



# UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде      برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



## **20<sup>th</sup> 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 E44<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, DC2-2330 Meeting room, 23<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Preparatory technical segment: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Senior officials' segment: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

EMG/SOM.20/05/Rev1

19 September 2014

Distribution: EMG members

## **Work plan 2015 - 2016**

### **Note by the Chair**

### **Introduction**

1. This note presents the work plan for the Environment Management Group (EMG) for the period 2015 – 2016 (both years included). The plan builds on the work plan adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> senior officials' meeting (SOM) of the EMG in 2013. The plan will be updated to a 2015 – 2016 EMG work plan reflecting the action points adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) as presented in the document EMG/SOM.20/03.

2. The work plan is given a two year horizon which is subject to annual approval by the senior officials. This approach is meant to capture activities which have a time span longer than one year. The plan, an overview of forthcoming activities and milestones for the next 24 months, has four main expected accomplishments which pertain to programmatic, operational and management issues as well as overall cooperation.

3. The work plan remains un-costed as there is no common budget for EMG activities. It is recommended that the work plan be implemented through in-kind contributions, subject to the availability of resources. The in-kind contributions will be budgeted, programmed and reported on by each member and the UNEP secretariat within their own administrative processes.

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## Environment Management Group work plan for 2015 – 2016

Expected accomplishment	Activities <sup>1</sup>
<b>A. Programmatic issues</b>	
Enhanced coherence in programming of environmental activities in the United Nations system, including for mainstreaming environmental concerns into sectoral programmes.	<p><b>1. Issue Management Group on sound management of chemicals and waste</b> Prepare a contribution by the UN system in support of the WSSD 2020 goal in cooperation with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC):</p> <p>a) Map out different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system with activities and initiatives that might assist in the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals;</p> <p>b) Analyse where and how the expertise of different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system can contribute to supporting countries in achieving the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals;</p> <p>c) Provide recommendations on how to achieve additional synergies between different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system with activities and initiatives that might assist in the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals;</p> <p>d) Consider how the findings of IMG can contribute to the “Overall Orientation and Guidance towards the 2020 Goal” under development by the SAICM Secretariat;</p> <p>e) Develop and disseminate joint and consistent messaging on the measures needed to support the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals, for example through a progress report that can be provided to the SAICM Open Ended Working Group planned for December 2014, the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and other relevant fora; and</p> <p>f) Provide a progress report to the 21<sup>th</sup> meeting of the senior officials.</p>
	<p><b>2. Issue Management Group or Task Teams to address new issues approved by the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the senior officials</b></p>
<b>B. Operational issues</b>	
Enhanced coherence in advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability of the UN system.	<p><b>1. Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability</b> Continue to facilitate the Consultative Process in close cooperation with the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management and other relevant social inter-agency mechanisms and entities with the view to:</p>

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

Expected accomplishment	Activities <sup>1</sup>
	<p>a) Support piloting the use of the Interim Guide<sup>2</sup> as a tool in individual volunteer agencies with the view to share lessons learned, better understand the practical implications of implementing Sustainability Framework, improve the Sustainability Framework and the Guide with the view to prepare a system wide Action Plan on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system;</p> <p>b) Identify linkages between the Sustainability Framework and the various ‘fit for purpose’ discussions held in the context of deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda;</p> <p>c) Keep the CEB and its subsidiary bodies informed for advice on the next steps and provide a progress report on the consultative process the 21<sup>st</sup> EMG SOM.</p> <p><b>2. Peer-Reviews of environmental profiles of the EMG members</b></p> <p>Peer reviewing of the environmental portfolios of volunteering agencies.</p> <p>a) 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;</p> <p>b) 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 financing of the peer-review activities;</p> <p>c) Invite the reviewed agencies to consider sharing with other EMG members information on the progress made in their agencies in implementing the recommendations of their Peer Review reports;</p>
C. Management issues	IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management
<p>Enhanced sustainability of management practices in the United Nations (UN) system.</p>	<p><b>1. UN Sustainability management</b></p> <p>Maintain regular IMG meetings to identify how environmental management can be systematically implemented in the UN system so as to implement the CEB decision 5/4/2013 and the HLCM 2013-2016 Strategic Framework. Identify barriers and enabling measures, provide input to relevant bodies and processes in the UN system, and provide progress reports and recommendations to the EMG, assisting the EMG in reporting to the HLCM.. Prepare a progress report of the above work of the IMG to the senior officials’ meeting of the EMG in 2015 and 2016.</p> <p>The IMG with the support of the SUN will more specifically:</p> <p>a) Maintain close working relations with the HLCM and other relevant interagency networks to ensure progress on climate neutrality and environment management systems is well understood and valued in the UN</p>

<sup>2</sup> Advancing the Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework in the United Nations System. Interim Guide (2014). <http://www.unemg.org/index.php/consultative-processes-home/environmental-and-social-sustainability>

Expected accomplishment	Activities <sup>1</sup>
	<p>system;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) Redesign a second generation UN wide inventory to follow progress in GHG emissions reductions, waste generation and water consumption and staff capacity building (indicators established by the Strategic Plan on Environmental Management Systems in the UN system endorsed in 2011 and 2013 respectively by EMG and CEB). Organise training sessions, provide help desk services and facilitate the work of IMG members to design their respective EMSs;</li> <li>c) Prepare the sixth edition of the report “<i>Moving towards Climate Neutrality in the UN System</i>”, to be released by February 2015. Design a new concept for an annual report on UN environmental performance based on the new inventory methodology (point b);</li> <li>d) Execute a stock taking exercise to assess the capacity of the UN system to establish EMSs. Based on this and within resources available, collaboratively design a plan to increase the adoption of EMSs, including as necessary help desk services, a specific set of templates, indicators and capacity building measures. Invite a number of UN organisations to pilot EMS within the context of the IMG with the assistance of SUN (this activity will also be connected to the parallel work of the EMG on peer reviews. Provide inputs related to UN corporate environmental management to the EMG Consultative process on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system;</li> <li>e) Continue knowledge sharing, communication, training and awareness-raising activities, in particular through the Greening the Blue and the UNITE Connections platforms, on issues such as sustainable facilities, procurement, events, travel, and e-communications;</li> <li>f) Expand the ongoing work on the on-line sustainability tutorial series with at least two more add-ons: sustainable procurement and facilities management;</li> <li>g) Prepare a road map and undertake a set of activities to support the call of the SG to the UN agencies to become climate neutral by 2020</li> </ul>
<b>D. Overall cooperation</b>	
<p>Strengthened cooperation among EMG members in setting a common agenda, implementing joint initiatives and reporting on progress.</p>	<p><b>1. Senior officials’ meetings of the EMG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Prepare and organize a mid-term meeting of the technical segment of the senior officials in April 2015 to review progress of the Work Plan and to facilitate preparation of the SOM21;</li> <li>b) Prepare and organize the SOM21 of the EMG in September 2015.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Process for preparing a UN system-wide strategy on environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support consideration s of the senior officials on a UN System Wide Strategy on the environment;</li> </ul>

Expected accomplishment	Activities <sup>1</sup>
	<p>d) Provide a progress report on the process on this issue to EMG SOM21.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3. Exchange of information and outreach</b></p> <p>a) Facilitate the exchange of information and outreach on EMG activities including through maintaining the EMG communications and website.</p> <hr/> <p><b>4. Reporting, including to the Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA) on EMG accomplishments and work ahead</b></p> <p>a) Prepare a report by the EMG Chair, on EMG accomplishments and work ahead reviewed by EMG members, for submission to the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP in May 2016.</p> <p>b) Provide information on progress and ongoing work to MEAs, HLCP, HLCM , CEB among others as appropriate and report to UNIMDIS.</p>
	<p><b>5. Undertake and follow-up on a strategic discussion among the EMG members on the future focus of the EMG in light of the post 2015 development agenda including the SDGs prior to the EMG SOM21</b></p> <p>a) Prepare and undertake strategic discussions in preparation for SOM 21 on how the EMG could best support the post 2015 agenda, and continue and follow up on the discussions on how the EMG portfolio could be strengthened, new issues requiring a cross agency approach could be brought in and discussed and how the EMG fits into the overall constellation of coordinating bodies.</p>