



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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21st Senior Officials' Meeting of the Environment Management Group	EMG/SOM.21
Technical Segment, 21 September 2015, New York	9 November 2015
Senior Segment, 24 September 2015, New York	Distribution: EMG members

Report of the Meeting

I. Summary of proceedings

1. The twenty-first meeting of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group was held in New York on 21 and 24 September 2015, co-chaired by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The meeting consisted of two segments as set out in the annexed agendas (Annex I and II).
2. Following its first meeting (by audio-video conference on 9 September), the technical segment met on 21 September to consider the progress report of the EMG Issue Management Groups and Processes and approve (ad referendum) the actions for the future work of the EMG on behalf of the senior officials.
3. Subsequently, the senior segment of the twenty-first meeting of the senior officials met on 24 September to engage in a high-level strategic discussion and to approve the report of the technical segment, including the decisions contained therein. Two panel discussions were arranged to solicit strategic views of the senior officials on the follow-up of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the role of the EMG in this context. The meeting was attended by representatives of 30 member agencies (Annex III). The working and information documents of the meeting are available on the EMG website: www.unemg.org.

A. Technical Segment

4. The technical segment was opened at 9 a.m. with introductory remarks by the co-chairs, Mr. Elliott Harris, Director of the EMG Secretariat, and Mr. Tim Scott, Policy Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 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.21/03/Rev.1), and prepared decisions for the endorsement of the senior segment on the focus of the EMG's work going forward. A report including the decisions by the technical segment was submitted to the senior officials through its co-chairs. The meeting of the technical segment was declared closed at 2 p.m.

B. Senior Officials Segment

5. The senior officials segment was opened at 8.30 a.m. on September 24 by the co-chairs Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Chair of the Environment Management Group, and Mr. Michael O'Neill, Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy of UNDP.
6. In their opening remarks, the co-chairs acknowledged the historic moment in time in which the senior officials meeting took place, noting that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals provided the frames for timely discussions by the senior officials on the EMG's fitness for purpose. The co-chairs stressed the opportunity to be part of the momentum as an inter-agency platform and to lay the ground for an ambitious agenda for the EMG to work more efficiently across the UN system in support of the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.
7. After adopting the agenda, two high-level panel discussions took place, in which heads of agencies and senior executives shared their views on the main challenges for the UN system in implementing the environmental dimension of the SDGs and how UN agencies could further enhance coordination of their work in this regard. They also discussed the added value and purpose of a System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment as a tool to facilitate collaboration and convergence of activities on the environment in the UN system.
8. Following a concluding summary of the panel discussions, the co-chairs declared the twenty-first meeting of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group closed at 11.00 a.m.

II Conclusions

Technical Segment

Considerations of ongoing work and recommendations to the senior officials segment

The IMG on Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes

5. The technical segment was briefed on the progress and outcomes of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes by the BRS Secretariat. The work on finalizing the mapping of activities in the UN system relating to the 2020 goal on sound chemicals management was highlighted, leading to the available draft report "United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management: Coordinating Delivery for Member States and Sustainable Development". Moreover, the technical segment also considered the Joint Statement by EMG Members put for approval by the senior officials, that included a system-wide commitment to continuing to promote and raise the profile of sound chemicals management within the UN system.
6. ICAO questioned whether the IMG had included work on waste recycling in its activities, to which the BRS Secretariat replied that the IMG has aimed at understanding how the UN system contributes to the 2020 goal directly and indirectly, without singling out specific issues or processes.

7. UNESCO saw linkages between the work of the IMG and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals to be launched later that week at the Summit, and encouraged coordination between the IMG and the TFM with regard to the work on SDG indicators.

The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Suggested Action I: The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

The senior officials:

- a) Welcome the Synthesis Report United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management: Coordinating Delivery for Member States and Sustainable Development and the recommendations therein;
- b) Welcome and approve the Statement by the Members of the Environment Management Group committing 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;
- c) Take note of the decision by the 43rd IOMC meeting to invite the UN bodies involved in the IMG exercise to a meeting in 2016 to gauge their interest in future engagement with IOMC on the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
- d) Also take note of the invitation by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to look at how the United Nations system can deliver on the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
- e) Further take note of the invitation by the Strategic Approach's Open-ended Working Group to look at how the United Nations system can deliver on the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) up to 2020
- f) Decide to extend the IMG for one more year to provide a coordinated system-wide input to the work underway led by the UN Statistical Division on possible composite indicators on sound management of chemicals for the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); 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 through system wide cooperation in the light of the integrated nature of the SDGs.

Task Team on Electronic Waste

8. Building on the work by the IMG on chemicals and wastes, ITU put forward a proposal to establish a task team or an Issue Management Group with a focus on coordination of work in the UN system on electronic waste.
9. The technical segment welcomed the initiative and weighed establishment of such a group within the framework of the IMG on chemicals and wastes, compared to establishing a separate work stream on the topic within the EMG. Considering that the issue of e-waste may require focal points with a different profile of expertise and to ensure that the IMG on

chemicals and wastes retain its focus, it was suggested that a separate work stream is established, the framing of which can be discussed further ahead.

10. The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Suggested Action II: Electronic Waste

The senior officials:

Invite the ITU and other interested agencies, in consultation with the EMG Secretariat, to provide a proposal on the rationale and Terms of Reference for a potential Issue Management Group in the area of Electronic Waste, on the basis of which the EMG will make a decision on whether to establish an IMG on this issue.

Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System

11. The technical segment was briefed on the progress and outcomes of the Consultative Process by UNDP. The meeting was informed of the progress made in piloting the guidance developed for the operationalization of the Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework, where seven pilot agencies have undertaken a self-assessment process based on the minimum building blocks identified by the Consultative Process in its earlier work. The pilot project has shown that there is an increase in commitments to undertake environmental and social sustainability commitments in UN agencies. Important drivers have proven to be requirements from donors, Rio+20 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Based on these lessons learned, the Framework will be updated and strengthened in a way that brings the system closer to a common approach on ESS.
12. WFP and UNEP, as two of the seven piloted agencies, thanked the EMG for its work to promote ESS in policies, programmes and operations of UN agencies and supported a continuation of the consultative process, confirming the usefulness of the pilot project.
13. DESA acknowledged the relevance of the process in terms of the momentum created by the SDGs to promote sustainability internally, reminding the consultative process to make clear linkages to the SDGs as the ESS Framework is updated. Reference was also made to the importance of this process in the context of its inputs to the SG's report on mainstreaming sustainable development in the United Nations.
14. Reference was made to the ongoing updating of the UNDG guidelines for work at the country level with a suggestion to explore possible synergies with and opportunities to leverage the ESS guidance in this context. Focal points who are involved in both processes were encouraged to consider how this could best be approached.
15. The UN Department of Management inquired whether efforts have been made to look at potential synergies between the ESS process and the envisaged System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) – two processes that could benefit from informing and building on each other. UNDP informed that the issue has not yet been discussed within the consultative process.

The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Suggested Actions III: Consultations on Advancing the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system.

The senior officials:

1. Take note of the progress made by the Consultative Process on the implementation and the findings of piloting the Framework for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System as well as the Interim Guide in seven UN agencies;
2. With the aim of generating system-wide commitment in advancing the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability, decide to extend the Consultative Process for one more year to:
 - a. Revise the Sustainability Framework: Improve and strengthen the Sustainability Framework as the basis for a common approach for advancing environmental and social sustainability in the UN system, based on the lessons learned from the pilot process, including elaborating where there is a common basis that can be built on (e.g. principles, minimum requirements, etc.), and clarifying the implications of and the linkages with the post-2015 sustainable development agenda;
 - b. Revise the Interim Guide: Update the Interim Guide to align it with the new Sustainability Framework, building on feedback from the pilot phase, and to address commonly identified implementation challenges and best practices in responding to those challenges;
 - c. Communications Package: Develop a package of key communications materials related to the Sustainability Framework and Interim Guide, including a brochure, PowerPoint presentations, webinars etc., that can be used across the UN system;
 - d. Online Platform: Create an online platform on environmental and social sustainability in the UN system for information exchange and sharing of best practices and lessons learned;
 - e. Expand Uptake: Facilitate continued implementation of the Framework by the volunteer pilot organizations, providing feedback on progress made by each agency during this time; and propose a mechanism by which other agencies may be supported to adopt the Framework and benefit from lessons learned to date.

Linkages among EMG UN Sustainability Processes

20. The technical segment discussed the interlinkages and possible overlaps between the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS), the Peer Reviews, and the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management and requested an overview of the processes, including an analysis of possible synergies.
21. The SUN Secretariat welcomed more frequent exchanges of information with the EMG Secretariat on this work, calling to mind that this information exchange needs to be an ongoing and constantly improving exercise.

22. UNEP suggested that the different work streams reference each other's work and raised the issue of when would be a suitable time to look at the linkages, considering that the ESS Framework is about to be finalized during the upcoming operational year.
23. The technical segment proposed preparation of a note by the Secretariat on possibilities for consolidating reporting for the three linked processes in the future.

The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Suggested Action IV: Possible linkages among EMG UN Sustainability Processes

The senior officials:

Invite the EMG Secretariat to prepare a note on the possible linkages to bring together the EMG work streams namely, the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management, the Peer Reviews and the Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) Framework with a view to enhance coherence between these initiatives and consider consolidated reporting on their progress to the senior officials in the future.

The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations System

24. The technical segment was briefed on the progress and outcomes of the IMG's work by the Sustainable UN (SUN) Secretariat, highlighting the efforts made to help the UN system become climate neutral by 2020. Nine agencies are fully climate neutral to date. The technical segment thanked the SUN Secretariat for the support agencies have received in this regard, and expressed a wish to continue the work of the IMG that was unanimously considered a success.
25. WMO inquired how the new initiative launched by UNFCCC to accelerate the climate neutrality process could best be achieved, considering that no additional funds are made available to SUN for this purpose. Furthermore, it should be acknowledged that cost implications of reducing emissions are considerably higher than those of offsetting emissions, making the latter a more feasible option at the moment.
26. UNEP stated that the costs for offsetting can be expected to rise over time, making it unwise to rely on offsetting only for reaching climate neutrality, as this is at best a short-term solution from the perspective of truly "walking the talk". Moreover, the EMG Secretariat should not be expected to account for the monitoring of the entire UN system's progress towards climate neutrality as this would imply an ever-expanding mandate for the Secretariat.
27. UNFCCC agreed that offsetting should not be the only solution while expressing appreciation for the progress already made in the UN system and stressing the importance of celebrating and making the success visible.

28. ICAO identified the success of the process as the bottom-up approach where focus is on capacity building and development of useful tools up front.
29. UNICEF confirmed its commitment to climate neutrality by 2020, informing that all its offices are expected to report on greenhouse gas emissions, waste water and paper use.
30. CEB Secretariat informed that the issue of making the UN system climate neutral has been brought to the HLCM with the support of the IMG.
31. UNECE informed that it is preparing a climate neutral strategy for its organization, which it will start implementing once it has been launched.

The technical segment agreed on the following actions

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

The senior officials:

- a) Take note of the above report on activities of the IMG on environmental sustainability management and invite the EMG to continue its joint work including with the HLCM, to ensure full integration of environmental sustainability in UN management practices;
- b) Welcome the decision of the CEB to reach Climate Neutrality by 2020 and echo its recommendation that while carbon offsets are an important tool, focus should be placed on reducing the actual carbon footprint of the UN system;
- c) Agree to continue to integrate and improve environmental sustainability in the management of their respective facilities and operations as well as to design specific sustainability management action plans where appropriate.

Environmental Peer Reviews of EMG members

36. The technical segment heard a summary by the EMG Secretariat of the progress made since the second phase of the peer reviews was launched by SOM20. A peer review of the IMF is under way while a review of UNFCCC will take place in 2016, both on the basis of a cost-sharing arrangement.
37. WMO requested sharing of information on key issues of common relevance and interest that come out of the peer reviews. This should not be seen as a way to compare results between reviewed agencies, but as an opportunity to share experiences and best practices, and as a way of encouraging agencies to participate in the peer review process.
38. UNDESA reminded the technical segment of the interest Member States (HLPF) have in holding the UN system accountable and suggested that the environmental peer reviews could

serve as an example for more broad reviews that would go beyond environmental sustainability, looking at how the SDGs have been incorporated in the UN agencies' work plans.

39. The EMG Secretariat estimated that it would have the capacity to facilitate 2-3 peer reviews per year.

The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Suggested Action VI: Peer-Review of Environmental Profiles of UN organizations

The senior officials:

- a) Take note of the progress made in initiating the second phase of the Peer-Reviews;
- b) Welcome that IMF and UNFCCC have volunteered to be reviewed and share the costs, and the willingness of other UN entities to contribute to the reviews, including through participation in the peer review expert teams;
- c) Invite the reviewed agencies to share with other EMG members information on the progress made in their agencies in implementing the recommendations of their Peer Review reports;
- d) Consider developing guidelines and documenting good practices, as an output of the peer review process.

Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment

40. The technical segment was briefed on the status of the process of preparing a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment by the EMG Secretariat. Acknowledging that the process had not advanced as expected, the EMG Director drew the meeting's attention to a new concept note that had recently been shared with the consultative process, proposing an approach which is based on internal and external alignment with the 2030 Agenda and which would facilitate the convergence of agencies' strategies and work programmes leading to enhanced coherence in delivery by the UN system in the environmental sphere. The EMG Director stressed that the SWFS respects the autonomy of each agency and the decisions of their governing bodies. This exercise will not overlap or duplicate reporting on agency efforts to achieve the SDGS, nor will it directly compare each agencies efforts to align with the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, the EMG Director noted that additional meetings by the Consultative Process would be necessary before progress is reported to UNEA in May 2016.
41. The technical segment recognized that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an important catalyst for the system to act and deliver.
42. The CBD Secretariat underlined that while it will look at how the SDGs relate to its work, it will not align its activities with the 2030 Agenda per se, and that the same may apply to other agencies as well. Furthermore, there may be work undertaken in the UN system that is not directly reflected in the SDGs in spite of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

43. UNECE recalled its observations and concerns expressed at the last meeting of the Consultative Process and welcomed further discussion on the SWFS going forward.
44. WMO welcomed the change of the title to Framework of Strategies, and saw added value in the SWFS as a tool to enable and facilitate collaboration between agencies within their own mandates, strengths and expertise. The SWFS could also support agencies in implementing their own mandate. However, the Secretary-General may issue a call to the UN system to respond to the newly adopted SDGs, in which EMG can support the implementation of the environmental dimension but not beyond. It should be made clear what is meant by alignment and how environment is defined as a concept. There may be linkages to the system-wide strategy on climate change that is discussed within the framework of the HLCP.
45. UNEP thanked the agencies for their constructive and collaborative approach and welcomed a continuation of this work, allowing time and space for further dialogue to find a way forward to leverage coordinated action. Furthermore, UNEP stressed that its aim is to lead this work in a transparent way, being mindful of the environmental and coordinative mandates of other agencies.
46. ICAO highlighted the importance of identifying synergies in supporting the implementation of the SDGs as a main element of the SWFS and questioned what needed to be done in order to ensure that the Framework is ready for submission to UNEA II.
47. The Director of the EMG clarified that the comments received will be taken into account in a revised concept note that will be submitted to SOM for information along with a time frame for the work ahead. Focal points were asked to brief their principals in order for them to have a constructive and fruitful discussion on this issue during the senior segment. After the SOM, work will continue within the consultative process with the aim to prepare a report to be submitted to UNEA II.
48. UNEP clarified on a point of information that any document that are to be submitted to UNEA needs to be submitted to the Open- Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) in February 2016.

The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

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

The senior officials:

- a) Decide to continue the Consultative Process on System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) to finalize the Framework for submission to the UNEA II.

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

49. The technical segment was briefed on the status of the study on maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG by UNITAR. The technical segment based its discussion on the report, including recommendations for further enhancing the effectiveness of the EMG. It was explained that the report is a draft made available for information of the senior officials at this stage, taking into consideration that the recommendations in the report require further in-depth discussion and reflection before the report is submitted to UNEA II. It was further clarified that the report will be submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP for his/her consideration for inclusion in the Executive Director's report to UNEA.
50. The technical segment expressed appreciation of the process and its outcome and welcomed further discussion and elaboration leading to unanimous agreement of the recommendations, including of their cost implications, before the report can be endorsed. Moreover, the directions or inputs given by the senior officials at their meeting would need to be integrated in the report.
51. EMG members expressed concern that the decisions by UNEA on the EMG might infringe upon the autonomy of other governing bodies concerning coordination of environmental work in the UN system. It was stressed that the report by the EMG Chair to UNEA is requested by Member States and that it is in no way inconsistent with or preclusive of reports by other agencies to their governing bodies. All heads of agencies have the possibility to convey a report to their governing bodies on their respective agency's contribution to the EMG.
52. UNITAR further informed that the work stream on preparing a contribution on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs had been postponed, leading to a suggested change in focus towards a focus on implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. For example, the nexus issues may require strengthened partnerships across the UN system – an issue that the analysis could address.

The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Suggested Action VIII: Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The senior officials:

1. Take note of the draft report *Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, including the recommendations and suggested action points therein;
2. Agree to extend the Task Team for another year to:

- a) Consider the recommendations of the report: *Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, including its cost implications and preparation of a possible revision of the Terms of Reference for the EMG;
- b) Finalize the report taking into account the comments of the Senior Officials upon which the final report should be made available for the Executive Director of UNEP for his/her consideration for inclusion in the Executive Director's report to UNEA-2 in response to UNEA Resolution 1/11;
- c) Prepare an analytical report on the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs based on the outline suggested by the Task Team for consideration of the EMG members. The report could include an analysis of how the environmental dimension can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs at large.

III. Preparation of panel discussions during the senior segment

53. The technical segment went over the modalities for the two panel discussions to shape the meeting of the senior officials on September 24. Focal points were requested to brief their senior officials on the outcomes of the meeting of the technical segment, in order to enable a strategic discussion on collective action at the UN system level with a focus on next steps.
54. The technical segment suggested a concentration and decrease of the questions posed to the panel in advance, in order to make sure there is enough time for each panelist to respond. It was agreed that the EMG Secretariat prepare a revised Strategic Directions note to be circulated to the EMG focal points in advance of the Senior Officials Meeting.

IV. Environment Management Group Work Plan for 2016-2017

55. The technical segment considered the updated work plan for 2016-2017, 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/SOM21/05.
56. The work plan remains un-costed as there is no common budget for EMG activities. The technical segment, however, requested an estimation of the timing and effort required per item, as the EMG takes on more initiatives that imply a cost in staff time for EMG members. This would help the EMG determine the feasibility of the work plan as well as enhance preparedness for a possible review of the EMG by JIU. Moreover, a lead agency should be identified for each process.

57. It was requested that the process of contributing to a System-Wide Framework of Strategies as well as the process of maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG be moved from the programmatic category to another category, such as under overall cooperation, to reflect their relevance for the EMG's work.
58. 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.
59. The work plan should be adjusted in accordance with the decisions taken by senior officials at their 21st meeting.

The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Suggested Action IX: Approval of the EMG Work Plan for 2016–2017

The senior officials approve the work plan for EMG for the period 2016–2017 based on the understanding that the EMG secretariat will revise the plan presented in document EMG/SOM.21/05 to ensure that the plan fully reflects the actions agreed by the 21st 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.

V. Reporting to the second session of the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA)

60. The meeting agreed on submission by the Executive Director of UNEP of a summary report on the work of the EMG to the second meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEAII).
61. The EMG Chair should also make this information available to all EMG members that can convey a summary report on the work of the EMG to their governing bodies.

The technical segment agreed on the following actions:

Suggested Action X: Progress report on the work of the EMG to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP and other EMG member agencies

The senior officials:

- a) Welcome the opportunity to inform the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP on the work of the EMG by providing a summary report by the Executive Director of UNEP in his capacity as chair of the EMG.
- b) 2, Also encourage members of the EMG to make the report available to their governing bodies as appropriate.

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

62. It was suggested that the 22nd meeting of the EMG senior officials take place in New York in September 2016. Time and venue for the meeting will be communicated in due course.
63. The technical segment proposed the following action to the senior officials segment:

Suggested Action XI: 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 date and venues for the 22nd meeting of the senior officials, and consult with members on its agenda.

VII. Any other business

64. No other issues were discussed.
65. The co-chairs of the technical segment closed the meeting at 2 p.m.

B. The Senior Officials Segment

Opening

66. In his introductory remarks, co-chair Mr. Achim Steiner, Under Secretary-General, Executive Director of UNEP, and Chair of the EMG, stressed the impact of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on the work of each member agency of the UN system and highlighted the needs and opportunities the Agenda brings to deliver effectively as one, for which the EMG provides a solid platform. He encouraged the senior officials to share their views on how to ensure that the EMG is fit for purpose in this context.
67. In his opening remarks, Co-chair Mr. Michael O'Neill, Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy of UNDP, recognized the involvement of many of the EMG members in the preparations of the 2030 Agenda and welcomed a timely discussion by the senior officials on the role of the EMG in this context. He underlined that efficient cooperation across the UN system is a priority for Member States, and that the EMG thus plays an important role in facilitating effective coordination of environmental matters through the promotion of system-wide approaches.

Panel discussions

Panel I: Responding to the Environmental sustainability dimensions of the SDGs and supporting their effective implementation

68. The discussants, Mr. Michael O'Neill, Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy of UNDP, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat and Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, Executive Director of UNITAR, shared their views on the main challenges for the UN system in implementing the environmental dimension of the SDGs. They discussed how UN agencies could further enhance coordination of their work in this regard, as well as how the implementation of nexus issues could best be supported. The discussion under Chatham House Rules was moderated by Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary, UNECE.

The key points expressed by the senior officials in Panel I include:

- From being seen as one of the three pillars of sustainable development, there is now a broader understanding that environment influences the outcomes in a wide range of areas and must inform decisions related to achieving sustainable development overall. The SDGs provide an essential opportunity to integrate environment as a universal theme across sectors, at global as well as national levels, and in developed as well as in developing countries. The SDGs have changed the narrative encouraging integration and coordination.

- Breaking down silos creates the need for new ways of leadership and new ways of cooperation in the UN system that is under scrutiny to deliver as one. A fair and equitable framework is needed where UN agencies are bound to maximize their capacities and synergies by working strategically together.
- The SDGs present an opportunity for the UN system. While agencies have their own governing bodies and mandates, we do not need to demarcate ourselves based only on those. The EMG could be a part of ensuring that environment is better understood by all elements of the system, supporting its members in their efforts to align their institutions, programmes and policies with the SDGs. An approach for tracking progress in this regard is needed.
- The UN system has to encourage Member States to recognize the environmental limits, which underscores the need for transformation and action in improving resource efficiency, economic structures, the composition of investments, policy making and project implementation. Investments need to be made sustainably, moving away from high-carbon and polluting economies. The UN system as an institution has to be set on the right course, encourage scaling up of enabling policies that have been successful on the ground and supporting a stronger science-policy interface and multi-stakeholder interventions. The UN needs to work with regions and countries to get enable and support ground level change.
- Participants recognized the need to look at the existing coordination mechanisms and clarify what role each mechanism plays. In order to avoid the siloed way of working, collaboration needs to be adequately supported, keeping in mind that agencies may not collaborate by default. It was acknowledged that agencies' budgets are constructed in a non-integrative manner, with the same challenge existing within governments. In times of economic constraints, funds are often cut first from the environment sector.
- While it is essential to break down silos, the EMG's mandate remains focused on the environment. Respecting this focus can be achieved, inter alia, through focusing on nexus issues (e.g. food-energy-water or sustainable consumption), building on best practices identified within other areas such as the poverty and environment nexus. Agencies with broad mandates are challenged by the need to balance and support synergies between several different approaches. EMG members should take decisive action, both individually and collectively, to make sure the environment is well linked with the economic and social aspects of sustainable development.
- As the role for the EMG in the 2030 Agenda is being defined, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of work with other inter-agency platforms, such as the UNDG, and to align new initiatives of the EMG with work already underway in other contexts.
- Responding to national priorities through a non-prescriptive approach should be a guiding principle. Participants expressed interest in looking at how UN agencies collaborate on the national level to see if or how the cooperation at the global level filters down to the field.

- For example, the vast majority of the ever-growing global population will live in cities by 2030, presenting an enormous challenge for developing countries in particular. Urbanization is an issue that needs to be taken seriously and that needs to be given appropriate attention on the UN agenda.
- The SDGs will also require institutional change – many UN agencies maintain specific departments for various sustainable development issues which is no longer compatible with the integrative approach. Sustainable development should be seen as the chapeau of all activities and operations rather than as a separate aspect. Business as usual cannot continue.
- Institutions need to adopt to new sustainability policies and regulations in areas such as procurement. Structures need to be developed to allow organizations to be fit for change and upscaling from pilot projects to large-scale impacts needs to be encouraged. Visions need to be translated into action on the ground, with the SDGs providing a mandate for this change in practice.
- The issue of how UN agencies can interact in the field was raised. The EMG may need a specific mandate to support the development of more sustainable management practices on the ground. Practice needs to be changed in a way that is visible to the communities.
- While breaking out of silos is necessary, specialized knowledge on specific issues is still needed. The integrated approach of the SDGs requires an appropriate balance between specialization and integration in the UN system that is itself organized into agencies with specific foci. It was recognized that integration and effective collaboration is itself a specialized competency, with some agencies working with an integrative mandate from the start.
- There is a need to move away from the usual UN agency narrative when explaining and informing about the interlinkages between the SDGs to governments. The challenge to develop a coherent narrative explaining in depth how the goals are linked to each other remains.
- The senior officials expressed interest to identify common approaches to promoting the science-policy interface.
- Communication was identified as a crucial element for enhanced coordination. EMG focal points were encouraged to strengthen their communication with strategic planners within their constituency.

69. The moderator concluded the panel by stating that SDGs set an ambitious agenda that Member States expect the UN system to deliver upon and in order to succeed, UN agencies have to excel in delivering as one.

Panel II: Contribution of a System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment and ways of maximizing the EMG effectiveness in supporting the post 2015 development agenda and the SDGs.

70. The discussants, Ms. Fang Liu, Secretary General of ICAO, Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the BRS Secretariat, Mr. Gary Fowlie, Head of the Liaison Office to the United

Nations, ITU , Ms. Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director General of UNESCO, Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC and Mr. Christian Blondin, Chief of Cabinet of WMO, deliberated the position and modalities of the EMG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and discussed the purpose and added value of a System wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment as a tool to facilitate collaboration on the environment in the UN system. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Elliott Harris, Director of the EMG Secretariat and Assistant Secretary-General of UNEP.

The key points expressed by the senior officials in Panel II include:

- Coordination of activities in the UN system is challenging due to its facilitative rather than authoritative nature of the work that UN entities undertake. A clearer directive issued by Executive Heads and Senior Officials to collaborate, for example at the country level, would serve interagency collaboration.
- The EMG provides a forum for sharing of best practice and information and for capacity building. Facilitation of communication should be emphasized in the work of the EMG.
- The EMG can further play a role in supporting a coherent alignment of agencies' strategic objectives with the SDGs and support the development of good indicators that measure progress on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. This would in turn contribute to strengthen coordination on the environment in the UN system and lay the ground for new partnerships that may be necessary for an effective implementation of the SDGs. Agencies would be able to show how their sector can contribute to environmental protection and to the implementation of the SDGs.
- At the same time, it is important to consider if the EMG is fit for purpose for the remaining work on SDG indicators. There is a need for an authoritative directive to truly factor in the environmental dimensions of the SDGs into the work of UN entities in a pragmatic way.
- Agencies have worked to make visible the relevance of their mandates to sustainable development, the fruits of which can be recognized in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in which most agencies can find themselves. Many agencies have undertaken mapping exercises to analyze how their mandate links to the SDGs. This work could support the envisaged analysis by the EMG on the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.
- The System-wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS) should be solution-oriented and should function as a tool that addresses and helps agencies manage the interdependency that the integrated SDGs imply.
- The UN system is composed of a large collection of knowledge. With regard to the SWFS, there is not one strategy that would fit all or that could be imposed on every agency. Instead, a multi-strategy approach needs to be maintained and existing and well - functioning frameworks (including cultural, political and traditional ones) should be identified and utilized to their full potential. The SWFS can be a way to link global policies with institutional policies. Furthermore it can serve as a tool that not only

facilitates smoother cooperation among agencies, but also helps them to engage with others in implementing their own mandates.

- The work of the EMG should be needs-oriented, facilitating partnerships across the UN system, building on existing frameworks, and taking into consideration the governance and mandate aspect. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda encourages listening to the needs of people on the ground. Different stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector should be more involved in the work of the UN.
- The EMG can play an important role in proactively facilitating and supporting coherent integration of environmental management into processes and programmes of the UN agencies. Important aspects of this work are capacity building, advocacy, partnerships and research.
- The SDGs serve as an inspirational agenda for the work of the UN system. Member States have agreed that the SDGs are a comprehensive package. As it is intended to be transformational, there is a need to take stock of where agencies are vis-a-vis the new goals. The EMG as an inter-agency mechanism can play a role and has comparative advantage in managing the inter-dependency and new partnerships that are needed for delivery and efficient implementation.
- The SWFS was seen as an important initiative that would guide the implementation of the mandate coming out of UNEA, individually and collectively through the respective programmes of the agencies. The SWFS should help the system think about strategic opportunities for cooperation and also for leverage - where can we focus attention to be most effective?
- When the EMG was created, it was not clear how the multiple dimensions of environment could be tackled most efficiently. Now the SDGs provide a suitable frame for that. The role of the EMG should be to promote environment across sectors, to connect agencies with each other and to facilitate information exchange among them.
- The EMG could also assist in the operationalization of decisions by UNEA, turning these into effective work programmes on the ground.
- The EMG could further play a role in ensuring quality measurements and coherence in the standardization of data by identifying the needs in the development of indicators.
- It is important to think about how the EMG could be better used, e.g. for more efficiency at regional and community level. If the whole UN system is to support the implementation of the SDGs, this needs to be factored in in a more strategic way across the constituencies. Furthermore, we need to ensure that the work of each agency is expressed in a consistent narrative to show that the UN system delivers as one. The question remains if the EMG is truly fit for this purpose. It may be necessary to modify the ToR of the EMG.
- In terms of the EMG agenda, for the sake of cost efficiency emerging issues should be screened according to the appropriate level on which they should be dealt with (global/regional/local).

71. The moderator thanked the discussants for sharing thoughts that will help shape the EMG and its work in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Consistent narratives are needed to show that the UN system is delivering as one and there is potential to use the EMG more efficiently as a forum that supports an effective, strategic and coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.

It was agreed that the deliberations of the two panels will be summarized to guide further work of the EMG, including in its processes of enhancing the effectiveness of the EMG and the development of a System-wide Framework of Strategies on the environment (SWFS).

Presentation on the outcome of the technical segment of the SOM

72. The senior officials unanimously endorsed the Statement by the Members of the Environment Management Group on the sound management of chemicals (Annex IV).

Owing to time constraints, the senior officials agreed to formally endorse the report of the technical segment including the decisions contained therein, through written procedure and as part of consideration and approval of the proceedings of the meeting by email. The senior officials will be invited to provide any comments they may have on the action points within 10 days of receipt of the minutes of the meeting. In case of no comments, it will be taken that report and the proposed decisions are tacitly approved by the respective agencies.

Any other business

73. The Executive Director of UNITAR, Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles proposed to the Senior Officials to prepare a training module within the framework of the EMG to be used at country level that clearly explains the inter-disciplinary aspects of the SDGs and how the goals link to one another. Such a training module will provide a coherent understanding by the UN system on the interlinked goals and thus facilitate a coherent approach to training on the SDGs and their implementation at country level. She suggested that a system-wide and cross-sectoral narrative can be developed for 1-2 pilot goals to support a holistic understanding by governments of SDGs and their interlinkages.
74. The Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, supported by the Executive Director of UNEP, proposed to the Senior Officials an initiative to intensify actions by the UN system to implement the commitment by the Secretary General to make the UN system climate neutral already by 2016. In response to that proposal, the senior officials agreed to prepare a Note providing an overview of opportunities and potentials, including for emissions reductions and offsetting, by which UN agencies can become climate neutral ahead of the agreed deadline in 2020. The overview should include an analysis of associated costs and should identify possible challenges such as mandate- and budget-related issues that may complicate an accelerated path towards climate neutrality, and proposed solutions for how to tackle these.

Suggested Action XII

- a) The Senior Officials invited UNITAR in consultation with the EMG Secretariat to prepare a proposal on a training module on the inter-disciplinary aspects of the SDGs for consideration of the Group and preparation of a possible contribution by the EMG

- b) In response to the initiative proposed by the Executive Secretary of UNFCCC to try to accelerate to the end-2016 the achievement of UN system-wide climate neutrality, the senior officials agreed to the preparation of a technical note by the EMG Secretariat, UNFCCC and UNEP, in consultation with others, for CEB's consideration, that sets out the proposal covering measures for longer-term emission reduction and short-term offsetting. The note is expected to provide a cost estimate and include evidence-based analysis of the implications of the proposal for the UN system. The note will be an input to the CEB discussion on climate change and allow the Principals to explore how to advance the time frame for the UN system's achieving climate neutrality. The note will need to be received by the CEB Secretariat by October 19, 2015.

Closure of the meeting

75. The co-chairs closed the meeting on 24 September at 11 a.m.

Annex I

21st Senior Officials' Meeting of the Environment Management Group Technical Segment, 21 September 2015 (9a.m.-12p.m. NY time) at the UN HQ GA Building Conference room 8 (CR8) 1st basement Senior Segment, 24 September 2015, (8.30 a.m-11 a.m.) at the UN HQ, Secretariat Building Conference Room A (CR-A) 1st Basement	EMG/SOM.21/02a/Rev.1 18 September 2015 Distribution: EMG members
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Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work of the Technical Segment

Introduction

Following its first meeting on 9 September , the second technical segment of the 21th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials will meet on 21 September in advance of the senior segment of the senior officials meeting to consider the progress report of the EMG Issue Management Groups and Processes and approve (ad referendum) the decisions for the future work of the EMG on behalf of the senior officials. This new modality is expected to a) provide enough time for EMG focal points to consider the EMG progress reports and recommendations for future actions, b) allow the Senior Officials to focus on strategic issues at their meeting, and c) to allow the EMG focal points to brief their Senior Officials thoroughly in advance of the senior segment.

The second technical segment will meet in person on September 21, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 12p.m. NY time at the UN HQ GA Building Conference room 8 (CR8) 1st basement.

The meeting will consider the progress reports of the IMGs, Consultative Processes and Task Teams, and discuss and agree on the suggested action points for their future work. The senior officials are expected to formally endorse the report of the technical segment without further discussion, including any decisions contained therein, unless there is a specific request for discussion by a participant.

Below you can find the provisional agenda and the organisation of the work of the meeting.

a) Provisional agenda for the second preparatory meeting of technical segment of the 21st 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 Chemicals and Waste;
 - b) Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations system;
 - c) The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations system;
 - d) Progress on Peer-Reviewing of environmental management profiles of United Nations organizations;
 - e) Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Strategy on the Environment;
 - f) 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. Preparation of panel discussions during the senior segment

Panel I: Theme: Responding to the Environmental sustainability dimensions of the SDGs and supporting their effective implementation

Panel II: Theme: Contribution of a System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment and ways of maximizing the EMG effectiveness in supporting the post 2015 development agenda and the SDGs
5. Environment Management Group work plan for 2016–2017
6. Reporting to the second session of the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA)
7. Date and venue of the next senior officials' meeting
8. Any other business

b) Proposed organization of work for 21 September technical segment

Time (NY)	Nr.	Agenda Item	Associated Document
9:00–09:10 a.m.	Agenda item 1	Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs, Mr. Tim Scott, Policy Advisor, UNDP and Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary General and EMG Director	
	Agenda item 2	Adoption of the agenda	<i>Working document: EMG/SOM.21/02a/Rev.1</i>

9:10– 10:45 a.m.	Agenda item 3	<p>Consideration of ongoing work and recommendations to the senior officials’ segment:</p> <p>(a) The IMG on Chemicals and Waste (led by BRS);</p> <p>(b) Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations system (led by UNDP);</p> <p>(c) The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations system (led by UNEP-SUN);</p> <p>(d) Progress on Peer-Reviewing of environmental management profiles of United Nations organizations (led by EMG Secretariat);</p> <p>(e) Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Strategy on the Environment (led by EMG Secretariat);</p> <p>(f) Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 development agenda (led by UNITAR) – (this item might precede item (a) to accommodate UNITAR’s availability to present it .</p>	<p><i>Working document:</i> <i>EMG/SOM.21/03/Rev.1</i></p> <p><i>Supporting document :</i> <i>EMG/SOM.21/Inf.1</i> <i>EMG/SOM.21/inf.2</i> <i>EMG/SOM.21/inf.3</i> <i>EMG/SOM.21/inf.4</i> <i>EMG/SOM21/inf.5</i></p>
10:45- 11:00 a.m.		<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
11.00-	Agenda	Preparation of panel discussions	<i>Working document:</i>

11.30 am.	item 4	during the senior segment a) Panel I: Theme: <u>Responding to the Environmental sustainability dimensions of the SDGs and supporting their effective implementation</u> b) Panel II: Theme: <u>Contribution of a System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment and ways of maximizing the EMG effectiveness in supporting the post 2015 development agenda and the SDGs</u>	<i>EMG/SOM.21/04/Rev1</i>
11.30– 11.35 a.m.	Agenda item 5	Environment Management Group work plan for 2016–2017	<i>Working document:EMG/SOM.21/05/Rev.1</i>
11.35– 11.45 a.m.	Agenda item 6	Reporting to the second session of the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA)	
11.45 a.m.	Agenda item 7	Date and venue of the next senior officials' meeting	
11.50 a.m.	Agenda item 8	Any other business	
12.00		Closure of the technical segment of the meeting	

Annex II

21st Senior Officials' Meeting of the Environment Management Group Senior Segment, 24 September 2015, (8.30 a.m-11 a.m.) at the UN HQ, Secretariat Building Conference Room A (CR-A) 1st Basement	EMG/SOM.21/2b/REV2 23 September 2015 Distribution: EMG members
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Provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

21st senior officials' meeting of the Environment Management Group

A. Provisional Agenda

1. Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs and approval of the agenda.
2. Panel discussions:
Panel I: Theme: Responding to the Environmental sustainability dimensions of the SDGs and supporting their effective implementation

Panel II: Theme: Contribution of a System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment and ways of maximizing the EMG effectiveness in supporting the post 2015 development agenda and the SDGs
3. Consideration of the outcome of the technical segment of the SOM including the recommendations for the future work of the EMG
4. Concluding remarks by Co-chairs
Group photograph of the Senior Officials.
5. Closure of the meeting

B. Proposed organization of work

08.30 – 08.45 **Agenda item 1:** Opening and introductory remarks by the Chairs, Mr. Achim Steiner, Chair of the EMG and Mr. Michael O'Neill, Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy of UNDP

08.45 – 10.30 **Agenda Item 2:** Panel Discussions

08.45 – 09.30 **Panel I**

Theme: Responding to the Environmental sustainability dimensions of the SDGs and supporting their effective implementation

Moderator: Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Discussants:

Mr. Michael O'Neil, Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy of UNDP

Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP

Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP

Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of the UN-Habitat

Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, Executive Director of UNITAR

09.30–09.45 **Break**

09.45 – 10.30 **Panel II**

Theme: Contribution of a System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment and ways of maximizing the EMG effectiveness in supporting the post 2015 development agenda and the SDGs

Moderator: Mr. Elliott Harris, Director, EMG Secretariat

Discussants:

Ms. Fang Liu, Secretary General of ICAO
Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the BRS Secretariat
Mr., Gary Fowlie, Head, Liaison Office to the United Nations, ITU
Ms. Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director General of UNESCO
Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC
Mr. Christian Blondin, Chief of Cabinet of WMO

10.30-11.00 **Agenda item 3:** Short presentation on the outcome of the technical segment of the SOM including:

- i. recommendations for the future work of the EMG;
- ii. approval of the Heads of Agencies Statement on sound management of chemicals.

Agenda Item 5: closing remarks by the Co-chairs

Taking a collective photo of the senior officials

Agenda Item 6: Closure of the meeting

Annex III

List of Participants for the Technical Segment II of the 21ST SOM New York 21.09.2015

	Organisation	Name	Title	
1	ICAO	Jane Hupe	Deputy Director Environment	
2	WMO	Paul D. EGERTON	Director, New York Office	
3	CBD	Amy Fraenkel	Director of the Division on Mainstreaming, Partnerships and Outreach	
4	BRS	Marylene Beau	Programme Officer	
		Tatiana Terekhova	Programme Officer	
5	UNFCC	Daniele Violetti	Chief of Staff	
6	UNESCO	Salvatore Arico	Senior programme Specialist	
7	UNEP	Corli Pretorius	Senior Programme Officer	
		Achim Haalpap	Head of Chemicals and Waste Branch	
8	IMF	Ms. Nriya Subramaniam	Senior Liaison Officer	
9	DFS	Mr. Scott Hastings	Chief Engineer	
10	UNICEF	Mr. Alex Heikens	Senior Adviser, Policy, Strategy and Network	
		Christine Klauth	Policy Officer	
		William Abi Abdallah	Greening Specialist	
11	UNECE	Maria Teresa Pisani	Economic Affairs Officer Environment Division	
12	UNDP	Tim Scott	Policy Advisor	
		Holly Mergler	Policy Specialist	
13	ITU	Garry Fowlie	Director	
14	DESA	Marion Barthelemy	Chief Interagency and intergovernmental Branch	
		Frederica Pietracchi	Senior Economic Affairs Officer	
15	CEB Secretariat	Xenia von Lilien	Programme Officer	
		Silvan Scheiwiller	Special Assistant to the Director	
16	UN-HABITAT	Andrew Rudd	Urban Environment Officer	
17	WFP	Richard Choularton	Chief Climate and DRR Programmes.	
18	DM	Brennan Van Dyke	ESM Director	
19	UNCTAD	Shvonne Hasan	Intern	
20	EMG Secretariat	Elliott Harris	ASG, and Head of EMG Secretariat	
		Hossein Fadaei	Senior Liaisons Officer	
		Jannica Pitkanen-Brunnsberg	Associate Programme Officer	

List of Participants for the 21ST meeting of the EMG Senior Officials, New York 24 September 2015

	Organisation	Name	Function
1	ITU	Gary Fowlie	Head, ITU Liaison Office
2	ICAO	Fang Liu	Secretary General
		Jane Hupe	Chief, Environment Branch
3	DESA	Lenni Montiel	ASG –Economic Development
		Federica Pietracci	Senior Economic Affairs Officer
		Barbara Tavora-Jainchill	Forest Affairs Officer
		Ryo Mukamura	Forest Affairs Officer
4	UNDP	Michael O’Neill	Assistant Secretary General
		Cynara Manandhar	Environmental and Natural capital intern
		Andy Raine	Environmental Policy and legal Specialist
		Holly Mergler	Policy Specialist
		Tim Scott	Policy Advisor on Sustainable Development
5	DFS	Franz Baumann	Assistant Secretary General and Special Advisor on Environment and Peace Operations
6	UNITAR	Sally Fegan-Wyles	Assistant Secretary General – Executive Director
7	UNEP	Achim Steiner	Executive Director
		Ibrahim Thiaw	Deputy Executive Director
		Corli Pretorius	Senior Programme Officer
		Marlene Nilsson	Special Assistant to the DED
8	UN-HABITAT	Joan Clos	Executive Director
		Andrew Rudd	Urban Environmental Officer
		Rafael Tuts	Coordinator of the Urban Planning and Design Branch
		Prashant Shekharyadav	Intern
9	UNICEF	Ms. Fatoumata Ndiaye,	Deputy Executive Director
		Julia Hoffmann	Executive Officer
		Alex Heikens	Senior Adviser Climate and

			Environment
10	UN-ESCAP	Shamshad Akhtar	Executive Secretary
		Katinka Weinberger	OIC EDD
		Michael Williamson	Senior Advisor OES
11	UNFCCC	Christiana Figueres	Executive Secretary
		Daniele Violetti	Chief of Staff
12	UNECE	Christian Friis Bach	Executive Secretary
		Monika Linn	Principal Adviser & Chief, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit
13	BRS	Rolph Payet	Executive Secretary
14	IFAD	Margarita Astralaga	Director, Environment and Climate Division Programme Management Department
15	CEB Secretariat	Xenia von Lilien	Program Officer
16	FAO	Sharon Brennen-Haylock	Director, FAO Liaison Office in New York,
17	CBD	Amy Fraenkel	Director of the Division on Mainstreaming, Partnerships and Outreach
18	WMO	Christian Blondin	Director, Cabinet of the Secretary-General and External Relations
		Paul Egerton	Head of WMO New York Office
19	WIPO	Dalila Hamou	Director, External Relations Division.
20	IMF	Axel Bertuch-Samuels	Special Representative to the UN
21	WHO	Werner Obermeyer	Deputy Executive Director NY
22	UNESCO	Flavia Schlegel	Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences
23	UNCCD	Dr. Nandhini Krishna	Deputy Chief of Office
24	UNCTAD	Chantaline Carpentier	Chief of Office in New York
		Shvonne Hasan	Intern
25	UNISDR	Glenn Dolcemascolo	Climate change coordinator
26	WFP	Stanlake Samkange	Director, Policy Programmes
27	WTO	Karsten Steinfatt	Counsellor Trade and Environment Division
28	DM	Stephen Cutts	ASG/OCSS/DM
		Brennan Van Dyke	Director, Environmental Sustainability

			Management
29	UN WOMEN	Marianna Belsky	Facilities Specialist
30	UNECA	Carlos Lopes	USG, Executive Secretary
		Aida Opoku-Mensah	Special Advisor, SDGs Office of the Executive Secretary.
		Chigozirim Bodart	Policy and Coordination officer
31	EMG Secretariat	Elliott Harris	ASG, and Head of EMG Secretariat
		Hossein Fadaei	Senior Liaison Officer
		Jannica Pitkanen-Brunnsberg	Associate Programme Officer

Annex IV

Statement by the Members of the Environment Management Group¹

Chemicals are an integral part of our daily life. They can contribute positively to human well-being, if managed well, while the unsound management of chemicals and waste has serious negative impacts on sustainable development.

We therefore underscore that the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle, and the appropriate and safe disposal of waste, particularly hazardous waste, is essential in order to avoid significant risks to human health and ecosystems.

Sound chemicals management is a broad, diverse and cross-cutting issue that requires a multi-sectoral, multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach, central to achieving the objectives of the broader development agenda. Many stakeholders, including Member States through global and regional multilateral agreements and processes such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and many of the agencies of the UN system, are active in the field of chemicals management.

This highlights the importance of continuing to enhance cooperation and coordination among international bodies. This importance has been recognized for example, in the Joint Statement on “Participation in the Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management” made in February 2006 by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC),² which, together with other UN entities, contribute significantly to international efforts towards sound chemicals management.

To step up our joint and coordinated efforts to promote the sound management of chemicals as a critical component of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, we, the Executive Heads of Members of the Environment Management Group, hereby, as appropriate, commit to:

1. continuing to promote and raise the profile of sound chemicals management within the UN system;
2. promoting the integration of chemicals management issues across sectors and in the broader context of economic and social development planning;
3. ensuring additional synergies, between our respective UN organizations and with related organizations, in supporting countries in activities to achieve sound chemicals management by 2020 (the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2020 goal).

We make this commitment with a view to continuing our cooperation and demonstrating what a strengthened multisectoral approach can bring to the development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and what enhanced system-wide cooperation can bring to other key international processes, agreements, and initiatives that directly or indirectly address chemicals and waste management.

¹ This Statement is made on behalf of all 48 EMG members, along with the OECD.

² FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, World Bank, WHO and OECD participate in IOMC.