



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



22nd Senior Officials' Meeting of the Environment Management Group

Technical Segment, 21 September 2016 (8.00 a.m.- 13.00 p.m. NY time)
at the UN HQ GA Building Conference room 8 (CR8) 1st basement

Senior Segment, 22 September 2016 (9.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m. NY time)
at the UN HQ GA Building Conference room 8 (CR8) 1st basement

EMG/SOM.22/2
05 September 2016
Distribution: EMG
members

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 22nd 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:

- I. Decide to conclude the work of the IMG on the Sound Management of Chemicals in view of completion of its assigned tasks.
- II. Invite the IMG on Tackling E-Waste to proceed with the implementation of the tasks outlined in its Terms of Reference (ToR), and to report on progress made to the 23rd meeting of the EMG Senior Officials in September 2017.
- III. Agree to extend the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) in the UN System to revise the Interim Guide, prepare a common approach for elaborating and implementing environmental and social standards for UN programming and projects, develop options for enhancing communication and knowledge sharing on ESS, promote peer learning and peer reviewing on environmental and social issues among the UN agencies and explore options for a possible UN-wide hub to support the ESS efforts at program/project level.
- IV. Welcome the interest expressed by UNRWA,WFP,UNOPS,UNDP to pilot the peer review concept in their field offices in Amman, Jordan, Invite the peer reviewed agencies to consider sharing information on their progress made in implementing the recommendations of their Peer Review Reports and consider developing guidelines and documenting good practices for future independent peer reviews, as an output of the peer review process.

- V. Agree to continue the work of the IMG on environmental sustainability management, to ensure progressive implementation of the UN Roadmap for Climate Neutrality by 2020 in cooperation with appropriate committees within the CEB to ensure that environmental management and the Roadmap is well integrated in the CEB discussions for internalizing SDGs in the work of the UN system at all levels.
- VI. Request the EMG Secretariat in consultation with the EMG members to prepare a proposal for streamlining the EMG processes on UN internal sustainability to maximize their effectiveness and delivery for consideration of the Senior Officials .
- VII. Extend the Consultative Process on the System-Wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS) to follow-up on the implementation of the Framework including preparation of the Synthesis Report as outlined in the Framework for consideration of SOM 23 and third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
- VIII. Decide to extend the Task Team on Maximizing the Effectiveness of the EMG to prepare a proposal on implementation of the recommendations contained in the EMG effectiveness report for consideration of SOM22 and the third session of the UNEA.
- IX. Approve the EMG work plan 2017 based on the understanding that the plan fully reflects the actions agreed by the 22nd Senior Officials' Meeting of the EMG.
- X. Welcome the opportunity to inform the UN Environment Assembly of the work of the EMG.
- XI. Request the EMG Secretariat to inform the EMG Members on the date and venues for the 23rd Meeting of the Senior Officials, and consult with Members on its agenda.

Introduction

The following sections provide the progress reports of the IMGs, Task Teams and the Consultative Processes, as well as suggested actions for further work. All EMG documents referred to in these reports, including those in the footnotes, can be found on the [EMG website special page for SOM 22](#).

I. The Issue Management Group on the Sound Management of Chemicals

1. In response to the decision by the 21st meeting of the EMG Senior Officials, the IMG on the Sound Management of Chemicals was extended for another year to provide a coordinated system-wide input to the work led by the UN Statistical Division on possible composite indicators on sound management of chemicals for the SDG targets, and to consider how the EMG can best contribute to a system-wide implementation of the SDGs with respect to promoting integration of sound management of chemicals into policy frameworks of selected sectors. The IMG has considered ways in which its input could add most value, taking into account other ongoing initiatives and the advancement of the process to set the SDG indicators.
2. Following that, the IMG undertook the following actions:

- a. Following the approval by the Senior Officials at their 21st meeting of a Joint Statement, in which the EMG Members and OECD as a member of the IOMC commit to stepping up joint and coordinated efforts to promote the sound management of chemicals as a critical component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the IMG's work to promote UN system-wide support in achieving sound management of chemicals was presented at the 4th International Conference on Chemicals Management, ICCM4) held in Geneva from 28 Sept-02 Oct 2015.
 - b. In its outcome document (Resolution IV/1.5), the ICCM4 recognized the need to deepen and broaden United Nations system-wide engagement. It invited the members of the IOMC and the EMG to issue a declaration signalling their commitment to promote the importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste. In response, a letter was prepared and submitted to SAICM Secretariat in April 2016 informing the ICCM 4 of the Joint Statement.
 - c. A summary of the Synthesis Report "United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management – Coordinating delivery for Member States and sustainable development" was published in the form of a brochure that was distributed to ICCM4 participants.
 - d. The mid-term meeting of the technical segment of the Senior Officials in April 2016 was briefed on the activities of the IMG. Taking into consideration the advanced stage of the indicator process and other relevant ongoing multi-stakeholder initiatives looking at the SDGs from a chemicals perspective¹, the mid-term meeting concluded that the indicative list of possible SDG targets and indicators previously provided to the Open Working Group on SDGs, would suffice as an input from the IMG to the UN Statistical Commission's work on SDG indicators.
3. As a direct follow-up action to the EMG Report and the Joint Statement by EMG Members to step-up joint and coordinated efforts to promote the sound management of chemicals as a critical component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an Inter-agency Meeting on Sound Chemicals Management was convened in Geneva by the IOMC on May 10, 2016. All EMG Members were invited to participate in the meeting to consider collaboration on the way forward towards the WSSD 2020 goal and beyond. Among the issues discussed, a system-wide contribution to the SAICM intersessional process for considering the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 was mentioned as a potential area for collaboration. The meeting participants agreed on the usefulness in continuing to meet as necessary to discuss coordination, share information and obtain feedback on new activities.
 4. Considering the completion of the mapping exercise, the publication of the synthesis report, the release of the Joint Statement, the intervention at ICCM4, and the list of suggested targets and indicators for the SDGs, the IMG considers its mandate completed as described in its ToR. Furthermore, with reference to the inter-agency meeting convened by the IOMC and the

¹ A multi-stakeholder International Expert and Stakeholder Workshop on Integrated National Implementation of SDGs and International Chemicals and Waste Agreements", was organized by UNEP, the BRS Secretariat, UNITAR and the IOMC in Geneva in April 2016, where indicators under the SDGs were reviewed as relevant to chemicals and waste, considering potential gaps and information sources.

indicated interest by agencies to continue to convene regularly in this context, follow-up to the work and accomplishments of the IMG is ensured.

5. In view of the time-bound nature of the issue management groups, the Senior Officials may therefore wish to consider bringing the work of the IMG on Chemicals to a close. However, the Senior Officials are encouraged to keep sound chemicals management on the EMG agenda and to consider effective ways to support the follow-up work of the interagency process led by the IOMC, as appropriate.
6. The technical segment of the EMG Senior Officials suggests the following actions for the IMG on Sound Management of Chemicals for consideration by the Senior Officials:

Suggested Action I: The Issue Management Group on the Sound Management of Chemicals

The Senior Officials:

1. Take note of the achievements made by the IMG including the preparation of the Synthesis Report "United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management – Coordinating delivery for Member States and sustainable development" including the Joint Statement by Heads of Agencies;
2. Welcome the initiative taken by the IOMC to follow-up on the recommendations in the EMG Synthesis Report and the Joint Statement, including by convening a regular Inter-Agency Meeting of the UN agencies on the Sound Management of Chemicals which met for the first time in May 2016 to identify collaborative activities on sound chemicals management in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Further welcome the interest expressed among agencies to continue to meet in this context going forward;
3. Decide to conclude the work of the IMG in light of the progress made by the Group and its achieved objectives.

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

7. Following the discussion at the 21st meeting of the Senior Officials on establishing an Issue Management Group on e-waste, informal consultations were held with the ITU, the United Nations University (UNU), the Secretariat for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). As a result, a rationale and draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the IMG were prepared.
8. In his letter of 17th May 2016, the Chair of the EMG shared the draft ToR with all EMG members for comments and invited agencies to provide their preliminary views on the relevance of e-waste issues to their work. 19 agencies nominated focal points to the IMG. The final version of the ToR, taking into consideration the comments received, was shared with the IMG and EMG members on 27th June 2016. As stated in the ToR, it was agreed that

the objective of the IMG is to strengthen the coordination of, and promote joint programmatic and policy initiatives in the UN system in its support provided to Member States in the prevention of e-waste, and that the scope of the IMG's work encompasses all aspects of and applies a life-cycle perspective to electrical and electronic equipment.

9. The tasks agreed include: mapping existing initiatives carried out by UN agencies and programmes; gathering information on existing standards, guidelines and best practices, preparing a report/glossary that clarifies the main terms and concepts related to e-waste, sketching modalities and preparing a work-plan/strategy for the development of a UN system-wide coordination mechanism on sustainable production, consumption and final disposal of electrical and electronic equipment, and developing a system-wide approach and a related strategy for implementation within the UN system to address the global e-waste challenge.
10. The first teleconference of the IMG was held on 15th June 2016. The meeting considered the draft ToR and a draft work plan for the IMG. Over the coming year, three further meetings are planned. The current focus of the IMG is to undertake a mapping report of existing e-waste initiatives by the UN system, including approaches to environmentally sound management of e-waste and terms used. Based on the results of the mapping, the IMG members will consider the recommendations in the report and discuss a possible UN system-wide approach to addressing the e-waste challenge. The UNU has expressed interest in serving as the consultant for the mapping exercise, and modalities for a cooperation with the EMG Secretariat are being prepared.
11. The mid-term meeting of the technical segment of the Senior Officials in April 2016 was briefed on the process towards establishing the IMG. It was emphasised that the IMG will deal with e-waste from a programmatic and policy perspective, facilitating coordination of UN entities' work in support of Member States, without overlapping activities of the Sustainable UN that looks at how the UN deals with e-waste management of its own facilities. It was agreed that the IMG will liaise with the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the UN system to consider its work on a UN internal approach to consumption and final disposal of electrical and electronic equipment.
12. The technical segment of the EMG Senior Officials suggests the following actions for the IMG for consideration by the Senior Officials:

Suggested Action II: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Tackling E-waste

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the Terms of Reference of the IMG on Tackling E-waste and invites the Group to proceed with the implementation of the tasks as outlined in the ToR;
2. Report on progress made, to the 23rd meeting of the EMG Senior Officials.

III. Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System

13. The 21st meeting of the Senior Officials extended the Consultative Process on Advancing the Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system, to promote a system-wide commitment to advancing the Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) Framework, to strengthen the Framework document and the Interim Guide for its implementation, to develop communication materials and to create an online platform for information and best practice exchange.
14. The pilot phase was completed in December 2015, with seven UN agencies (UNOPS, WHO, WFP, IFAD, UNEP, UN Women and UNIDO) testing the utility of the ESS Framework and its related Interim Guide and examining the extent to which the minimum essential building blocks of the ESS Framework were in place within their institutions. Seven agency-specific reports condensed into a synthesis report analysed the self-assessment work undertaken within each pilot agency and summarized the gaps identified, the issues of shared concern with regard to implementation of ESS measures, and lessons learned in the project. The synthesis report which was shared with the Consultative Process in July 2016, provides a useful starting point for other UN agencies at different stages of development of their ESS Frameworks, and also makes preliminary observations about how the ESS Framework and the Interim Guide might be improved and better communicated going forward.
15. A debrief meeting for the pilot agencies and the drafting group was held in Rome in December 2015, hosted by IFAD. At the meeting agencies shared their experiences in piloting the Framework, deliberated the outcomes of the project, and discussed the way forward to advance further uptake of the Framework through the Consultative Process. Suggestions were made for further strengthening the Framework and Guide; the links between the process of introducing Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and the ESS Framework were discussed; and options and rationale for a possible common approach on ESS in the UN system were assessed. The EMG Secretariat was tasked with preparing a discussion note on the rationale and options for a common approach based on the lessons learned in the pilot project, to serve as a basis for discussion by the Consultative Process at its next meeting.
16. The Consultative Process held its 4th meeting in New York on July 13th and 14th 2016, to hear the results from the pilot phase and to have a forward looking, strategic discussion on how the EMG and the Consultative Process could further support the UN system in its efforts to enhance environmental and social sustainability, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda. A summary of the pilot Synthesis Report and a discussion note prepared for the purpose of the meeting were shared.
17. The Consultative Process did not see added value in continuing the pilot process, but encouraged individual agencies to continue sharing their approaches to implementing the ESS and to undertake the self-assessment described in the Guide as they see useful. The need to strengthen mechanisms for knowledge exchange on environmental and social sustainability issues among the UN agencies was noted. A potential UN hub to facilitate a community of practice was identified as something that could be useful but the funding and home of such a hub requires further consideration.

18. The Consultative Process discussed areas in which commonality would be desirable or already exists. Considering the progress made at the operations and facility management level through the work of the Sustainable UN, and considering recent developments of social and environmental standards for programming by several UN agencies, it was agreed that a subgroup should be initiated to focus on the programming entry point of the Framework. The objective would be to explore options for strengthening a common approach. As a first step, the Consultative Process proposed that a mapping of agencies' programming standards, policies and safeguard procedures should be undertaken to analyse where there is commonality and divergence. Cooperation with UNDG, in the context of Delivery as One and the process to update the UN Sustainable Development Framework guidance, should be explored. UNDP and IFAD, with the support of UNICEF, offered to take the lead in implementing this work stream.

19. The Consultative Process recommended that the ESS Framework does not need to be revised, with the exception of simple updates and clarifications. However, it was felt that the Interim Guide should be revised based on the lessons learned from the pilot as well as other agency experiences with implementing the Framework. It was agreed that the Guide should be seen as a living document that continues to evolve based on implementation experiences. It was agreed that another subgroup, which UNEP offered to lead, would be created to take this work forward.

20. Finally, the Consultative Process suggested that a subgroup be created to focus on communication aspects of the ESS Framework. In particular, to develop a communication to clarify the link between the ESS Framework and the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (including SDG 17), and developing a plan for how to strengthen communication about the Framework to external stakeholders such as Member States. The group will also look into options for strengthening information sharing among agencies (e.g. through the online platform developed by UNDP). The linkages between the ESS Framework and the 2030 Agenda should be explained in the Guide as it is revised. The Consultative Process was reminded of the online platform which was previously initiated for the ESS process and hosted by UNDP. It was proposed that the platform could be further developed and used as a forum for information and best practice sharing with a focus on the programme/project entry point.

21. The technical segment of the EMG Senior Officials and the Consultative Process therefore suggest the following actions overleaf for the Consultative Process, for consideration by the senior officials:

Suggested Action III: Consultations on Advancing the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System

The Senior Officials:

1. Take note of the findings of the Synthesis Report on the piloting of the Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) Framework and the progress made by the EMG members in integrating and implementing the Framework at its three entry points of policy/strategy, program/project and facilities/operation, including the recent strategic considerations of the ESS Consultative Process on its future work;

2. Acknowledge that the ESS Framework as it stands can serve as the basis for a common approach and a system-wide commitment to advancing environmental and social sustainability in the UN system, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. Recognize the role the Consultative Process plays to inspire individual agencies to undertake corporate commitments to ESS and the facilitative role the Consultative Process can play in promoting coherence at the institutional and policy level, as well as interagency collaboration in monitoring progress towards the SDGs, as required by SDG17;
4. Welcome the progress made by a significant number of UN agencies in introducing and integrating environmental sustainability in their operations and facilities management, with the support of the IMG on Environmental Management and the SUN Initiative;
5. 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;
6. Agree to elaborate, possibly in collaboration with the UNDG, a common approach for environmental and social standards for UN programmes and projects, particularly at the country level, with the potential to inform the UNDG process to pilot and rollout the new UN Sustainable Development Framework Guidance (UNSDF);
7. 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;
8. Agree to extend the Consultative Process by one year to accomplish the above mentioned tasks and report on progress to the next Senior Officials' meeting.

IV. Peer-Reviews of Environmental Profiles of UN Organizations

22. The EMG Senior Officials decided at their 21st meeting in 2015 to continue the peer review process established in 2012, and to peer review the environmental management of 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.
23. In the second part of the peer review process, the EMG Senior Officials welcomed the interest expressed by the IMF and the UNFCCC Secretariat to be peer reviewed for their environmental management. The Senior Officials also encouraged the already peer reviewed agencies (UNEP, UNIDO/UNOV and WMO) to share information on the progress made in their agencies in implementing the recommendations of their Peer Review Reports.
24. The peer review of the IMF began in October 2015 through a site visit to the IMF headquarters in Washington with the participation of ICAO, UNEP, UNICEF and the World Bank. The review focused on the following themes: buildings and GHG emissions; travel and

GHG emissions; waste management; and sustainable citizen/communication and outreach. A draft Peer Review Report is now available and will be presented to the Peer Review Body at its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 2016.

25. The EMG mid-term meeting was informed of UNFCCC's readiness to commence its review process of their headquarters in Bonn, once the new leadership of the organization is in place. It was also informed of a Concept Note (prepared by the EMG Secretariat and discussed in a brainstorming meeting with interested agencies on May 3rd, 2016) that examined lessons from the peer reviews of headquarters to date, as well as the feasibility of peer reviews of the environmental management of UN operations and facilities in the field—these are expected to differ in scope, covering issues such as mobility in addition to waste management and water consumption.
26. It was agreed that a pilot field-based peer review should focus on a location that would benefit the participants most through the possibility of peer learning and comparability. Due to the broad presence of agencies, Amman, Jordan, was selected as the location for the pilot. WFP, UNOPS, UNDP and UNRWA field offices in Amman have expressed interest in being reviewed. In order to reduce costs and to ensure support for the follow up of peer review reports, local experts will provide technical assistance to the review process. A fact finding mission to Amman took place in July 2016 to gain an understanding of how the UN field offices operate and to convene the focal points of the participating UN agencies, and to identify the themes and parameters of the reviews and to agree on the data collection process. A site visit of the reviewed agencies is planned to take place in the last quarter of 2016.
27. Upon preparation of this pilot Peer Review Report, guidance will be prepared to support agencies that wish to undertake such field peer reviews independently.
28. The technical segment of the EMG Senior Officials suggests the following actions overleaf for the peer review process, for consideration by the Senior Officials:

Suggested Action IV: Peer-Review of Environmental Profiles of UN Organizations

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the preparation of the draft Peer Review Report of the IMF and thank the contributing UN entities for taking part in this review process;
2. Take note of the continued interest by UNFCCC Secretariat to undertake a peer review of its headquarters;
3. Welcome the interest expressed by UNRWA , WFP, UNOPS and UNDP to pilot the peer review concept in their field offices in Amman, Jordan and the progress made in preparing the peer reviews of these agencies ;
4. Invite the reviewed agencies to consider sharing information on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of their Peer Review reports, with other EMG members.

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| <p>5. 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> |
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V. IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations System

29. The 21st Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the Environment Management Group (EMG) welcomed the progress of the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management and invited the IMG and SUN to continue with their work of mutual support, coordination and implementation of the UN Climate Neutral strategy. Furthermore, EMG Senior Officials committed their organisations to intensify their actions in moving their agencies towards climate neutrality.
30. Based on this mandate, between September 2015 and August 2016, the IMG progressed as follows:

V.1. UN GHG Emissions Inventory and Climate Neutrality

31. The seventh common greenhouse gas inventory for the UN system - *Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN – The UN system's footprint and efforts to reduce it-* (MTCN) was published on 27th November 2015. The total reported GHG emissions in 2014 were 2 million tonnes CO₂eq from 65 reporting entities. The 2015 MTCN report marked progress in a number of areas: the number of entities reporting was higher and their efforts have allowed a much improved scope and quality of data collected, covering both headquarters and out-post offices. In particular, in 2015 the DFS team was able to gather data that has enabled the calculation of emissions produced by DFS/DPKO and DPA in 2014. This is the reason why, in absolute terms, reported emissions for 2014 are higher than the previous year.
32. The comparison of GHG emissions data over a number of years remains a technically complex issue for the system and for individual organisations. It is only individual organizations therefore that can record, how and whether their efforts to reduce emissions are delivering an improved environmental performance.
33. The 2015 greenhouse gas inventory also presented an improvement in the number of climate neutral organizations which rose to 20 (an increase of 14 organisations since 2013).
34. In March 2016, IMG members initiated the eighth common greenhouse gas inventory for the UN system to be released before the UNFCCC COP in Morocco, in early November 2016. For the first time the report will account also for UN waste management practices in line with the request of the CEB that UN system organisations report also on waste, water and staff awareness. According to the UN Road map for Climate neutrality by 2020, from 2017 onwards UN organisations will also report on water consumption and efforts towards staff environmental awareness.

V.2. Greening the Blue

35. The web-based *Greening the Blue* campaign continues to engage staff and provides organizations with an opportunity to showcase their efforts in emissions reduction. In

particular, in 2016 with sponsorship by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, a three-minute animation was produced to explain the role of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in monitoring and managing the UN's environmental impacts². Over the period September 2015 to August 2016, over 25 stories were reported on Greening the Blue and followers on social media increased to over 6,900 on Facebook and 11,000 on Twitter.

V.3. Environmental Sustainability Management

36. The IMG has worked intensively on a more systematic approach to environmental management in the course of 2015-2016 with the help of the two staff on loan provided by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. EMS pilots are well underway in the four selected offices³; a working group on EMS meets regularly to exchange experiences and an increasing number of UN organizations are implementing EMS either in specific offices or across the board. Furthermore, sustainability strategies with a broader scope than "facilities and operations" are developing as in ILO, WFP, UNOPS and the World Bank.

37. In June 2016, the Sustainable UN team carried out a review of UN strategic approaches aimed at implementing the UN climate neutral strategy. The review confirmed that of the 65 UN entities compiling the latest GHG emissions inventory, only 20 have a systematic approach and -amongst those- a mere 12% have clear targets. Some of the strategies also need to be updated. While this number seems small, the relative importance of the agencies involved constitutes over 80% of the overall UN GHG emissions footprint. The themes most tackled by these strategies are: Energy Efficiency, Waste, Air Travel and Staff Awareness and Communication.

V.4. Connection Between EMG Climate Neutral Work, HLCM and CEB

38. On the occasion of the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the EMG in September 2015, the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Secretariat proposed to accelerate the "UN Roadmap to achieve UN system-wide climate neutrality" by 2016, instead of 2020. Responding to this initiative, *"the senior officials agreed to prepare a technical note, for CEB's consideration, that sets out the proposal covering measures for longer-term emission reduction and short-term offsetting"*. The note was delivered by the IMG and handed to the CEB Secretariat for consideration at the 2015 autumn session. UNEP and UNFCCC have committed to continuing support for agencies in meeting these objectives.

39. While work on GHG emissions and offsetting continues, the IMG has also made important progress towards the implementation of the "UN Roadmap" by developing a harmonised and comprehensive system to track and report waste management from 2016 onwards⁴. Quantitative and qualitative data on good practices such as policy establishment or implementation of a waste management plan is being collected to facilitate exchange of those

² <http://www.greeningtheblue.org/news/environment-management-systems-un>

³ UN Secretariat in New York, ESCAP in Bangkok, MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and WFP in Nairobi.

⁴ At the centre of this methodology is the collection and reporting of data on waste quantities by: type of treatment and disposal (e.g. landfill, recycling, re-use); collection methodology (e.g. municipality, private contractor, take-back scheme); and type of waste (e.g. paper, plastics, metal, e-waste). In addition to this quantitative data, qualitative data on good practices such as policy establishment or implementation of a waste management plan is being collected to facilitate exchange of those practices between different UN entities.

practices among different UN entities. Based on this new inventory, by autumn 2016, the IMG will have also developed a UN-wide approach and support system for waste management inclusive of training materials, and a waste management campaign.

40. Waste management has emerged as a serious area of environmental and reputational risk for UN offices worldwide, and one for which an agency-specific and UN-wide approach is mostly missing. The IMG proposes that this work, for its novelty and for the importance of its conclusions, be presented at the HLCM for consideration in Spring 2017.
41. Furthermore, as the CEB and its committees set up to implement the principles to guide the UN system's support to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, across policy, operational and administrative aspects of the UN system's work, the IMG proposes that the EMG reaches out to the HLCM so that the commitments made with the UN Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality by 2020 and their results are more visibly integrated in the efforts to internalise the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
42. In view of the above progress report, the IMG submits for consideration of the EMG Senior Officials the following action points for 2017:

Suggested Action V: 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, including with HLCM, 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. Welcome the proposal of the IMG to prepare a note for HLCM attention/decision on a UN wide approach to an improved and more responsible waste management system in UN offices and operations in line with the goals of the above mentioned Roadmap;
3. 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.

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

43. At the 21st Senior Officials Meeting, the EMG Members raised the issue of interlinkages and possible overlaps between the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS), the Peer Reviews, and the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management. The Senior Officials invited the EMG Secretariat to prepare a note on the possible linkages to bring together the EMG sustainability work streams with a view to enhance coherence between these initiatives and consider consolidated reporting on their progress to the Senior Officials in the future.

44. In response to this decision, the EMG Secretariat has prepared the note Consolidating sustainability processes within the Environment Management Group (EMG/SOM.22/INF/1) to inspire a discussion about how further synergies among the sustainability processes could be reached. The EMG Members are requested to provide guidance on the next steps in this process.

Suggested Action VI: Linkages Among EMG processes on Internal UN Sustainability and Possibilities for Synergies and Consolidation

The Senior Officials :

Request the EMG Secretariat in consultation with the EMG members to prepare a proposal for streamlining the EMG processes on UN internal sustainability to maximize their effectiveness and delivery for consideration of the Senior Officials .

VII. Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment

45. The Senior Officials decided at their 21st meeting to continue the Consultative Process on a System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) to finalize the Framework for submission to the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
46. Following the Senior Officials Meeting, the Consultative Process held three meetings, focusing on preparing and finalising the SWFS, based on a Concept Note outlining its intended purpose, guiding principles and key features and functions. A drafting workshop was held in New York on 15th to 17th December 2015, co-chaired by UNDP and UNEP and attended by UNEP, UNDP, UNDESA, WMO, UNIDO, IFAD, FAO, UN-Habitat, WMO, UNDM and UNECE, resulting in an annotated outline of the SWFS. Based on the annotated outline, a Zero Draft of the SWFS was prepared. Consultations were held to finalise the draft that eventually was circulated to the EMG Technical Segment for their views. A final draft was shared with the Executive Heads of the EMG Members by the Chair of the EMG on February 29, 2016 for their initial endorsement.
47. Following the initial endorsement of the Framework by the Senior Officials, the Chair of EMG presented the SWFS to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at its spring session on April 27, 2016, inviting the Board and the Secretary General of the United Nations to engage in facilitating broad ownership of the SWFS at all levels in the UN. Upon consideration by the CEB, the final version of the SWFS was submitted to the second session of the UNEA for its consideration.
48. The System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment for the UN system was officially launched during a side event at the second session of UNEA on May 25th, 2016 in Nairobi. The SWFS and its expected outcomes and implementation processes were presented to Member States and other stakeholders, and their views and expectations on the SWFS were duly noted.
49. The SWFS was discussed by UNEA itself in the context of the Report of the Executive Director on Resolution 1/11 on coordination across the UN system in the field of the environment, including the EMG. Consequently, in its Resolution 2/5, the second session of UNEA requested the Executive Director to report to UNEA at its next session on progress in the implementation

of the SWFS and invited the members of the EMG to report to their respective governing bodies on the progress of the Group's work. It also invited the Secretary General and the CEB to continue their support for the implementation of the SWFS.

50. Following the launch of the SWFS, a plan of action to follow up and implement the Framework was shared with the Consultative Process for its consideration. The next proposed steps include preparing the collection of relevant information from agencies, agreeing on a timeline for the submission of information to the EMG Secretariat and agreeing on the cycle and work plan for preparing the Synthesis Report based on the information collected.
51. The Consultative Process is envisaged to hold its 7th meeting in September 2016 in the form of an in-person workshop to discuss the modalities of the Consultative Process for the follow-up of the Framework including preparation of a survey for data collection as well as the outline of the Synthesis Report.
52. The technical segment proposes the following action to the Senior Officials:

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

The Senior Officials:

1. Welcome the finalization 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;
2. Extend the Consultative Process to support the follow-up of the Framework, including the process for preparation of the Synthesis Report as outlined in the Framework;
3. Request 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 UNEA.

VIII. 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

53. The 21st meeting of the Senior Officials took note of the draft report *Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and agreed to extend the Task Team for another year to finalise and submit the report to UNEA II, to follow-up on the recommendations of the report, and to prepare an analytical report on the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

VIII.1. Follow-up on the Recommendations of the Report Maximizing the Effectiveness of the EMG in the Context of the 2030 Agenda

54. The Consultative Process met in November 2015 to finalise the Report in order to introduce it as an information document to the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA II) in response to UNEA Resolution 1/11. Following consultations among Task Team Members, the final version of the report *Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the*

context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was shared with the EMG in January 2016. The Report provides recommendations and findings on the EMG's modalities of work as well as its substantive focus and role in view of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

55. The Report was considered by the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held in Nairobi from 23rd -27th May, 2016. The Assembly in its Resolution 2/5 (titled: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), requested the "*Executive Director of UNEP to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at the next session on progress in the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the Environment Management Group effectiveness report*".
56. Following UNEA II, the Task Team was invited to consider an approach to following up on the recommendations and findings of the Report, including cost implications of the recommendations and a possible revision of the Terms of Reference for the EMG. It was agreed that two notes would be prepared to facilitate the discussion by the Task Team: a Note reflecting on the substantive elements of the current ToR, examining its relevance to the 2030 Agenda and the System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment and areas of potential revision, and also a Note on implementing the recommendations regarding the EMG modalities of work. The Notes will be prepared by the EMG Secretariat and discussed by the Task Team by the end of the year 2016.

VIII.2. Preparation of an Analytical Report on the Implementation of the Environmental Dimensions of the SDGs

57. In response to the decision by the Senior Officials, a draft Terms of Reference for the preparation of a forward-looking analytical paper was shared with the Task Team for its consideration in January 2016. Upon approval of the ToR and the outline of the paper, it was agreed that the study would be conducted with the support of UNITAR, based on existing reports, analyses and information on the linkages between the SDGs and existing international environmental goals and processes. Taking into consideration the many reports and studies being prepared in follow-up of the SDGs, it was agreed that the EMG paper would focus on supporting the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs, showcasing linkages between the SDGs and existing international environmental goals and processes. The paper would also shed light on opportunities for cooperation and synergies in implementation at the national and international (global and regional) levels in three selected areas: biodiversity, sound chemicals management and sustainable consumption and production. The draft report will be presented to the EMG Senior Officials at their 22nd meeting.
58. The technical segment suggests the following actions for the Task Team for consideration by the Senior Officials:

<p><i>Suggested Action VIII: 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</i></p>

<p>The Senior Officials:</p>

1. Take note of the draft report “Supporting implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs - identifying linkages between the SDGs and existing international environmental goals and processes”; and invite the EMG members to finalize the paper and use it as a tool in their efforts to support implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs;
2. Take note of Resolution 2/5 of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, requesting a report on progress on the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the effectiveness report;
4. Decide 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.

IX. EMG Work Plan for 2017

59. The 21st EMG Senior Officials Meeting adopted the 2016-2017 EMG work plan. The plan has been updated to reflect the suggested actions put forward in the current note as presented in document EMG/SOM.22/05.
60. The suggested work plan for consideration of SOM 22 is for the year of 2017 and is organized according to four main expected accomplishments as they pertain to programmatic, management and operational issues, as well as overall cooperation.
61. The work plan remains un-costed as long 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.

Suggested Action IX: Approval of the EMG Work Plan for 2017

The Senior Officials approve the EMG work plan for 2017 based on the understanding that the EMG Secretariat will revise the plan presented in document EMG/SOM.22/05 to ensure that the plan fully reflects the actions agreed by the 22nd Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG. The work plan will be implemented on the basis of in-kind contributions from members and is subject to the availability of resources.

X. Reporting to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP

62. The second session of the UNEA of UNEP was held in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2016. In its Resolution 2/5, the Executive Director of UNEP, as Chair of the Environment Management Group, was requested to: *“Report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at the next session on progress in the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the Environment Management Group effectiveness report and the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment for the United Nations system and to invite the members of the Environment Management Group to report to their respective governing bodies on the progress of the Group’s work.”*

63. The third session of the UN Environment Assembly will take place in Nairobi on 4-6 December 2017.

Suggested Action X: Reporting to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP

The Senior Officials welcome the opportunity to inform the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP of its work.

XI. Date and venue of the next Senior Officials Meeting

64. Preparing for the Senior Officials' Meeting, the Chair has continued the practice of seeking the views of Members on the agenda and to informally consult on dates and venues. This practice will be continued for the 23rd Senior Officials' Meeting scheduled to take place in September 2017.

Suggested Action XI: Date and venue of the next Senior Officials' Meeting

The Senior Officials request the EMG Secretariat to circulate to the EMG Members the date and venues for the 23rd Meeting of the Senior Officials, and consult with Members on its agenda.

Annex I

Abbreviations

BRS Conventions – Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
CEB – Chief Executives Board
COP – Conference of the Parties
DESA – Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ESCAP – Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EMG – Environment Management Group
EMS – Environment Management System
ESS – Environmental and Social Sustainability
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
GCF – Green Climate Fund
GEF – Global Environment Facility
GHG – greenhouse gas
HLCM – High-Level Committee on Management
IAMLADP – International Annual Meeting on Language, Arrangements, Documentation and Publications
ICCM4 – 4th International Conference on Chemicals Management
IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMF – International Monetary Fund
IMG – Issue Management Group
IOMC – Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
ISO – International Organization for Standardization
MEAs – Multilateral environmental Agreements
MONUSCO – United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OEWG2 – SAICM Open-ended Working Group
OOG – Overall Orientation and Guidance
ORMS – Organizational Resilience Management System
SAICM – Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SCP – Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SOM – Senior Officials’ Meeting
SUN – Sustainable United Nations
SWFS – System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment
ToR – Terms of Reference
UN – United Nations
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNEA – United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC – United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHQ – United Nations Headquarters
UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR – United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services
UPU – Universal Postal Union
WFP – World Food Programme
WHO – World Health Organization
WIPO – World Intellectual Propriety Organization
WSSD 2020 goal – World Summit on Sustainable Development 2020 goal