. Programmatic issues</b>	
Enhanced coherence in programming of environmental activities in the United Nations system, including for mainstreaming environmental concerns into sectoral programmes.	<p><b>1. Issue Management Group on sound management of chemicals and wastes</b> Raise the visibility of sound management of chemicals at the highest level in the UN system and promote its integration with other relevant sectors (e.g. the health sector) in the context of implementing the SDGs.</p> <p>a) Prepare a coordinated system-wide input to the UN Statistical Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the SDGs (IAEG-SDGs) on possible composite indicators of the sound management of chemicals for the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);</p> <p>b) Identify approaches for enhancing the integration of sound management of chemicals into policy frameworks of selected sectors, including enhancing awareness on the relevance of chemicals to sustainable development;</p> <p>c) Provide a progress report to the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the senior officials.</p>
	<p><b>2. Consultative Process for preparing a UN system-wide Framework of Strategies on environment</b> Preparing the Framework for enhancing coherence in the UN system in response to the environmental sustainability dimension of the SDGs.</p> <p>a) Support the meetings of the Consultative Process;</p> <p>b) Prepare the SWFS for submission to the UNEA II in line with the work-plan of the Consultative Process.</p>
	<p><b>3. Task Team on maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the context of the post 2015 development agenda</b> Supporting the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs</p> <p>a) Follow-up on the recommendations of the report “Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”;</p> <p>b) Prepare an analytical report on the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.</p>
<b>B. Operational issues</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Activities will be undertaken with the support of members in the form of personal time, travel, in-kind and financial support, with support provided by the UNEP hosted EMG secretariat and the support provided by the UNEP Sustainable UN Facility (SUN).

Expected accomplishment	Activities <sup>1</sup>
<p>Enhanced coherence in advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability of the UN system.</p>	<p><b>1. Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability</b>  Continue to facilitate the Consultative Process in close cooperation with the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management and other relevant social inter-agency mechanisms and entities with the view to:</p> <p>a) Revise the Sustainability Framework in the light of the lessons learned in the pilot process and linkages with the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda;</p> <p>b) Address commonly identified implementation challenges and best practices in the Guide for Advancing the ESS Framework in the UN System in responding to those challenges;</p> <p>c) Carry out an analysis of the information gathered during the pilot process to identify possible common approaches, including minimum requirements and overall guiding principles to integrating and implementing environmental and social sustainability in the UN system;</p> <p>d) Create an online platform on environmental and social sustainability in the UN system for information exchange and sharing of best practices and lessons learned.</p>
<b>C. Management issues</b>	<b>IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management</b>
<p>Enhanced sustainability of management practices in the United Nations (UN) system.</p>	<p><b>1. UN Sustainability management</b>  Facilitate full integration of environmental sustainability in UN management practices, identify barriers and enabling measures, provide input to relevant bodies and processes in the UN system, and provide progress reports and recommendations to the EMG, assisting the EMG in reporting to the HLCM. Prepare a progress report of the above work of the IMG to the -senior officials’ meeting of <i>the EMG</i> in 2016 and 2017. The IMG with the support of the SUN facility will more specifically:</p> <p>a) Maintain close working relations with the HLCM and other relevant interagency networks to ensure progress on climate neutrality and environment management systems is well understood and valued in the UN system;</p> <p>b) Prepare the seventh edition of the report “Moving towards Climate Neutrality in the UN System”, to be released by December 2016;</p> <p>c) Continue knowledge sharing, communication, training and awareness-raising activities, in particular through the Greening the Blue and the UNITE Connections platforms, on emissions reductions initiatives and various aspects of UN internal management such as facilities, procurement, events, travel, and e-communications;</p> <p>d) Design a new concept for an annual report on UN environmental performance based on the new inventory methodology;</p>

Expected accomplishment	Activities <sup>1</sup>
	<p>e) Assist UN organizations in reaching climate neutrality through steps to reduce emissions, and also through the offset of non-avoidable emissions; and maintain a record of Climate Neutral organizations and entities;</p> <p>f) Continue implementation of the UN Roadmap for Climate neutrality by 2020.</p> <p><b>2. Peer-Reviews of environmental profiles of the EMG members</b></p> <p>Peer reviewing of the environmental portfolios of volunteering agencies.</p> <p>a) Continue the peer review process with reviews of IMF and UNFCCC;</p> <p>b) Invite the reviewed EMG members to consider sharing with other EMG members information on the progress made in their agencies in implementing the recommendations of their Peer Review reports;</p> <p>c) Consider developing guidelines and documenting good practices on how to conduct a review independently, as a useful management tool and a valuable complement to, and means of sustaining, the peer review process.</p>
<b>D. Overall cooperation</b>	
<p>Strengthened cooperation among EMG members in setting a common agenda, implementing joint initiatives and reporting on progress.</p>	<p><b>1. Senior officials' meetings of the EMG</b></p> <p>a) Prepare and organize a mid-term meeting of the technical segment of the senior officials in May 2016 to review progress of the Work Plan and to facilitate preparation of the SOM22;</p> <p>b) Prepare and organize the SOM22 of the EMG in September 2016.</p> <p><b>3. Exchange of information and outreach</b></p> <p>Facilitate the exchange of information and outreach on EMG activities including through maintaining the EMG communications and website.</p> <p><b>4. Reporting, including to the Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA) on EMG accomplishments and work ahead</b></p> <p>a) Prepare a report by the EMG Chair, on EMG accomplishments and work ahead reviewed by EMG members, for submission to the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP in May 2016;</p> <p>b) Provide information on progress and ongoing work to MEAs, HLCP, HLCM, CEB among others as appropriate;</p> <p>c) Report to UNIMDIS and PIMS on the implementation of the EMG project, as required.</p>