



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

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20th Senior Officials Meeting of the Environment Management Group 25 September 2014

Hosted by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
2 UN Plaza E44th Street, New York, DC2-2330 Meeting room, 23rd floor
Preparatory technical segment: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Senior officials' segment: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**EMG/SOM.20/
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Distribution: Meeting
participants and
EMG focal points

Report of the Meeting

I. Summary of proceedings

1. The twentieth meeting of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group was held in New York on 25 September 2014, hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

2. The meeting consisted of two segments as set out in the agenda (Annex I): a technical segment, at which participants considered a progress report on the on-going work and suggested actions for further work of the EMG; and a senior officials segment, at which participants approved the suggested actions and discussed strategic directions for the EMG. The meeting was attended by representatives of 36 member agencies (Annex II). The working and information documents of the meeting are available on the EMG website: www.unemg.org.

A. Technical Segment

3. The technical segment was opened at 9.15 a.m. with introductory remarks by the co-chairs, Mr. Elliott Harris, Director of the EMG Secretariat and Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director of the Division of Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Following the adoption of the agenda (Annex I), the technical segment discussed the actions on future work of the EMG, as contained in the document: "Progress report on EMG's on-going work and suggested directions for further work" (EMG/SOM.20/03/Rev.1), and considered the suggested issues for discussion by the senior segment on the strategic directions for the EMG going forward. The finalized recommended actions were submitted to the senior officials segment through its co-chairs. The meeting of the technical segment was declared closed at 1 p.m.

B. Senior Officials Segment

4. The senior officials segment was opened at 3 p.m. by the co-chairs Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Chair of the Environment Management Group, and Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary General of UNDESA.

5. In their introductory remarks, the co-chairs gave an overview of the progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals, and the challenges of involved in adequately integrating the three pillars of sustainable development. They underscored that system-wide cooperation through the EMG offers a welcomed opportunity to share lessons learned and success stories with regard to the environmental pillar of sustainability.

6. After adopting the agenda, the co-chairs invited an oral presentation of the outcome and recommended actions of the technical segment from its co-chairs. The conclusions and actions agreed upon by the senior officials are presented in part II.A and II.B below. Following the adoption of actions and the strategic discussions, the twentieth meeting of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group was declared closed at 5.30p.m.

II. Conclusions

A. Technical Segment

1. Considerations of ongoing work and recommendations to the senior officials segment

a) *The IMG on Biodiversity*

7. The technical segment was briefed on the progress and outcomes of the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity (IMG) by the CBD Secretariat. The work done by the IMG and the EMG Secretariat on the consideration and integration of biodiversity in country level planning tools, such as the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), was recognized. The CBD emphasised that the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity is a UN-wide strategy in whose implementation many agencies are taking part. An event will be arranged at the CBD COP12 in October 2014, highlighting the contributions of different entities to the UN Decade on Biodiversity.

8. The CBD Secretariat indicated that with the submission of the progress report to the twelfth meeting of the CBD COP, the IMG considers its work completed. However, system-wide cooperation on biodiversity should continue to be kept alive in the EMG, even without a specific IMG. Agencies were invited to participate in the Aichi Biodiversity Target Task Force (ABTTF) and to continue cooperating system-wide cooperation on biodiversity and work on a wider uptake of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in other relevant contexts.

9. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action I: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity

In view of the time-bound and issue-focused nature of the IMG and the accomplishment of its assigned tasks, the senior officials decide to conclude the work of the IMG on Biodiversity. The considerations of the IMG on enhancing integration of biodiversity into national level processes, including the NBSAPs, UNDAFs, other planning processes and other work to support implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity, can be followed up by the Aichi Biodiversity Target Task Force (ABTTF) and other appropriate fora, in which many EMG members, as well as several non-UN entities, already participate.

b) *The IMG on Green Economy*

10. The technical segment was briefed on the progress and outcomes of the Issue Management Group on Green Economy by the EMG Secretariat and UNEP, and welcomed the online publication on the EMG website of the stocktaking report *Green Economy Knowledge Products by UN Agencies and Partners*. Following the publication of the report, the mandate of the IMG has been completed. Recalling its conclusion at the midterm meeting in June 2014, the technical segment iterated that a partnership-based approach would be the recommended way forward for dealing with green economy on a system-wide scale. The IMG can be reconvened, as appropriate, should further system-wide cooperation on green economy be required in the future.

11. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action II: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on the Green Economy

In view of the time-bound and issue-focused nature of the IMG and the accomplishment of its tasks, the senior officials decide to conclude the work of the IMG on the Green Economy. The work of the IMG can be followed up by partnership-based approaches, including through the ongoing work of PAGE (Partnership for Action on Green Economy) or GGKP (Green Growth Knowledge Platform) for better coordinated support to member states on green economy and the facilitation of information sharing on existing and emerging policy options, methodologies and technical advice.

c) *The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes*

12. The technical segment was briefed on the progress and outcomes of the Issue Management Group on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes by FAO. The system-wide input to the open Working Group on SDGs in the form of a list of chemicals-related targets and indicators, was acknowledged as a successful interagency cooperation effort in support of the work of Member States that could be replicated as appropriate in other contexts. The technical segment heard a status update of the ongoing mapping exercise aiming at developing a UN system-wide contribution to the 4th International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 4). It was pointed out that the work of the IMG so far has focused on chemicals although wastes also forms part of the IMG's mandate. The EMG Secretariat will be in touch with agencies with an invitation to nominate focal points for the IMG's work on wastes.

13. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action III: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes

The senior officials:

1. Welcome the progress made by the IMG and its contribution to the Open Working Group on SDGs and the UN Task Teams on possible targets and indicators for the sound management of chemicals for the SDGs.

2. Decide to extend the IMG to undertake and complete the remaining tasks as listed in the ToR, including mapping of the expertise, activities and initiatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes and how these contribute to the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal and identifying possible synergies and areas for cooperation with the view to provide a contribution to the 4th International Conference on Management of Chemicals (ICCM4) in 2015.

d) Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System

14. The technical segment was briefed on the progress and outcomes of the Consultative Process by UNDP, that highlighted the importance of a more coherent approach and cooperation on sustainability policy in the UN system as well as possible contribution of the Consultative Process to the discussions on making the UN system “fit for purpose” to serve the post 2015 development agenda. The EMG members were informed about the follow up of the UN Sustainability Framework, the newly released Interim Guide to support implementation of the Framework, and the project proposal prepared for piloting the Framework and the Guide in a few pilot agencies. EMG members were further notified of the need for resources and volunteer agencies in order to take the proposed pilot implementation project forward.

15. ILO pointed to the challenges involved in institutionalising environmental awareness and expressed an aspiration that the Framework could go further in its efforts, with a clearer focus on outcomes rather than on process.

16. UNDP and UNEP stressed that the focus in the pilot project will be on the agency level and that the Framework is to be seen as a work in progress at this stage. The Framework and the Interim Guide can be strengthened and revisited next year based on the result and the experiences of the pilot project.

17. UNDESA linked the work of the Consultative Process to the mandate from the Rio+20 Conference that requests the UN to mainstream its work on sustainable development, and inquired whether the Framework provides a sufficiently common vision in response to the post 2015 development agenda. It was said that the Framework could serve as a contribution to a common platform for follow up of the SDGs (to be developed) and that stronger ties between the Framework and the post 2015 development agenda should be established.

18. UNCCD expressed its support of the work of the Consultative Process, underlining the limited capacity and resources of small agencies, such as UNCCD, to implement sustainability measures. It was suggested to find ways to benefit from other agencies’ experiences and available resources to support the capacity of their peers on sustainability measures.

19. Following a proposal by WMO, it was suggested that the Consultative Process consider the issue of enhancing the resilience and business continuity in the face of climate shocks in the UN system as part of the Consultative Process deliberations on enhancing sustainability in the work of the UN system.

20. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action IV: Consultations on Advancing the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system

The senior officials:

1. Welcome the progress made by the Consultative Process and the Interim Guide prepared for UN agencies to implement the Sustainability Framework;

2. Decide to extend the Consultative Process to:

a) Approve the Concept Note for piloting the Framework on Environmental and Social Sustainability and the Interim Guide in individual volunteer agencies, with the view to share lessons learned, better understand the practical implications of implementing the Sustainability Framework and improve the Sustainability Framework and the Guide;

b) Note the linkages between the Sustainability Framework and the various 'fit for purpose' discussions in the UN system held in relation to the post-2015 development agenda and the need to enhance communication around this issue, to enable further consideration in the EMG after the Post 2015 Development Agenda has been adopted;

c) Propose that the Consultative Process make recommendations to the next EMG senior officials meeting on steps to enhance resilience and business continuity in the face of shocks in the UN system.

e) The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations System

21. Following an update of the progress and outcomes of the IMG's work, including the newly released Greening Tutorial presented by the Sustainable UN (SUN) Secretariat, the technical segment engaged in a discussion around the recent call by the UN Secretary General for the UN system to become climate neutral by 2020, and how the IMG/SUN can support agencies to achieve this goal. An IMG meeting will be held in Bonn on 16-17 October 2014, where issues such as developing and strengthening greenhouse gas inventories, possible budgetary implications and the agencies' needs for assistance and training will be discussed.

22. ILO commented on the need for an offset mechanism to achieve climate neutrality and cautioned that some agencies may experience resistance to offsetting in their governing bodies despite costs being marginal.

23. The World Bank reminded the group of the significance of terminology in this context, referring to the difference e.g. between carbon neutral and climate neutral.

24. UNESCO highlighted the need to involve the governing bodies of the agencies in the UN climate neutrality process, alerting them of the possible procedural and financial implications of the agencies becoming climate neutral. Assistance in quantifying these implications would be of help to the agencies.

25. UNFCCC emphasized that the cost implications are currently minimal and offered its support to agencies with regard to the offsetting component of the expected climate neutrality efforts, through its Adaptation Fund. UNFCCC and UNEP further pointed to the enhanced political momentum created as a result of the Secretary General's Climate Summit in New York on September 23, 2014.

26. UNEP drew the attention of the participants to Operational Paragraph 15 of the UN 2012-2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the

United Nations system (QCPR)¹ of the General Assembly calling upon the UN system to improve the management of facilities and operations by taking into account sustainable development practices (<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/oesc/qcpr.shtml>), as another reference that agencies can use as an entry point for justifying climate neutrality efforts, including offsetting. UNEP's system of collecting a tax on official travel to fund necessary offsets was mentioned as a successful practice that can be replicated by other agencies. It was emphasized that emission reductions efforts should be stepped up and that offsetting should be seen as a helpful tool to reach climate neutrality when the footprint cannot be reduced in any other way. While the UN currently operates to a large extent based on face-to-face meetings, it may become necessary to identify new ways of operations as part of the climate neutrality effort.

27. WMO and UNISDR stressed the crucial importance of climate resilience in addition to climate neutrality. It was, however, pointed out that resilience as a theme is not included in the UN Climate Neutral Strategy, which is more focused on mitigation and adaptation, making it difficult to anchor work on resilience in an existing mandate. It was also suggested that the issue of resilience may fit better into the context of the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) that deals with programmatic rather than management-related issues. The technical segment concluded that resilience is an important topic that has not yet been discussed enough to be warrant its introduction as a new element into the IMG/ESS. The senior officials can come back to this issue and introduce it to the EMG context at a later stage.

28. WFP expressed its support for the climate neutrality initiative and stressed that its top priority remains to reduce emissions as far as possible as opposed to offsetting. WFP underlined the importance of technical backup and capacity building to the agencies helping them to see their emission reduction opportunities.

29. WIPO pointed to the existing data gap and called for messaging to the top management to take the need to collect emissions data more seriously.

30. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action V: System-wide commitments on Environmental Sustainability Management

The senior officials:

1. Endorse the report on activities of the IMG on environmental sustainability management and invite the EMG to present a progress report to the fall session of the HLCM, as agreed and in due form;
2. Welcome the call of the Secretary General urging the UN system to become climate-neutral and agree to intensify their actions in moving their agencies toward climate neutrality, starting by providing data on their organizations' GHG emissions from this year onward;
3. Propose to the IMG to make recommendations to support the UN agencies to become climate neutral by 2020 at the latest and report on progress to the next senior officials meeting.

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/oesc/qcpr.shtml>

f) ***Environmental Peer Reviews of EMG members***

31. The technical segment heard a summary of the outcome of the first phase of the peer reviews by the EMG Secretariat. Despite being a resource-intensive effort, the agencies reviewed in 2014 found the experience well worthwhile and recommended other agencies to take the opportunity to be reviewed during the second phase. The reviewed agencies were encouraged to make their peer review reports available to their peers to foster learning more broadly in the system. It was underlined that the second phase of the reviews could be a step forward to support the SG's call for the UN climate neutrality. To increase the number of reviews in the near future, it was proposed to consider standardized templates for the peer reviews based on the different types and sizes of agencies that can be followed to prepare reviews in a self-sufficient and an independent manner.

32. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action VI: Environmental Peer Reviews of the EMG members

The senior officials:

1. Welcome the Peer-Review reports of WMO, UNIDO (VIC), and UNEP and thank these agencies, as well as other contributing UN entities, including the peer review expert teams and the Peer Review Body, for taking part in the pilot phase;
2. Decide to extend the peer review process into a second phase and take note of the potential interest that has been indicated by UPU, IMF, UN Women, WIPO and OECD to be peer reviewed during 2014-2015;
3. Invite the EMG members participating in the peer review process to consider how the process can be sustained going forward, including possible options for sustainable funding of the peer-review activities;
4. Invite the reviewed agencies to consider sharing with other EMG members their peer review reports, as well as information on the progress made in their agencies in implementing the recommendations of their peer review reports.

2. Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Strategy on the Environment

33. Based on an introduction to the subject and related meeting documents prepared by UNEP, the technical segment engaged in a preparatory discussion of how the EMG could contribute to the preparation of a UN System-Wide Strategy on the Environment, with reference to the mandate given to UNEP to develop such a strategy outlined in Resolution 1/11 of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), as well as paragraph 88 c of the Rio+20 outcome document.

34. Contemplating the process to develop the system-wide strategy, UNESCO, supported by CITES, noted that paragraph 88 c empowers "UNEP to lead efforts to formulate UN system-wide *strategies* on the environment" opening up a possibility for multiple strategies under a common framework. Clear references to paragraph 88c should be made. UNESCO further questioned whether a mandate by the CEB was required on the role of the EMG before it addresses this issue referring to the UNEA Resolution 1/11 that requests the Executive Director of UNEP to "develop system-wide strategies on the environment and to invite the engagement of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate broad ownership in the United Nations at all levels". UNESCO added that the EMG could provide technical

backstopping to the strategy development, including data collection and analysis. The issue related to “system wide strategy” or “system wide strategies” also needed to be clarified.

35. WMO noted its preference for a note on possible options for developing the Strategy and requested more time to reflect on different options. The system-wide strategy should take stock of and build on what has already been done in the system and could add value through the identification of gaps in environmental mandates.

36. ILO requested clarity in the note prepared by UNEP, with regard to the expected outcome of this process, i.e. whether it aims at policy coherence in the UN system or improved environmental governance at large. The focus should be on identifying areas where the UN is not doing as well as it could instead of taking a more overall approach. The EMG would be well placed for such an exercise.

37. The World Bank, supported by UNDP, raised the issue of timing and questioned whether it could be premature to develop the strategy in advance of the post 2015 development agenda. Further, the World Bank informed that it is currently undergoing major organisational changes and thus would not be prepared to support the strategy development process at this point. UNDP also highlighted that any work on UN-wide-strategies should be coordinated with and not duplicate the work of other inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including the work and Task Teams of UNDG, and work around the HLPF.

38. UNEP clarified that it is responding to an existing mandate and that a proposal for a coherent strategy would be submitted to the CEB and its committees after system-wide consultations within the EMG. The elements of the strategy could be put together as a technical, collective effort, building on experience and existing strategies in the system. The purpose is to develop a dynamic strategy that can be revised and adapted as necessary along with its implementation.

39. The CBD queried how the system-wide strategy would relate to and impact the EMG’s own work in the future.

40. The CEB secretariat explained that CEB, as the highest-level coordination body of UN system, seeks to strengthen policy coherence and coordination among UN system organizations. In doing so, CEB does not develop, implement or monitor system-wide strategies or undertake mapping exercises. CEB might be invited to consider a strategy, once a draft has been developed involving system-wide inputs through the EMG.

41. UNDESA reminded the technical segment that the recommendation to the senior officials at this stage simply involved the initiation of a collaborative process for drafting the strategy. The UN system is invited to provide feedback and comments on the draft outline and questions posed by UNEP through the EMG, which forms the scope of the EMG’s involvement at this stage. Comments could also cover the proposed process as presented to UNEA in June 2014.

42. The technical segment proposed the following actions to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action VII: Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Strategy on Environment

The senior officials take note of paragraph 88 (c) of the Rio+20 outcome document, and of the UNEA resolution 1/11 setting out UNEP’s mandate to “lead efforts to formulate a System-Wide

Strategy(s) on the Environment". They agree to provide feedback through the EMG Secretariat on the draft outline for the SWS and in response to the questions posed in the Strategic Directions note (Working document: EMG/SOM.20/04), and on any other relevant issues as set out in the supporting document II, by the end of October 2014. Based on the feedback and views of EMG members, UNEP will provide a proposal on the further development of the System Wide Strategy(s) on the Environment for consideration by the EMG. They agree to review this process at their next meeting.

3. Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 Development Agenda

43. The EMG Secretariat introduced the agenda item, proposed for consideration by the EMG as a follow up to the UNEA Resolution 1/11, that emphasised the need to reflect on the mandate and approach of the EMG, as well as the effectiveness of its operational modalities. The Secretariat explained that the purpose is to take a forward looking approach, contemplating how the EMG can support and contribute to the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda rather than in the SDGs preparatory process.

44. The CBD underlined the importance of this issue, particularly the modalities of the work of the IMG's, referring e.g. to the time-bound approach of the EMG, which led to the termination of the issue management group on biodiversity.

The technical segment proposed the following actions to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action VIII: Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 development agenda

The senior officials agree to establish a task team to identify options for maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG, including its contribution to the post 2015 development agenda. They agree to consider the outcome of the task force at their next meeting, with a view to providing their input to the report of the Chair of the EMG to the Second Session of the UNEA.

In addition to that and as a short term action, the senior officials agreed to establish a task force to undertake a screening of the draft Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the Open Working Group on SDGs from an environmental perspective, in order to assess the adequacy of the environmental dimension in the draft Goals. The outcome of the EMG task force exercise could be fed back to the UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 development agenda, possibly in the form of a matrix, where the environmental component of the draft SDGs and/or implications for the environment, and the mandates of each organization in relation to these are assessed. The task force would be expected to deliver its outcome by the end of 2014 in order to provide a timely input to the negotiations on the post 2015 development agenda at the beginning of 2015.

4. Addressing new issues considered by the mid-term meeting of the technical segment of the senior officials

45. The technical segment discussed three new issues proposed by WFP and WMO for possible inclusion on the EMG Work plan 2015-2016, initially considered at the mid-term meeting in June 2014:

a) *A cohesive vision of sustainability within the UN-system - merging and streamlining of interagency sustainability initiatives*

46. WFP introduced its proposal on streamlining of the EMG's work on internal UN sustainability issues and clear messaging and communication around these issues. The technical segment agreed that there is a clear need to frame the different sustainability initiatives (namely the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability, the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management, and the Peer Reviews) in such a way that it is possible to understand how they differ and complement each other. UNEP suggested that rather than merging the initiatives per se, the language used for the processes could be clearly separated and the processes explained concisely in the form of an information sheet prepared by the EMG Secretariat and the co-chairs. It was generally agreed that information sharing and coordination among the related processes should be enhanced to avoid overlaps and increase efficiency.

b) *Wastes management in the UN system - leading by example in minimizing the impact of UN operations in emergency settings and fragile environments*

47. The technical segment considered the issue introduced by WFP, which saw an urgent need for concrete wastes management guidance that could be translated into action for the UN agencies with significant field operations.

48. It was agreed that a sub-set of EMG members with field operations could compile relatively quickly a set of existing guidelines for wastes management in the field. These guidelines could later be built into general wastes management guidelines if required. DFS was invited to share its guidelines for implementing their environmental policy for field missions as a basis for discussions once published. In addition, UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) in Osaka, Japan, was mentioned as a potentially relevant contributor to the process. Communication and coordination with the other ongoing sustainability and wastes initiatives is to be ensured.

c) *Supporting the "data revolution" for key Environmental nexus issues such as climate, water, food, health and energy, by assessing interoperability, access and capacities*

49. The technical segment discussed the topic, proposed by WMO, that invited the EMG to exploit its individual and collective expertise to establish the business case for design and implementation of an environment focused global observing platform in support of the nexus issues such as food, water, energy, health and climate.

Based on a suggestion by UNEP, the technical segment agreed that the EMG could facilitate the preparation of a joint proposal on environmental monitoring and the data revolution to be submitted as an input to a report being drafted by the Secretary-General's Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development.

50. The technical segment proposed the following actions to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action IX: Addressing new issues for future work of the EMG

The senior officials take note of the suggested new issues proposed by WFP and WMO and invite further consideration by the EMG focal points to define the specific role and contribution of the EMG to these issues, including through a time-bound interagency contribution to the work of the

Secretary-General's Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, for further consideration of the senior officials, as well as a small group of agencies with field operations to consider existing guidelines for wastes management in the field.

5. Environment Management Group Work Plan for 2014-2015

51. The technical segment considered the updated work plan for 2015-2016, subject to yearly approval by the SOM. The plan is organized according to expected accomplishments and milestones over a 24-month period as they pertain to programmatic, management and operational issues, as well as to overall cooperation, as presented in document EMG/SOM20/05.

52. 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. The work plan will be adjusted in accordance with the decisions taken by senior officials at their 20th meeting.

53. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action X: Approval of the work plan for the EMG for the period 2015–2016

The senior officials approve the work plan for the EMG for the period 2015–2016 based on the understanding that the EMG secretariat will revise the plan presented in document EMG/SOM20/05 to ensure that the plan fully reflects the actions agreed by the 20th 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 availability of resources.

6. Process for reporting to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP

54. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment, underlining that the report of the EMG can be provided also to other governing bodies in addition to UNEA:

Suggested Action XI: 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. The senior officials note their appreciation for the guidance received from the first session of UNEA, and request the Chair to continue the practice of circulating a draft of the report by EMG on its work to members of the Group for their comments, and to submit the final report to the second session of UNEA. The senior officials also encourage members of the EMG to make the report available to their governing bodies, as appropriate.

7. Date and Venue of the next Senior Official's Meeting

55. It was suggested that the time and venue for the next Senior Official's Meeting be chosen carefully considering the tight meeting schedule related to the Summit Conference on the post 2015 sustainable development agenda and the 70th General Assembly, scheduled to take place in New York in September 2015.

56. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action XII: Date and venue of the next senior officials meeting

The senior officials request the EMG secretariat to circulate to the members of the EMG the proposed date and venue for the 21th meeting of the senior officials, and consult with members on its agenda.

8. Any other business

57. No other issues were discussed.

The co-chairs of the technical segment closed the meeting at 1 p.m.

B. The Senior Officials Segment

1. Opening

58. In his introductory remarks, the co-chair, Mr. Achim Steiner, thanked UNDESA for the generous support in hosting the senior officials meeting. He gave recognition to the work done within the EMG and by the EMG Secretariat and welcomed the new senior officials to the EMG.

59. The co-chair, Mr. Wu Hongbo also provided in his introductory remark an overview of the progress made with regards to the preparation of the post 2015 development agenda since the last senior officials meeting and highlighted the challenges involved in adequately integrating economic growth, social development and environmental protection in the Goals to push sustainable development forward.

2. Strategic directions for future work of the EMG

***a) Preparation of a UN system wide strategy (ies) on environment
(Supporting Document II and II.I)***

60. The senior officials considered the proposed approach for the preparation of the system-wide strategy (ies) on the environment based a briefing from the co-chairs of the technical segment on the discussions of the technical segment. In their discussion, the senior officials expressed the following views on the proposed area of work on the strategy (ies) and the role of the EMG:

61. The EMG would contribute to preparing the system wide strategy (ies) under the leadership of UNEP, as set out in paragraph 88 c) of the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference and the UNEA Resolution 1/11.

62. The Sustainable Development Goals provide an opportunity for enhanced coordination of environmental work in the UN system. In addition, the UN system at the request of the Secretary-General is stepping up efforts to become fit for purpose to support the sustainable development agenda in the post 2015 era. The system-wide strategy (ies) could be seen as a tool through which the fitness of the environmental dimension of sustainable development could be promoted. Along the same lines, any work on UN-wide-strategies should also be coordinated with and not duplicate

the work of other inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including the work of UNDG, and the HLPF.

63. The system-wide strategy (ies) should offer a better understanding of the work on the environment across the UN system, and be a useful and pragmatic tool rather than a negotiated document and added bureaucracy.

64. The System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women developed by the UN Women, as well as the System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Youth developed by the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), were referred to as positive examples that could be followed in preparing the system-wide strategy (ies) on environment.

65. The key role of the system-wide strategy (ies) could be to identify and help bridge gaps in the environmental agenda, and aim at building an environmental perspective into mandates where this is currently lacking.

66. The strategy (ies) could be developed in a phased approach. EMG members agreed to provide their views on the overall area of proposed work, as well as on the process and the proposed outline prepared by UNEP by the end of October 2014. On this basis, UNEP will submit a revised proposal for further consideration of the EMG.

b) Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 development agenda

67. The senior officials considered how the effectiveness of the EMG as an interagency mechanism for facilitating UN coordination on the environment could be maximized, and how the EMG could best add value to the post 2015 development agenda. They recognized that the EMG would be well suited to providing coherent technical expertise to particular sustainable development goals.

68. As a short term action, the senior officials agreed to establish a task force to undertake a screening the draft Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the Open Working Group on SDGs from an environmental perspective, in order to assess the adequacy of the environmental dimension in the draft Goals. The outcome could be fed back to the UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 development agenda, possibly in the form of a matrix assessing their environmental component of the draft SDGs and/or implications for the environment, and the mandates of each organization in relation to these. This would allow the identification of possible gaps, overlaps or opportunities for synergies in the system. Attention could also be paid to monitoring and accountability for implementation, using a knowledge management approach from the start.

69. The task force would be expected to deliver its outcome by the end of 2014 in order to provide a timely input to the negotiations on post 2015 development agenda at the beginning of 2015.

70. As a longer term action to address the issue of maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG, a working group may be established to consider the EMG's mandate, Terms of Reference, effectiveness and fitness for purpose more broadly.

71. The report Post Rio+20 Review of the Environmental Governance within the UN System, published by JIU in 2014 was mentioned as a good information source to serve as a basis for how the EMG could provide added value and a needs-based service to the UN system.

c) *Adoption of the recommendations from the technical segment of the meeting on actions related to the on-going work of the Environment Management Group*

72. The senior officials were briefed by the co-chairs of the technical segment on the outcomes of the preceding segment, including a description of the recommended actions for approval of the senior officials as well as an overview of the common views expressed in discussions. The suggested actions were then reviewed and adopted by the senior officials, assigning the EMG Secretariat the task to modify the action points in order to fully reflect the discussions during the senior segment. The final table of action points incorporating the views and suggestions made by the senior officials is provided in Annex III to this report.

d) *Any other business*

73. The senior officials heard a briefing by the co-chairs on the discussion in the technical segment on the call by the UN Secretary-General urging the UN system to become climate neutral by the end of 2020. Mr. Achim Steiner as the Executive Director of UNEP and Ms. Christiana Figueres as the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, informed the EMG members of their joint letter sent to the agencies offering the support by UNEP and UNFCCC to the UN agencies to reach the climate neutrality goal in due time.

74. Ms. Figueres acknowledged that although UN agencies face a challenge in reducing emissions, especially from official travel, the climate neutrality goal does not imply complicated procedures. She highlighted the three main steps in the process: establishment of a baseline; reduction of emissions where possible; and offsetting the emissions that could not be reduced. She reminded the agencies of UNEP/SUN's and UNFCCC's readiness to help them complete these steps. It is further important to maximize the organizational resilience of budgets, operations and infrastructure that could be affected by climate change. Furthermore, Ms. Figueres pointed to the cost-saving opportunity involved in reducing emissions, encouraging entities to walk the talk and lead by example to show that it is possible to do both good and well at the same time.

75. EMG members expressed their support for the initiative, requesting backing to convince management and governing bodies that climate neutrality is a priority. Agencies saw a compelling opportunity to learn from each other's experiences in emissions reductions and offsetting.

76. Mr. Steiner thanked the UNFCCC for its work on combatting climate change at the organizational level and announced that the role of the EMG as a platform for information exchange and provider of advisory services will be intensified.

e) *Closure of the meeting*

77. The co-chairs closed the meeting on 25 September at 5.30 p.m.

Agenda and proposed organization of work

- A. Agenda for the preparatory technical segment of the 20th senior officials' meeting of the Environment Management Group**
1. Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs
 2. Adoption of the agenda
 3. Considerations of ongoing work and recommendations to the senior officials segment:
 - (a) The IMG on Biodiversity;
 - (b) The IMG on Green Economy;
 - (c) The IMG on Chemicals and Wastes;
 - (d) Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations system;
 - (e) The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations system; *(including follow up of the Secretary General's call to the UN system to become climate Neutral)*
 - (f) Progress on Peer-Reviewing of environmental management profiles of United Nations organizations.
 4. Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Strategy on Environment:
 - (a) Consideration and comments of the EMG members to a draft outline of the Strategy prepared by UNEP
 - (b) Discussion on modalities and a process in the EMG to contribute to the preparation of the Strategy
 5. Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 Development Agenda
 6. Addressing new issues considered by the mid-term meeting of the technical segment of the senior officials including:
 - (a) A cohesive vision of sustainability within the UN-system - merging and streamlining of inter-agency sustainability initiatives (proposed by WFP)
 - (b) Wastes management in the UN system - leading by example in minimizing the impact of UN operations in emergency settings and fragile environments (proposed by WFP)
 - (c) Supporting the “data revolution” for key environmental nexus issues by assessing interoperability, access and capacities (proposed by WMO)
 7. Environment Management Group work plan for 2015–2016

8. Process of future reporting to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA)
9. Date and venue of the next senior officials' meeting
10. Any other business

B. Agenda for the senior officials' segment of the 20th senior officials' meeting of the Environment Management Group

1. Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Strategic directions for the future work of the EMG
 - (a) Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Strategy on environment
 - (b) Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 development agenda
4. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations from the technical segment of the meeting on actions related to the ongoing and future work of the Environment Management Group
5. Any other business

C. Organization of work on Thursday 25 September

Preparatory technical segment of the meeting

- 9:00–09:30 a.m. **Agenda item 1:**
- Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs, Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director of DSD/ DESA and Mr. Elliott Harris, Director of the United Nations Environment Programme Office in New York and EMG Secretary
- Agenda item 2:** (*Working document: EMG/SOM.20/02*)
- Adoption of the agenda
- 9:30–10: 10 a.m. **Agenda item 3:** (*Working document: EMG/SOM.20/03 and Supporting Document I*)
- Consideration of ongoing work and recommendations to the senior officials' segment:
- (a) The IMG on Biodiversity; (led by CBD)
 - (b) The IMG on Green Economy; (led by UNEP)
 - (c) The IMG on Chemicals and Wastes; (led by FAO)
 - (d) Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations system; (led by UNDP) (*Supporting Document I*)
 - (e) The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management; (led by SUN) (*Supporting Document V*)
 - (f) Peer-Reviews of environmental management of United Nations organizations; (led by the EMG Secretariat)
- 10: 10–11:00 a.m. **Agenda item 4:** (*Working document: EMG/SOM.20/04 and Supporting Document II and II.1*)
- Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Strategy on Environment
- (a) Consideration and comments of the EMG members to a draft outline of the Strategy prepared by UNEP
 - (b) Discussion on modalities and a process in the EMG to contribute to the preparation of the Strategy

Agenda item 5: (*Working document: EMG/SOM.20/04*)

Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 development agenda

11:00-11:10 a.m.

Break

11:10 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Agenda item 6: (*Working document: EMG/SOM.20/03, Supporting Document III and IV*)

Addressing new issues considered by the mid-term meeting of the technical segment of the senior officials including:

- (a) A cohesive vision of sustainability within the UN-system - merging and streamlining of inter- agency sustainability initiatives (led by WFP, *Supporting Document III*)
- (b) Wastes management in the UN system - leading by example in minimizing the impact of UN operations in emergency settings and fragile environments (led by WFP, *Supporting Document III*)
- (c) Supporting the “data revolution” for key Environmental nexus issues by assessing interoperability, access and capacities (led by WMO, *Supporting Document IV*)

12:00 p.m.–12:30 p.m.

Agenda item 7: (*Working document:EMG/SOM.20/05 and EMG/SOM.20/03*)

Environment Management Group work plan for 2015–2016

Agenda item 8: (*Working document: EMG/SOM.20/03*)

Process of future reporting to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA)

Agenda item 9: (*Working document:EMG/SOM.20/03*)

Date and venue of the next senior officials’ meeting

Agenda item 10:

Any other business

12:30 p.m.

Closure of the technical segment of the meeting.

Senior officials’ segment of the meeting

- 3:00–3:20 p.m. **Agenda item 1:**
Opening remarks by the Co-chairs Mr. Wu Hongbo Under-Secretary-General, DESA and Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Chair of the Environment Management Group
Agenda item 2: (*Working document:EMG/SOM.20/02*)
Adoption of the agenda
- 3:20–5:45 p.m. **Agenda item 3:** (*Working document:EMG/SOM.20/05 and Supporting Document II*)
Strategic directions for the future work of the EMG
- (a) Preparation of a UN system wide strategy on environment (*Supporting Document II and II.I*)
 - (b) Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 development agenda
- Agenda item 4:** (*Table of suggested action points will be provided at the meeting.*)
Consideration and adoption of the recommendations from the technical segment of the meeting on actions related to the ongoing work of the Environment Management Group
- 5:45–6:00 p.m. **Agenda item 5:**
Any other business
- 6:00 p.m. Closure of the senior officials’ meeting

Annex 2

List of participants

As of 25 September 2014

	Organisation	Name and function
1.	CBD	Ms. Amy Fraenkel , Head Division for Mainstreaming, Partnerships and Outreach
2.	CEB	Ms. Xenia von Lilien , Programme Officer Ms. Catherine Zanev , Policy Officer
3.	CITES	Mr John Scanlon , Secretary- general
4.	DESA	Mr. Wu Hongbo , Under-Secretary General Mr. Nikhil Seth , Director, Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) Ms. Marion Barthelemy , Chief, Inter-agency and Intergovernmental Branch, DSD Ms. Federica Pietracci , Senior Economic Affairs Officer, DSD Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill , Forest Affairs Officer, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat Mr. Ryo Nakamura , Forest Affairs Officer, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat
5.	DFS	Mr. Rakesh Malik , Deputy Director, Logistics Support Division
6.	DM	Ms. Brennan van Dyke , Senior Sustainability officer
7.	FAO	Mr. Javier Molina Cruz , Liaison Officer
8.	ILO	Mr. Peter Poschen , Director, Enterprises Department
9.	IMF	Mr. Frank Harnischfeger , Director, IMF Technology and General Services Department Mr. Axel Bertuch-Samuels , IMF Special Representation to the UN Ms. Nriya Subramaniam , Senior Liaison Officer, Office of the IMF Special Representation to the UN
10.	ITU	Mr. Gary Fowlie , Head, Liaison Office to the UN in NY Ms. Kadiatou Sall-Beye , Officer

11. UNCCD **Ms. Nandhini Iyer Krishna**, Programme Officer
12. UNCTAD **Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi**, Secretary-General
13. UNDP **Ms. María Eugenia (Gina) Casar**, Associate Administrator
Mr. Charles McNeill, Senior Policy Advisor, Environment and Energy Group
Mr. Tim Scott, Programme Manager, Environmental Mainstreaming, Environment and Energy Group
Ms. Holly Mergler, Programme Specialist, Environment and Energy Group
Marjolaine Cote, Special Assistant to the Director of the Environment and Energy Group
14. UNECA **Dr. Carlos Lopes**, Executive Secretary
Ms. Fatima Denton, Director, Special Initiatives Division, Natural Resource Management
15. UNECE **Mr. Christian Friis Bach**, Executive Secretary, USG
Mr. Michael Kunz, Office of the Executive Secretary
16. UNECLAC **Mr. Joseluis Samaniego**, Director of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
17. UNEP **Mr. Achim Steiner**, UNEP Executive Director and Chair of the EMG
Ms. Patricia Beneke, Regional Director and Representative (RONA)
Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director DTIE
Mr. Masa Nagai, Deputy Director DELC
Ms. Corli Pretorius, Senior Programme Officer
18. UNESCO **Ms. Flavia Schlegel**, incoming UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences
Mr. Salvatore Arico, Senior Programme Specialist
19. UNFCCC **Ms. Christiana Figueres**, Executive Secretary
Mr. Daniele Violetti, Chief of Staff
20. UN-HABITAT **Ms. Yamina Djacta**, Director, New York Office
21. UNHCR **Ms. Grainne Ohara**, Senior Policy Officer at UNHCR's Liaison Office in New York
Mr. Stephen Ingles, Head of the Procurement Management and Contracting Service
22. UNICEF **Mr. Martin Mogwanja**, Deputy Executive Director
Mr. Alex Heikens, Senior Adviser

23. **UNISDR** **Mr. Glenn Dolcemascolo**, Technical Advisor on Disaster Risk Reduction
24. **UNITAR** **Mr. Angus Mackay**, Manager, Climate Change Programme
25. **UNOPS** **Ms. Maria-Noel Vaeza**, Director of our Global Partnerships group
26. **UNU** **Prof. Jakob Rhyner**, Vice Rector
Ms. Caeymaex, Associate
27. **UNWOMEN** **Mr. Carlos Haddad**, Deputy Director, Division of Management and Administration
Ms. Marianna Belsky, Administrative and Facilities Specialist
28. **WFP** **Mr. Stanlake Samkange**, Director of Policy, Programme and Innovation
29. **WIPO** **Ms. Lucinda Longcroft**, Head WIPO NY office
30. **WMO** **Dr. Paul Egerton**, Representative to the United Nations in NY
Mr. Christian Blondin, Director of Cabinet
31. **World Bank** **Mr. Mark A. King**, Chief Environmental and Social Standards Officer
Mr. Charles Di Leva, Chief Counsel
Ms. Dania Mosa, Advisor
32. **Regional Commissions New York Office** **Mr. Amr Nour**, Director
Ms. Paola Bettelli, Deputy Director
33. **EMG Secretariat** **Mr. Elliott Harris**, Director, EMG
Ms. Jannica Pitkanen-Brunnsberg, Junior Professional Officer

Audio and video connections

34. **EMG Secretariat** **Mr. Hossein Fadaei**, EMG Secretariat
35. **ICAO** **Ms. Jane Hupe**, Deputy Director, Environment
36. **IMO** **Mr. Fredrik Haag, Technical Officer**, Office for LC/LP & Ocean Affairs, Marine Environment Division, Technical Officer
37. **UNEP** **Ms. Yunae Yi**, Safeguard Advisor, GSSU, Office for Operation
Ms. Isabella Marras, Sustainable United Nations Coordinator
Mr. Jacob Kurian, Programme Office
38. **UNITAR** **Mr. Achim Halpaap**, Senior Manager, Environment and Green Development
39. **WFP** **Ms. Brenda Behan**, Senior Regional Engineering Officer
OMN Regional Bureau for East and Central Africa

Annex III

**List of Action Points agreed by the 20th meeting of the senior officials of the EMG,
25 September 2014, New York**

Action I: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity

In view of the time-bound and issue-focused nature of the IMG and the accomplishment of its assigned tasks, the senior officials decide to conclude the work of the IMG on Biodiversity. The considerations of the IMG on enhancing integration of biodiversity into national level processes, including the NBSAPs, UNDAFs, other planning processes and other work to support implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity, can be followed up by the Aichi Biodiversity Target Task Force (ABTTF) and other appropriate fora, in which many EMG members, as well as several non-UN entities, already participate.

Action II: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on the Green Economy

In view of the time-bound and issue-focused nature of the IMG and the accomplishment of its tasks, the senior officials decide to conclude the work of the IMG on the Green Economy. The work of the IMG can be followed up by partnership-based approaches, including through the ongoing work of PAGE (Partnership for Action on Green Economy) or GGKP (Green Growth Knowledge Platform) for better coordinated support to member states on green economy and the facilitation of information sharing on existing and emerging policy options, methodologies and technical advice.

Action III: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes

The senior officials:

1. Welcome the progress made by the IMG and its contribution to the Open Working Group on SDGs and the UN Task Teams on possible targets and indicators for the sound management of chemicals for the SDGs.
2. Decide to extend the IMG to undertake and complete the remaining tasks as listed in the ToR, including mapping of the expertise, activities and initiatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes and how these contribute to the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal and identifying possible synergies and areas for cooperation with the view to provide a contribution to the 4th International Conference on Management of Chemicals (ICCM4) in 2015.

Action IV: Consultations on Advancing the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system

The senior officials:

1. Welcome the progress made by the Consultative Process and the Interim Guide prepared for UN agencies to implement the Sustainability Framework;
2. Decide to extend the Consultative Process to:

- a) Approve the Concept Note for piloting the Framework on Environmental and Social Sustainability and the Interim Guide in individual volunteer agencies, with the view to share lessons learned, better understand the practical implications of implementing the Sustainability Framework and improve the Sustainability Framework and the Guide;
- b) Note the linkages between the Sustainability Framework and the various 'fit for purpose' discussions in the UN system held in relation to the post-2015 development agenda and the need to enhance communication around this issue, to enable further consideration in the EMG after the Post 2015 Development Agenda has been adopted;
- c) Propose that the Consultative Process make recommendations to the next EMG senior officials meeting on steps to enhance resilience and business continuity in the face of shocks in the UN system.

Action V: System-wide commitments on Environmental Sustainability Management

The senior officials:

1. Endorse the report on activities of the IMG on environmental sustainability management and invite the EMG to present a progress report to the fall session of the HLCM, as agreed and in due form;
2. Welcome the call of the Secretary General urging the UN system to become climate-neutral and agree to intensify their actions in moving their agencies toward climate neutrality, starting by providing data on their organizations' GHG emissions from this year onward;
3. Propose to the IMG to make recommendations to support the UN agencies to become climate neutral by 2020 at the latest and report on progress to the next senior officials meeting.

Action VI: Environmental Peer Reviews of the EMG members

The senior officials:

1. Welcome the Peer-Review reports of WMO, UNIDO (VIC), and UNEP and thank these agencies, as well as other contributing UN entities, including the peer review expert teams and the Peer Review Body, for taking part in the pilot phase;
2. Decide to extend the peer review process into a second phase and take note of the potential interest that has been indicated by UPU, IMF, UN Women, WIPO and OECD to be peer reviewed during 2014-2015;
3. Invite the EMG members participating in the peer review process to consider how the process can be sustained going forward, including possible options for sustainable funding of the peer-review activities;
4. Invite the reviewed agencies to consider sharing with other EMG members their peer review reports, as well as information on the progress made in their agencies in implementing the recommendations of their peer review reports.

Action VII: Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Strategy on Environment

The senior officials take note of paragraph 88 (c) of the Rio+20 outcome document, and of the UNEA resolution 1/11 setting out UNEP's mandate to "lead efforts to formulate a System-Wide Strategy(s) on the Environment". They agree to provide feedback through the EMG Secretariat on the draft outline for the SWS and in response to the questions posed in the Strategic Directions note (Working document: EMG/SOM.20/04), and on any other relevant issues as set out in the supporting document II, by the end of October 2014. Based on the feedback and views of EMG members, UNEP will provide a proposal on the further development of the System Wide Strategy(s) on the Environment for consideration by the EMG. They agree to review this process at their next meeting.

Action VIII: Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 development agenda

The senior officials agree to establish a task team to identify options for furthering the effectiveness of the EMG, including its contribution to the post 2015 development agenda. They agree to consider the outcome of the task force at their next meeting, with a view to providing their input to the report of the Chair of the EMG to the Second Session of the UNEA.

In addition to that and as a short term action, the senior officials agreed to establish a task force to undertake a screening of the draft Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the Open Working Group on SDGs from an environmental perspective, in order to assess the adequacy of the environmental dimension in the draft Goals. The outcome of the EMG task force exercise could be fed back to the UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 development agenda, possibly in the form of a matrix, where the environmental component of the draft SDGs and/or implications for the environment, and the mandates of each organization in relation to these are assessed. The task force would be expected to deliver its outcome by the end of 2014 in order to provide a timely input to the negotiations on the post 2015 development agenda at the beginning of 2015.

Action IX: Addressing new issues for future work of the EMG

The senior officials take note of the suggested new issues proposed by WFP and WMO and invite further consideration by the EMG focal points to define the specific role and contribution of the EMG to these issues, including through a time-bound interagency contribution to the work of the Secretary-General's Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, for further consideration of the senior officials, as well as a small group of agencies with field operations to consider existing guidelines for wastes management in the field.

Action X: Approval of the work plan for the EMG for the period 2015–2016

The senior officials approve the work plan for the EMG for the period 2015–2016 based on the understanding that the EMG secretariat will revise the plan presented in document EMG/SOM20/05 to ensure that the plan fully reflects the actions agreed by the 20th 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 availability of resources.

Action XI: 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. The senior officials note their appreciation for the guidance received from the first session of UNEA, and request the Chair to continue the practice of circulating a draft of the report by EMG on its work to members of the Group for their comments, and to submit the final report to the second session of UNE A.

The senior officials also encourage members of the EMG to make the report available to their governing bodies, as appropriate.

Action XII: Date and venue of the next senior officials meeting

The senior officials request the EMG secretariat to circulate to the members of the EMG the proposed date and venue for the 21th meeting of the senior officials, and consult with members on its agenda.