



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



25th Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group	EMGSOM.25_3
Technical Segment, 17 th September 2019 (15:00 -17:30 CET) Audio/video	Distribution: EMG Members

All documents referred to in this progress report can be accessed on the [EMG website](#)

Progress Report and Recommended Actions

Executive summary

This report presents progress on work by ongoing Issue Management Groups and Consultative Processes under the Environment Management Group and proposes actions and directions for their work in 2019-2020. As per EMG practice, at their meeting on 17 September 2019, the Technical Segment is expected to consider the progress made and approve the suggested action points on behalf of the Senior Officials. A summary of approved action points will be presented to the Senior Officials at their meeting on 25 September.

I. The UN E-waste Coalition

1. Since the signing of a Letter of Intent by the heads of seven UN entities (UNU, ITU, UNEP, ILO, UNITAR, UNIDO, BRS Secretariat) in March 2018, the Issue Management Group's focus has been on supporting the efforts towards the building of an UN E-waste Coalition. At their 24th meeting, the Senior Officials welcomed this development and extended the IMG's mandate for another year to enable the building of a stable arrangement for the E-waste Coalition, encouraging continued engagement with other UN entities and stakeholders outside the UN system.
2. In April 2019, at [the World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\) Forum](#), three more agencies (the World Health Organization, International Trade Centre and UN-Habitat) joined the emerging Coalition by signing the Letter of Intent. A High Level Dialogue, including the new signatories, was organized to allow a discussion on current e-waste management challenges and to consider concrete actions for building the UN E-waste Coalition, taking into account the comparative advantages of its members.
3. Active and dedicated collaboration among the signatories to the Letter of Intent has ensured steady progress towards these goals. Since September 2018, the seven signatories (and following April 2019, the ten signatories) have met at several occasions to discuss and agree on the vision, mission, basic governance structure, membership, goals and core functions of the Coalition (please see Information Document INF_1). These elements will form the basis for the development of the Coalitions' Terms of Reference, which will articulate the governance structure and operational modalities for the Coalition. It is envisaged that the Coalition consists primarily of UN entities active in the e-waste domain or along the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment. An Advisory Group composed of partners including representatives of intergovernmental organizations, industry and business, civil society, academia, countries and possible donors will be invited to offer strategic advice and guidance to the UN E-waste Coalition, including advice on key e-waste, electrics and electronics sector developments and trends.
4. While the focus has been on the establishment of the Coalition, work to address the global e-waste challenge has continued in parallel. In December 2018, a roundtable bringing together the signatories of the Letter of Intent, the World Economic Forum, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and representatives of the electronics industry was organized to identify mutual benefits of partnership for both the private sector and the United Nations in influencing circularity and stepping up to the global e-waste challenge. The development of a joint new vision for electrical and electronic equipment was supported. Collaboration among UN and private sector entities could continue in work streams on thematic areas such as collection, human health, value, labour, reverse supply chains and design.
5. A step towards the development of the new vision was taken in January 2019, when the World Economic Forum report [A New Circular Vision for Electronics – Time for a Global Reboot](#) was released at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, in support of the emerging UN E-waste Coalition and its collaborative efforts with the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The report compiles data and research from the

UN system to make the case for a new vision and describes and analyses challenges and opportunities, laying the groundwork for the process of systemic change. The release of the report was accompanied by a joint communications effort by the signatories of the Letter of Intent in the form of a coordinated press release. Collaboration continues to further develop this new vision.

6. In addition to the event in Davos and at WSIS, the emerging Coalition has worked to highlight and raise awareness about the e-waste challenge in different international fora. A high-level dialogue on [Elevating electrics and electronics to the forefront of the circular economy](#), was organised by the emerging Coalition at the UN Environment Assembly in March 2019. In April 2019, the International Labour Organization (ILO) organized an event on the UN E-waste Coalition during its first-ever [Global Dialogue Forum on decent work in e-waste management](#). In May 2019, [a side event on Sustainable and Responsible Reverse Supply Chains in a circular economy for electronics](#) was organized by the Secretariat of the Environment Management Group, in cooperation with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat and the World Economic Forum at the Conferences of the Parties to the BRS.
7. Work will continue towards building a solid base in the form of the development of Terms of Reference which would, once agreed, enable the Coalition to become fully operational in 2020. In parallel to this work, activities of the emerging coalition will continue, with, for instance, a joint country mission planned in November 2019 to develop a shared intervention model for the implementation of e-waste work at the country level. The model will facilitate the systematic addressing of root causes of e-waste challenges, underlying assumptions and risks, and suitable approaches for the way forward in a given context. The members of the emerging Coalition will also make determined efforts to explore options to ensure that the envisioned virtual secretariat of the Coalition is financially sustainable.
8. In order to enable its operations on a solid foundation, the emerging Coalition invites the Senior Officials to consider extending the mandate of the EMG for one last year to provide support to the Coalition.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Welcome the progress made by the emerging e-waste coalition, the additional signatories of the Letter of Intent and the cooperative efforts with other stakeholders in promoting collaboration to address the e-waste challenge;
- b) Take note of the vision, mission, goals and draft governance structure of the emerging E-waste Coalition;
- c) Decide to extend the mandate of the Environment Management Group to support the work of the emerging E-waste Coalition for a maximum of one more year to finalize its Terms of Reference, including its governance structure, and enable it to become fully operational.

II. UN Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms

9. The UN General Assembly, through its [resolution 72/225](#), invited the UNEP Executive Director to consider initiating an inter-agency process involving relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, and taking into account United Nations Environment Assembly [resolution 2/21](#) of 27 May 2016 and other relevant resolutions and decisions, to prepare a global response to sand and dust storms. The General Assembly, in its 73rd session, welcomed the intention of UNEP's Executive Director to establish an inter-agency network and which can be used as an inter-agency framework for medium- or long-term cooperation.
10. In response to these decisions, in September 2018, the 24th Meeting of the EMG Senior Officials agreed to form a Coalition of UN entities, other organizations and research institutes, to combat sand and dust storms. Fifteen UN entities nominated focal points to the Coalition following an invitation by UNEP's Executive Director.
11. The first meeting of the Coalition was held by videoconference on 14 February 2019 where focus areas and modalities for the Coalition were agreed. Further consultations of the Coalition took place by email exchange leading to agreement on its [Terms of Reference, including its 2019-2020 workplan](#). The Terms of Reference identify four main cross-cutting work areas of collaboration:
 - a) Facilitation of information exchange among stakeholders (e.g. data collection, knowledge sharing and innovative solutions)
 - b) Capacity building and training
 - c) Mobilizing resources and fund-raising initiatives
 - d) Advocacy and awareness raising
12. To take forward the above work areas in a coherent and efficient matter, entities have expressed their interest to lead or participate in five working groups. Each working group will cover a specific aspect of the disaster risk management and Sand and Dust Storm Lifecycle.
13. [The second meeting](#) of the Coalition is scheduled to take place during the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in India during a Sand and Dust Storm Day on 6 September. The Coalition will consider a draft Strategy and Action Plan for its future work. The SDS Day will provide the opportunity to officially launch the Coalition. It is also envisaged that a presentation be made on the work of the Coalition by the Executive Director of UNEP to the high-level segment of the UNCCD COP on 9 September.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Welcome the progress made in establishing the Coalition including the development of its Terms of Reference;

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| b) Invite the Coalition to finalize its Strategy and Action Plan as a basis for its medium- and long-term actions. |
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III. Consultative Process on Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System

14. The Consultative Process has focused its work on finalizing the [Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming](#) (please see Information Document INF_2) and developing a Sustainability Strategy for the UN System 2020-2030.
15. The draft Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming was posted on the EMG website for public comment between 1 November 2018 to 15 January 2019. Thirty-three sets of comments were received: fourteen from UN entities, eight from NGOs, six from individuals/academics, two each from international federations and consulting firms, and one comment from a national bilateral agency. Comments addressed all aspects of the draft Model Approach, from overall objectives to structure, specific provisions and plans for implementation. A summary of comments received and corresponding responses indicating how the comment was addressed was prepared and made available on the EMG website.
16. Subsequently, the drafting group consisting of eight agencies (FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, and WFP) supported by a consultant, worked on incorporating the feedback and solving outstanding issues. To facilitate the review of UN-entity environmental and social programming policies and procedures alongside those of the Model Approach, a self-assessment tool was developed and attached to the Model Approach as an annex. The finalized Model Approach was published on the EMG website on 9 July.
17. The Model Approach is intended to serve as a reference and benchmark for UN entities to use on a voluntary basis when they adopt or revise their own environmental and social standards and safeguards. This way, the Model Approach is a first step in moving towards a common approach, strengthening policy alignment and shared learning. Currently, six UN entities are using or planning to use the Model Approach as they update or put in place their entity standards. The next phase of this interagency work will be structured around shared learning, where entities share lessons learned and good practice in standards application.
18. The Consultative Process has been working closely with the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management to develop a UN internal sustainability vision and strategy beyond 2020. A task team with members from both processes was established in January, drafting the first Phase of the Strategy throughout February and March (please see the progress report for the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management for more details). [Phase I of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030](#) (please see Information Document INF_3) is focused on the reduction of environmental impacts in corporate management. Phase I was endorsed by the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) in April and by the CEB in May. Phase II will cover the full scope of internal environmental and social sustainability in UN

system policies, programming and facilities and operations with the expectation to be endorsed by the CEB in 2020.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Endorse the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming and encourage UN entities to use the Model Approach when they adopt or revise their environmental and social standards and safeguards;
- b) Agree to extend the Consultative Process for another year to:
 - i. Collectively develop tools and guidance notes to harmonize the operationalization of the Model Approach;
 - ii. Raise awareness and facilitate shared learning to support implementation of the Model Approach through joint webinars and capacity building exercises;
 - iii. Create an online knowledge sharing space where existing guidance documents, tools and knowledge materials on environmental and social standards are compiled and made available for UN entities;
 - iv. Prepare Phase II of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030 in close collaboration with the Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management.

IV. Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management

19. The main new output for the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the past cycle has been the **Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030** – Phase 1: Environmental Sustainability in the Area of Management (please see Information Document INF_3), endorsed by the Chief Executives Board (CEB) in May 2019.
20. During the retreat of the UN Executive Committee on Climate and Security in December 2018, the Secretary-General asked the UN to raise the level of its internal sustainability ambitions and to intensify its efforts to combat climate change from within. Specifically, the Secretary-General wished to highlight at the September 2019 UN Climate Summit that the UN is “walking the talk” on environmental sustainability and climate change.
21. The Secretary-General's request raised the profile of the September 2018 mandate from the EMG Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), to develop a UN internal sustainability vision and strategy beyond 2020 in the area of internal environmental and social sustainability and to show that the UN aligns its own performance with the principles it has pioneered internationally.

22. In close collaboration with the CEB secretariat, the EMG Secretariat and UNEP Sustainable United Nations (SUN) drafted such strategy in consultation with a Task Team of sustainability focal points officially designated by their entities. The documents developed consisted in the following:
- a) *A Map of Actions by the UN system to reduce its footprint at UNHQ and in UN offices across the globe.*
 - b) *A two-phased Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030 of which Phase I: Environmental Sustainability in the Area of Management was endorsed by the CEB in May 2019. Phase 2, for endorsement by the CEB in 2020, will address the full picture of environmental and social sustainability in UN system policies, programming and facilities and operations.*
23. The Phase I component of the strategy includes:
- a) A UN 2020-2030 sustainability vision.
 - b) A commitment to system wide and entity specific environmental governance and accountability including environmental management systems and environmental and social safeguards for programs and projects.
 - c) A set of goals, objective indicators and steps to improve performance on 5 environmental impacts (Greenhouse gas emissions, Waste, Water, Air pollution, Biodiversity degradation) and 6 management functions (Procurement, Human resources, Facilities management, Travel, Events, ICT).
 - d) A clear description of the Strategy's conditions for success.
24. Progress on the recurrent work streams for the IMG, between September 2018 and August 2019 include:

UN Environmental Inventory and Climate Neutrality

25. The UN System report "[Greening the Blue—The UN system's environmental footprint and efforts to reduce it](#)" was published in December 2018. The Report revealed that, in 2017, total Greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions amounted to 1.9 million tonnes CO₂eq. The reports highlighted how 32 UN entities were able to show improvements in GHG emissions reduction in travel, facilities or both, 14 took actions against plastic and 26 implemented environmental management.
26. The eleventh edition of the Greening the Blue report is on schedule for launch on 22 September 2019 in association with the Climate Action Summit. In early September, it will be possible to anticipate the results of the 2018 inventory exercise. Data from many entities, and especially from those active in the field, have significantly improved, the number of climate neutral entities has risen and so has the interest of senior management in UN organisations thanks to the work carried out by the EMG Secretariat, its members and UNEP for the development of the UN 2020-2030 Sustainability Strategy described below.

Greening the Blue

27. The web-based [Greening the Blue](#) campaign continues to engage staff and provides entities with an opportunity to showcase efforts to improve their environmental performance. Throughout the present period, over 20 news stories were reported on Greening the Blue and until August 2019 the number of new website visits was 276,770 and followers on social media are close to 20,000 also thanks to more media attention than previous years.

Reducing the UN Environmental Footprint

28. The IMG, with the support of the SUN team, has continued intense work towards a more systematic approach to environmental sustainability management in several areas such as:
- a. Assistance on Environmental Management Implementation was provided to the UNHCR office in Amman, Jordan between January and June 2019. The pilot project helped testing and finalize the UN Environmental Management Systems Toolkit now available on www.emstoolkit.org to all UN organizations.
 - b. Assistance in greening the building plans for the new UN House in Senegal was provided by UNEP and IMG members from key (large tenant) agencies, resulting in negotiations on higher environmental standards for the facility.
 - c. The SUN team and the IMG consolidated a regular collaboration with the UN Task team on Common Premises (TTCP) which resulted in the integration of basic environmental considerations in the processes for approval of common premises. A paper on **"Environmental benefits of UN common premises"** was developed in December 2018 followed by **"Initial Environmental Guidelines for UN Common Premises"**, both officially endorsed by the TTCP. In the next months, the TTCP has suggested to develop more in-depth guidance and standards to assist UN common premises in improving their environmental performance.
 - d. **Harmonised UN wide sustainable procurement indicators:** on 27th March 2019 in Vienna, the High-Level Committee of Management Procurement Network endorsed a UN wide framework of Sustainable Procurement (SP) indicators. The project was led by UNEP and UNOPS and will allow to streamline SP monitoring and reporting in the UN system by associating the indicators to UN tenders published on the [United Nations Global Market Place](#). The indicators were developed in close collaboration with the HLCM Sustainable Procurement working group and tested on a sample of 180 tenders from ILO, UNDP, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNFCCC, CTBTO, UNOPS, UNWOMEN and the World Bank Group. The design of Phase II of the project is now underway and will focus on integrating the approved framework in e-tendering systems and in the UNGM.org platform and create UN internal capacity to use such new system
29. Since September 2018, three meetings of the Issue Management Group took place, one face to face in Geneva, kindly hosted by ITU and WIPO and two online (February and June 2019). On average these events are attended by 50 participants from 30 different entities with a good gender balance. Some of the participants are from outside of the UN system and demand to attend as observers.

30. In support of World Environment Day 2019, the Sustainable UN team facilitated a webinar on "UN Beats Air Pollution" on 13 June 2019 in collaboration with WHO, Fleet Forum and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition. The purpose of the event was to trigger an internal debate on air pollution and explore the interest on this topic within the IMG. Work on Fleet Management guidance is being considered as a direct follow up of this webinar.

Impact beyond the UN system

31. The methodologies developed by the IMG start to find followers beyond the UN system: the International Finance Institutions, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Green Climate Fund and some others are regular participants in the IMG events to exchange experiences in internal sustainability management.
32. UNEP and UNFCCC are exporting the experiences in internal sustainability of the UN system and at the Conference of the Parties in Katowice, December 2018, co-hosted an event in which [15 international organisations](#) signed up to become climate neutral and overall more sustainable following the United Nations' example.

Looking ahead

33. This past year has marked a decisive transition in the work of the IMG with the achievement of the Climate Neutrality goals and development of a new strategy that looks at the future 10 years of work. In 2020 the IMG needs to look at a new, more comprehensive way of working that integrates and makes operational the structure of the UN 2020-2030 strategy and its new pillars such as air pollution or biodiversity. Given the importance given to environmental governance, the new strategy also demands that its principles and concrete indicators are duly integrated in the context of the UN reform, in particular in the work of the Business Innovation Group.
34. Finally, the work on the strategy has highlighted once more the artificial distinction between internal sustainability in facilities and operations, and sustainability of policies and programmes. While such separation may seem practical from the point of view of management and accountability, it is fundamental that a comprehensive system of principles and reporting is aligned across all sectors of UN activities, policies, programmes facilities and operations so that the UN can truly claim it is walking the talk.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Endorse the above report on activities and invite the IMG to continue its work that has led to the successful outcome of the UN Climate Neutral Strategy;
- b) Acknowledge the achievements to date in delivering Phase I of the UN Sustainability Strategy and request the IMG to continue its work on implementation. Further mandate the IMG to collaborate with the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability on the development of Phase II of the strategy as well as on a proposal for the establishment of a standing implementation structure for the full UN Sustainability Strategy (Phases I and II) by 2020, including funding options and responsibility sharing as requested in the UN Sustainability Strategy governance indicators;
- c) Welcome the collaboration with the Common Premises task team on the integration of sustainable building considerations in UN country offices and request that the IMG and UNEP SUN escalate work on integrating environmental sustainability considerations in the current UN Reform.

V. Environmental Management Peer Reviews of United Nations Entities

35. The peer review report of UNHCR Kakuma Refugee Camp has been finalized and submitted to UNHCR for further follow up. An executive summary of the report is available on the [EMG website](#) along with summaries of the peer reviews of the UN Compounds in Amman and Beijing and the WHO and UN Women Beijing offices.
36. A Peer Review fact finding visit to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) took place on the 14th-18th January 2019. As a result, a report on themes and proposed scope of the review was prepared for ECA's consideration. The peer review process will be initiated once ECA has expressed its readiness and agreed on modalities for the review. Simultaneously, consultations are ongoing with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia and the UN Political Mission in Colombia on their possible peer reviews.
37. Peer reviewed agencies have expressed satisfaction with the peer review mechanism as it has helped them to enhance energy efficiency, set baselines and targets for improving their corporate sustainability as well as to exchange experiences and results for continuous learning and improvement. The midterm meeting of the EMG technical segment in May encouraged the EMG Secretariat to consider new ways in which this peer to peer approach could be applied, including in enhancing environmental sustainability of UN programs. For example, it was suggested that a peer to peer mechanism be considered for enhancing environmental mainstreaming/integration in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF).

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Take note of the concluded peer review report of the Kakuma refugee camp of UNHCR in Kenya; and possible peer reviews of ESCWA, ECA and UN Political Mission in Colombia in 2019-2020;
- b) Welcome the continued interest by UN agencies in the peer to peer methodology and its usefulness for improving the UN agencies environmental management and enhancing environmental sustainability mainstreaming in the work of the UN agencies;
- c) Invite the EMG members to examine consideration of a peer to peer approach in enhancing environmental sustainability mainstreaming in UNSDCFs, as well as in programming or developing/improving agencies environmental and social sustainability frameworks;
- d) Invite reviewed agencies to use the peer review reports as guidance and baselines for improving environmental sustainability measures and developing environmental management systems, and encourage other agencies to make use of these reports when putting in place or strengthening their environmental sustainability measures.

VI. Issue Management Group on Environment and Humanitarian Action

38. Efforts by the Issue Management Group on Environment and Humanitarian Action have focused around working area 1 "Enhancing access to, and uptake of, guidance, tools, standards and collaboration mechanisms" and working area 3 "Awareness raising" of its Terms of Reference, collaborating closely with the EMG Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System and the multi-stakeholder [Joint Initiative](#) – the Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action.
39. Throughout the year, IMG members (working group 1) have collaborated closely with the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System, contributing with a humanitarian perspective to the development of [the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming](#) (please see Information Document INF_2). Linking the experience and expertise of humanitarian agencies to the development of the Model Approach helped ensure that the Model Approach is conscious of the specific circumstances prevailing in emergency/crisis response and humanitarian action, where rapid response activities may require adjustments to timelines and sequencing of applying environmental and social standards as outlined in the Model. In these cases, the Model Approach recommends the integration of the outlined benchmarks into crisis response training, preparedness and prevention protocols and operating procedures. The Model Approach was finalized and published in July 2019. The Model Approach is currently being applied in pilot agencies, including UNHCR.

40. In November 2018, IMG members provided input to [EHA Connect](#), a Framework for Environment in Humanitarian Action developed by the Joint Initiative. EHA Connect is an online resource bringing the humanitarian and environmental communities together to support environmentally sustainable disaster management. Feedback and input by IMG members contributed to the shaping of the Framework as well as to ensuring that the content of the online tool is comprehensive and up to date. EHA Connect was launched at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in February 2019.
41. A draft message by the members of the Interagency Group on Environment and Humanitarian Action (working group 3) was prepared for the 24th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December. The message highlighted the need to successfully address the complex nexus of humanitarian, environment, peace and development action in order to address the challenges of a changing climate, as well as the importance of partnerships and engagement across traditional organisational mandates, increased awareness of the opportunities for decisive joint action, and working together to ensure the meaningful participation of affected communities in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including disaster risk reduction and response. The draft message was eventually used as a template and base for agencies' own communication efforts for the COP and other relevant contexts.
42. Taking into consideration that interagency activities on environment in humanitarian action continue within the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network coordinated by the UNEP-OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU), the need for a separate interagency mechanism in the form of an Issue Management Group under the EMG is no longer evident. It is therefore suggested that the IMG is concluded, while efforts to integrate and strengthen a humanitarian perspective in environmental and social sustainability tools and guidelines developed under the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability, continue. Members of the IMG are encouraged to engage in this and other EMG processes to ensure that lessons learned in the humanitarian sector are communicated and considered, and that interagency products prepared are relevant for humanitarian contexts.

Suggested Action

The Senior Officials:

- a. Decide to conclude the work of the IMG in light of sustained interagency collaboration through the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network.

VII. United Nations System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment

43. Following the release of the first synthesis report under the System-Wide Framework of [Strategies](#) (SWFS) on the Environment and the decision of the 24th meeting of the Senior Officials, the Consultative Process has focused on the preparation of the second SWFS Report. The Consultative Process had agreed on the preparation of an annual thematic report, complemented by a comprehensive triennial Synthesis Report on UN system-wide contributions to the implementation

of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals as outlined in the Framework.

44. Through consultation with EMG Members and in light of the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, it was decided that the next edition of the SWFS thematic report would focus on the cross-cutting theme of biodiversity. The report will provide information about ongoing efforts by the UN system to protect biodiversity, their focus (including in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals targets that they impact), challenges, and opportunities for contribution to and further engagement with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
45. Examples of partnerships among UN entities, potential gaps in implementation of the biodiversity agenda, and areas of intersection between biodiversity and other development, human rights and humanitarian issues will be illustrated with a view to harnessing further collaboration. Finally, the report will highlight opportunities for UN entities to enhance their own core objectives by advancing the biodiversity agenda; areas within the UN system that may benefit from further collaboration among agencies at a strategic level; innovations that can help mainstream the UN system's work on biodiversity, globally; and synthesized recommendations gathered from among UN agencies.
46. The Consultative Process is envisaged to take advantage of agencies' presence during the first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to consider a zero draft of the second edition of the SWFS Report in August 2019. It is expected that the draft report be further developed to be launched in the margins of the second meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group in February 2020. The report may serve as a starting point for developing an overview of UN system contributions to the implementation of biodiversity targets, a gap analysis and the identification of issues requiring further attention in the Post-2020 Framework.
47. With regards to next steps of the SWFS process in follow up of the environmental aspects of the SDGs in the UN system, as decided by the 24th meeting of the Senior Officials, it is envisaged that an expert meeting of the EMG be held in 2019-2020 prior to the High level Political Forum to consider progress made by the agencies in the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, nexus areas and interlinkages, and to showcase best practices and interagency collaboration efforts on the environment.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Encourage UN agencies to contribute to the second edition of the SWFS Report with focus on biodiversity, with the aim to launch the report at the UN Biodiversity Summit in September 2020, followed by a system-wide event during the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention Biological Diversity in October 2020 in China;
- b) Extend the Consultative Process to support the continued implementation of the Framework by compiling information on progress made by UN entities in the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, and showcasing good practices and examples of interagency collaboration efforts in the third edition of the SWFS Synthesis Report.

VIII. EMG Nexus Dialogues

48. During their 24th meeting the Senior Officials of the EMG requested that the Nexus Dialogues continue for another year. The Dialogues provide opportunities for promoting collaboration between agencies on SDG interlinkages, identifying opportunities for this, and facilitating the exchange of information regarding lessons and good practice.
49. Since SOM24 in September 2018, five Nexus Dialogues have been held successfully. The Nexus Dialogue on [Greening with Jobs: A Just Transition to Sustainability](#) was hosted by the ILO in Geneva on 23rd October 2018. It was attended by numerous UN entities, Member State representatives, and NGOs. The Dialogue explored potential innovative, scalable financial solutions and mechanisms able to effectively channel private and public resources for a just transition. Inter-linkages with and considerations for a just transition were also discussed, including gender, indigenous peoples, migration, etc. 10 Key Messages were produced by the Dialogue to be considered in policy debates, during implementation, and in relation to reporting.
50. The Nexus Dialogue on [Law for Environmental Sustainability](#) was organised in Geneva on 19 November 2018 in response to the call from SOM24 to address the issue of law to promote environmental sustainability in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The Dialogue explored different ways to strengthen the coordination of law for sustainability in order to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. More than 70 participants, including representatives of UN agencies, MEA secretariats, intergovernmental organisations, Member States civil society organisations, academia and the private sector provided feedback for the development of new proposals for a programme on environmental law, led by UNEP. The Dialogue's Outcome Document contributed to preparation for UNEA4 and is intended to contribute to the process to develop a new phase of the Montevideo Programme, and the review of SDG 16 at the July 2019 HLPF in New York.

51. The Nexus Dialogue on [the Environment, Peace and Security](#) was hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy on 24 January 2019. It looked at how the nexus between these three areas can contribute to achieving SDG 16, and how SDG 16 can help improve attempts to address environmental, peace, and security challenges. Panelists included Member State and UN agency representatives, academics from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and NGOs. The 10 Key Messages were developed to contribute to the review of SDG 16 at the HLPF in New York, July 2019, and to guide policy advice and future research, partnerships, and advocacy.
52. The [Sustainable Infrastructure for the SDGs](#) Nexus Dialogue was held in Geneva as a collaboration with the UNEP Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative on 26 February, 2019. It contributed to a common understanding on the centrality of infrastructure to the 2030 Agenda due to the importance of having a resilient infrastructure base, and addressed SDG 9 and its interlinkages with other SDGs. The Dialogue was also intended to foster support for public and private stakeholders to apply an integrated approach to the planning and development of infrastructure. An Outcome Statement on how integrated approaches can help deliver the 2030 Agenda, reflecting the discussions held during the Nexus Dialogue was produced.
53. The Nexus Dialogue on [Sustainable food systems: Ensuring Food Security for Future Generations](#) was held in the margins of UNEA4 in Nairobi on 12 March 2019. The Dialogue explored how sustainable food systems can facilitate the attainment of the SDGs, addressed urgent challenges regarding the food and agricultural sectors, and discussed the issue of food security. An Outcome statement on how an integrated and "food systems approach" can help deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure food security for all was produced.
54. An upcoming Nexus Dialogue on the [Sound Management of Chemical Waste](#) is currently being discussed and organised, with date and venue to be determined.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Welcome the continuation of the Nexus Dialogue series as a mechanism for ongoing discussion and continued exchange of lessons learned and good practices among UN entities and other stakeholders;
- b) Invite UN agencies to share their ideas for how the value-added of the dialogues can be further increased;
- c) Encourage UN agencies to propose themes for and contribute to future Dialogues by sharing their experience and exchanging ideas on innovative solutions to environmental challenges with other stakeholders.