

25th Senior Officials Meeting of the Environment Management Group Technical Segment, 17 September 2019, audio-video Senior Segment, 25 September 2019, New York	EMG/SOM.25 Distribution: EMG Members
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Report of the Meeting

I. Summary of Proceedings

1. The twenty-fifth meeting of the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group was held in New York on 25 September 2019. The technical segment took place on 17 September 2019 via audio-video conference. Both segments, as set out in the annexed agendas (Annex I and II), were chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment).
2. The technical segment considered progress made in the different EMG processes over the past year and approved nine action points for their future work on behalf of the Senior Officials.
3. Subsequently, the senior segment engaged in a high-level discussion on how the UN system can strengthen its efforts on biodiversity and better coordinate its contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. EMG members considered the role of biodiversity in the successful delivery of their mandates, as well as their entity's role and contributions to addressing biodiversity loss.
4. The senior segment meeting was attended by 70 representatives from the EMG membership and observing entities (Annex IV). The meeting and information documents are available on the EMG website: www.unemg.org.

A. Technical Segment

The technical segment was opened at 15:00 Geneva time with introductory remarks by the chair, Mr. Satya Tripathi, Assistant Secretary-General, Head of the UNEP New York Office and Secretary of the EMG. Following the adoption of the agenda (Annex I), the technical segment discussed the ongoing work of the EMG under agenda item 3, contained in the document (EMG/SOM.25_3). The technical segment reviewed suggested action points for ongoing and new EMG processes and approved them on behalf of the Senior Officials. The meeting of the technical segment was declared closed at 16:10 Geneva time.



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG



I. Opening remarks

5. The chair opened the technical segment by welcoming all participants. He highlighted that the senior segment would be the first EMG Senior Officials Meeting with Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, as its new Chair. Participants were reminded that detailed discussions on action points for EMG processes should take place in the technical segment to allow the senior segment to focus on its strategic discussion.
6. The agenda was adopted without any alteration.

II. Ongoing work of the EMG and suggestions for the Senior Officials

7. The chair invited participants to present overviews and updates on the varied work of the EMG.

The E-Waste Coalition

8. Mr. Nelson Manda (UNITAR), presented the work of the E-Waste Coalition. Since September 2018 the seven initial signatories of the Letter of Intent (UNU, ITU, UNEP, ILO, UNITAR, UNIDO and BRS) have met to discuss and agree on the vision, mission, governance structure, membership and core functions of the Coalition. In April 2019, three more organisations (UN Habitat, ITC and WHO) joined the Coalition. The Coalition has produced various outputs, including the report *A New Circular Vision for Electronics – Time for a Global Reboot* in collaboration with WEF and WBCSD, which was launched in Davos in January 2019. Several awareness raising activities were organized including during the 4th session of the UN Environment Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
9. The Coalition has also met with private sector representatives to discuss collaboration and possible partnerships on e-waste. Work will continue to align relevant UN entities, governments and companies around a common vision for the future of the electronics sector based on the principles of the circular economy. Mr. Manda highlighted that the Coalition still requires coordination support from EMG to enable it to become fully functional and independent in 2020. He highlighted that the EMG is appreciated as a neutral platform for the discussion of the foundations of the Coalition.

Action I: E-waste Coalition

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.

The Sand and Dust Storm Coalition

10. Mr. Utchang Kang, (UNCCD), presented the progress of the Sand and Dust Storm (SDS) Coalition. 15 UN entities are represented in the Coalition that held its first meeting in February 2019. Areas of focus, modalities and a work plan for the formation of the Coalition were agreed. A Task Team was established to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR). A consultant is supporting the development of the Coalition's Strategy and Action Plan.
11. Following the suggestion of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), an 'SDS Day' was organised on 6th of September in the margins of the UNCCD CoP 14 in New Delhi, where the Coalition was officially launched. The SDS Day served as a platform for science-policy and knowledge and experience exchange where agencies presented their contributions to and perspectives on SDS opportunities for collaborations. Presentations will be available on the EMG website.
12. Prior to the SDS Day and Coalition launch an informal technical meeting was held on the 5th of September, co-chaired by UNEP and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The meeting considered the draft Coalition ToR and Action Plan, discussed the establishment of five working groups (reflecting the different phases of the Disaster Risk management cycle and the SDS lifecycle), and commented on a draft SDS App that is under development.
13. The four main work areas for the Coalition are: facilitation of information exchange among stakeholders (e.g. data collection, knowledge sharing and innovative solutions); capacity building and training; mobilizing resources and fund-raising initiatives, and; advocacy and awareness raising. Next Steps for the Coalition include: a 3rd meeting of the Coalition that will discuss the revised draft SDS Coalition Strategy, the future work and functions of the Coalition,

the modalities for future management and coordination of the Coalition, and a modality for non-UN entities joining the Coalition, in light of interest expressed.

14. The chair underlined that the designation of a lead for the SDS Coalition is still pending.

Action II: UN Coalition on Sand and Dust Storms

The Senior Officials:

- a) Welcome the progress made in establishing the Coalition including the development of its Terms of Reference;
- b) Invite the Coalition to finalize its Strategy and Action Plan as a basis for its medium-and long-term actions.

[The Issue Management Group on Environment and Humanitarian Action](#)

15. Ms. Emilia Wahlstrom of the UNEP/UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Environment Unit, presented the work of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Environment and Humanitarian Action. The IMG has focused its work on enhancing access to guidance tools and standards and collaboration and awareness raising, as outlined in its ToR. The IMG has worked closely with the EMG Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability and multi-stakeholder Joint Initiative on the Coordination of Assessments for Environment and Humanitarian Action.
16. The notable work of the IMG from the past year has been to contribute a humanitarian perspective on the development of the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming. The IMG has also contributed to the development of the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool, benefitting from the Model Approach. This work is continuing under the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network, which is looking at available environmental assessment tools and their use in relation to safeguards and standards. The IMG members have also contributed to shaping Environment and Humanitarian Action Connect, a framework looking at how environmental actors can contribute to humanitarian aid. The website was launched in February 2019.
17. In terms of advocacy, the IMG has looked at joint messaging ahead of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) CoP. The anticipated work on cost-benefit analysis, will continue under the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network. Continued

collaboration on this is expected, particularly with the Consultative Process and the ongoing work looking at environmental programming and sustainability.

Action III: IMG on Environment and Humanitarian 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.

The Consultative Process for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System

18. Mr. Hossein Fadaei, EMG Secretariat, presented an update on the Consultative Process for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System. The Consultative Process has been a pillar of EMG work for a long time. The most important activity of the Consultative Process in 2018/19 has been the development and finalization of the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming.
19. A significant achievement, the Model Approach will help provide coherence in the way agencies develop and apply standards and procedures for the sustainability of their programmes and projects, in particular at country level.
20. The International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD), highlighted that open interaction among agencies is important to address issues related to risk and reputation that affect all. In parallel to applying the Model Approach, a continuous discussion on implementation challenges and solutions on how to overcome them is recommended. The issue of labour, child labour and decent work has been raised within the Multilateral Development Group on Safeguards. UN entities could benefit from a detailed discussion on how to ensure that they are implementing safeguards in this area from a human rights and social inclusion perspective.

Action IV: Consultative Process for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System

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.

[The Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management](#)

21. Ms. Isabella Marras of the Sustainable UN Facility presented the work of the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management. Focus has been on the development of the first Phase of the UN Strategy for Sustainability Management, prepared in collaboration with the EMG Secretariat and the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability. Phase I of the Strategy was adopted by the CEB in May. Phase II, to be developed in 2019/2020 will focus on sustainability in programming.
22. The Strategy has already produced concrete results in organisations. For instance, UNICEF is using the Strategy as a way to guide its own sustainability work and the UN Secretariat has recently approved their own action plan based on the Strategy.
23. A new edition of the Greening the Blue report has been prepared to be launched on 20 September 2019. The report outlines progress made in the implementation of the UN Climate Neutral Strategy- the UN system has reached 95% thanks to the UN Secretariat going climate neutral. The launch of the Greening the Blue report will be accompanied by the launch of a short video on the Sustainability Strategy to communicate the Strategy at the Secretary General's Climate Summit.

24. The IMG has also worked on guidance for UN common premises and integration of environmental management standards in occupying and developing premises in different countries. Furthermore, the IMG has worked with the High-Level Committee on Management Procurement Network on sustainable procurement indicators, with the aim to ensure that sustainability is systematically integrated into tenders.
25. Ms. Marras noted that the issue of labour and decent work is highly relevant also in the context of procurement.

Action V: IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management

The Senior Officials:

- a) Endorse the 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) Request the IMG to continue its work on the UN sustainability strategy implementation and to collaborate with the ESS Consultative process at a proposal for a stable UN Sustainability Strategy implementation structure by 2020 including co-funding options and responsibility sharing as requested in the UN Sustainability Strategy governance indicators;
- c) Welcome the collaboration with the Common Premises task team at the integration of sustainable building considerations in UN country offices and requests that the IMG on ESM and UNEP SUN escalate work on integrating environmental sustainability considerations in the current UN reforms.

[Peer Reviews of the Environmental Management of UN Entities](#)

26. The EMG Secretariat presented an update on the Peer Review process. In 2018 the peer review report of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Kakuma Refugee Camp was submitted to UNHCR. The Executive Summary is available for UN entities on the EMG website.
27. A fact finding visit to UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA) has been launched at their request. Teams and scope for the peer review of the headquarters of UNECA were identified. The peer review is awaiting UNECA's input on next steps, including setting a time for the site visit.
28. The issue of the continuation of the peer reviews was raised during the EMG 2019 Midterm Meeting. Peer reviews have been completed at various levels, which has resulted in a model for agencies to use the peer review methodology on their own without the support of a central

coordinating entity. The Midterm Meeting also highlighted the utility and usefulness of the peer-to-peer approach for learning from each other in other areas.

Action VI: Peer Reviews of the Environmental Management of UN Entities

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 UN agencies' environmental management and enhancing environmental sustainability mainstreaming in the work of 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.

The UN System-Wide Framework for Strategies for the Environment

29. The EMG Secretariat presented an update on the UN System-Wide Framework for Strategies for the Environment (SWFS). After the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, two years were spent developing a framework for system-wide strategies on the environment as a tool for reporting on UN system alignment with the environmental aspects of the SDGs, as well as a tool for knowledge and experience exchange on implementation and integration of the SDGs. Within this framework agencies have reported on their individual and collective action on incorporating the SDGs into their activities.
30. The first SWFS report was released in 2017. The second SWFS report is currently in progress, focusing on biodiversity. This report may serve as an input to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process. It is envisaged to be launched in connection with the Secretary General's Biodiversity Summit in September 2020. The action points will be modified to reflect this schedule as well as the recent meeting held in Nairobi in August, where UN agencies met informally to exchange views on possible UN system and EMG contributions to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

31. The UN Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) asked how the drafting of the 2nd SWSF report is envisioned and indicated interest in contributing to its preparation. The EMG Secretariat welcomed UNESCO's participation and explained that initial information has been gathered through a desk study on the contribution of agencies to SDGs 14 and 15 (Life Below Water and Life on Land) and to the Aichi Targets. However, this information needs updating to be inclusive of all biodiversity-related SDGs as well as the Post-2020 Biodiversity process. The process for drafting the report will be open. A communication will be sent to UN agencies to request any existing contributions available for submission to help prepare the report.
32. UNESCO suggested the process take into consideration how the UN will support member states in the implementation of the recommendations in the (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) IPBES report.
33. The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions highlighted that the chemicals and waste community is following a similar process to the Post-2020 Biodiversity process. The interlinkages between biodiversity loss and chemicals highlighted by the IPBES report provide opportunities for cooperation between the parallel chemicals and waste and biodiversity processes.

Action VII: UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies for the Environment

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 in the margins of the Secretary-General's Biodiversity Summit in September 2020;
- 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.

[The EMG Nexus Dialogues series](#)

34. The EMG Secretariat presented an update on the EMG Nexus Dialogues. Five Nexus Dialogues were held in 2018/19. The Dialogues have proven to be interesting incubation processes to identify new issues for future consideration by the EMG. The topics included in the meeting document on potential new topics for future work (EMGSOM.25_4) were raised during Nexus Dialogues.

35. The 2019 Midterm Meeting suggested focusing future Dialogues on issues with the most impact, especially at the country level. The Secretariat will be consulting with colleagues to ensure topics are relevant to EMG members and linked to the SDGs under review by the HLPF.
36. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) mentioned ongoing discussions about organizing a Nexus Dialogue on Human Rights and the Environment. The year (2020) would present an opportune moment for such an event.

Action VIII: EMG Nexus Dialogue Series

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.

III. Potential new topics for future work of the EMG

37. The chair introduced four potential new areas for work, each of which are detailed in a meeting document (EMGSOM.25_4).

Action IX: Potential new topics for future work of the EMG

The Senior Officials:

- a) Welcome the establishment of a Task Team on Marine Plastic Littering and Microplastics;
- b) Take note of the other three proposals presented to the midterm meeting of the technical segment and invite further consideration of possible system-wide contributions on these topics, taking into account the availability of resources.

IV. Overview of the SOM senior segment

38. The chair provided an overview of the format, structure, and topic of the high-level segment.
39. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) noted that one of the potential outcomes of the strategic discussion is the establishment of a consultative process on biodiversity which would mirror the timeline of the preparation process for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. He highlighted that the meeting document EMGSOM.25_INF_4 provides some elements of a possible work plan for organisations' contributions to the Post-2020 process.
40. UNESCAP mentioned that in the design of the consultative process it would be interesting to note how regional commissions collectively can facilitate regional consultations.
41. Draft action points for the establishment of a consultative process on biodiversity were requested, that outline how a contribution to the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework would be implemented. It was agreed that the EMG Secretariat will prepare such draft action points in advance of the senior segment.

B. Senior Segment

The senior segment was opened at 8:00am on 25 September 2019 by chair Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UN Environment. Following opening remarks by the chair, a brief overview of the outcome of technical segment was provided by Mr. Satya Tripathi, Assistant Secretary-General and EMG Secretary. The chair then introduced the strategic discussion on biodiversity in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The twenty-fifth meeting of the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group was declared closed at 9:46am.

I. Opening remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

42. In her opening remarks the chair referred to the EMG as a platform for exchange, within which UN entities can learn from each other to ensure that there is a better understanding of current environmental priorities. While the UN system has stepped up its work on climate change, there are other areas where the UN can become stronger through better coordination, with biological diversity and the sound management of chemicals and waste being two examples.
43. The chair further reflected on the Rio Conventions and the potential for these three conventions to come together in synergy. She highlighted that although there is raised awareness about climate change, there is less awareness about other dimensions that are threatening our environment.

44. The chair referenced the recent UNCCD CoP15 in India. The negative of degradation and desertification can become a positive by speaking instead about restoration, which incorporates hope, opportunity, jobs, climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, and steadying our lands. Nature-Based Solutions have also had a significant boost at the Climate Summit.
45. As a background to the agenda, the chair mentioned the CBD CoP15 in October 2020, to be held in Kunming, China. This CoP will follow the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the 2020 UN Ocean Conference. She referenced the Aichi Targets that were agreed at the CBD CoP10 in 2010 and the fact that those targets will come to an end in 2020. The 2020 CBD CoP 15 will be a chance for a biodiversity “CoP 21” (like that for UNFCCC which produced the Paris Agreement).

II. Briefing on the outcome of the Technical Segment

46. Following the adoption of the agenda, the chair invited Mr. Satya Tripathi to provide a briefing of the discussions and outcomes of the SOM25 Technical Segment, held on 17 September 2019.
47. Mr. Tripathi highlighted progress on EMG processes in the past year, nine of which will continue into the next year. In order to allow the Senior Officials to focus on strategic discussions, it was understood that the technical segment had approved the action points for the EMG’s future work, on behalf of the Senior Officials.
48. Key EMG key outcomes from the 2018/2019 operating year included: the UN Coalition on Sand and Dust Storms; the Nexus Dialogues; work of the E-Waste Coalition; the establishment of the Task-Team on Marine Littering and Microplastics; the launch of the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming, and; the endorsement of the first Phase of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System, 2020-2030.
49. The Technical Segment further discussed the opportunity to explore possibilities for inter-agency collaboration on sustainable food systems, sustainable infrastructure, and a possible contribution to the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.
50. In the absence of any further requests from the Senior Officials the Action Points were considered approved as such.

II. Strategic Discussion on Biodiversity in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

51. The chair initiated a strategic discussion on biodiversity in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. She invited those present who may not consider biodiversity to be core to their organisation’s mandate to suspend that belief and reflect, as biodiversity likely is relevant to all participants’ mandates. She highlighted that the impact of organisations’ specific focuses (eg. Chemicals and waste, economic development, social dimensions, children, etc.) reflect directly into the natural world and how it operates to sustain us (eg. farming systems,

weather patterns, ecosystem services, etc.). She underlined that even sectors that do not seem to have a direct relevance to natural resources do in fact have a link. She stated that this discussion is intended to explore these links.

52. The chair invited Ms Christiana Pasca-Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to present a short briefing on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process prior to continuing the strategic discussion.
53. Ms Pasca-Palmer thanked colleagues for the progress made in promoting the biodiversity agenda at the heart of global policy. She recognised that despite efforts over the past two decades, in recognition of scientific reports which have been released, the international community has not been successful in stopping or slowing biodiversity loss. She highlighted that biodiversity represents the infrastructure underlying our lives, societies and economies, and that in losing the 1 million or more species mentioned in the IPBES report, the capacity of the planet to support us and be resilient will also be lost. She stressed that this issue is urgent.
54. Since the 24th Senior Officials Meeting, the formal process for establishing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted at CBD CoP15 in Kunming, China in October 2020, has been initiated. The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group has been held earlier this year, and two more negotiation sessions are to follow prior to the CoP.
55. What is needed is a system change and a paradigm shift in recognising the fact that the roots of biodiversity loss and the climate change crisis are in the economic sector, our societal models, and our consumption patterns. Although these issues were reflected in the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, not enough is being done. The UN system has a unique opportunity to act as a system and as One to get this agenda moving forward.
56. The theme of the CBD CoP15 is “Ecological Civilisation: building a shared future for all life on earth”. The purpose is to include all forms of life, inter-dependency, and the concept of an ‘ecological civilisation’ as a way forward. CoP15 is expected to take decisions on mainstreaming biodiversity in 10 economic sectors: agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, mining, energy, health, etc. Ms. Pasca-Palmer highlighted education as a key sector that is missing and expressed the hope that this could be addressed with UNESCO and UNICEF colleagues. The challenge of mainstreaming environmental policy into other policy areas at national level was referenced.
57. Ms. Pasca-Palmer underlined that the UN system has the duty and responsibility, in addition to a unique opportunity to inspire, to work through their networks and clients to move this agenda forward. She expressed hope for a successful CoP in 2020, but mentioned that the real work is in the implementation of those decisions.

58. The chair thanked Ms. Pasca-Palmer and reiterated that biodiversity underlies all of society. She also highlighted the 10 critical sectors for producing the drivers of biodiversity of loss and which must be addressed in order to protect biodiversity.
59. Ms. Grete Faremo, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), indicated that biodiversity is an important issue for the UNOPS mandate of procurement and infrastructure, with impacts for decades or generations. She referred to the annual statistical report being prepared by UNOPS which covers close to 30 organisations and looks at how UN funds are spent. Given that procurement is a politically sensitive issue, the UN may need to approach this topic from a different perspective. With regard to sustainable infrastructure, UNOPS can encourage governments through the actions of the UN on the ground.
60. Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Operation Support (DOS) referred to the issue of infrastructure, adding that DOS constructs a considerable amount of camps in places rich in biodiversity. DOS therefore performs assessments prior to constructing camps so as to avoid the need for post-construction adjustments. There is a need to ensure a strategic focus on positive outcomes. He gave the example of planting culturally and environmentally appropriate trees in places where DOS works. For example in Darfur, 300.000 trees including cashew and neem were planted, which are now being harvested by locals. The UN Secretariat also works to enhance the security of those working to preserve biodiversity.
61. The chair reiterated that sustainable, green procurement is something that UN agencies need to consider, even if organisations are not under the DOS or UNOPS umbrella.
62. Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) underlined the theme of ecological civilisation as the area where UNESCO can offer support. Education, science, culture and communication are crucial for changing mindsets to protect biodiversity and avoid its loss. UNESCO's different programmes bring together over 2,200 sites which could be laboratories of learning extended to further understand biodiversity loss. Ms. Nair-Bedouelle expanded on the network of bio-sphere reserves, which are designated as sites where people live in harmony with nature where innovative ideas that combine science and traditional knowledge can be implemented and tested. These reduce biodiversity loss, measure impact, and enhance social, cultural and economic conditions for environmental sustainability. UNESCO offers its network of bio-sphere reserves and the Youth Forum as a platform for dialogue. A workshop on the development of science-based targets and indicators to measure biodiversity loss could, for instance, be organized. The UNESCO Governing Council could also be used to raise the issue of biodiversity amongst its members.
63. Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commission for Europe, referred to UNECE divisions on environment, energy, agriculture and forestry which address the issue of

biodiversity. The UNECE Water Convention deals with regional water management, transboundary water, improving water quality, but also the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity. In 2018 the Convention was opened to become global. UNECE's work on forest management in collaboration with FAO, supports the work of the CBD and the Aichi Targets. On the eve of the Climate Summit the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) 30 initiative, a regional initiative to support the Bonn Challenge to restore 30 million hectares of land, was launched. UNECE and FAO work closely with the Forum on Forests and Forests Europe to collect broad sets of data which are directly and indirectly related to biodiversity. This includes the Global Forests Resources Assessment produced by FAO and regional partners every 5 years, which linked to the forest-related SDGs and indicators. UNECE is ready to share databases and information, and to cooperate on reporting on the biodiversity-related SDGs and targets. Finally, Ms. Algayerova referred to the Nexus for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and UNECE's inter-disciplinary approach to the SDGs.

64. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, mentioned the issue of sand and dust storms and the launch of the new UN Coalition during COP 14 of the UNCCD in India, highlighting that millions of people are affected by this phenomenon globally. He suggested that the EMG could be a forum within which the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration could be discussed to galvanise a broader set of agencies to get involved with ecosystem restoration. He also proposed that the EMG consider the youth movement, taking into account that most UN agencies have a youth department or division that are not coming together in a coherent manner. Further elaborating on the role of the EMG vis a vis the SDGs, Mr. Thiaw stressed the need to look at the transactions between the Goals, as some goals may otherwise be achieved at the expense of others. Currently, no reporting mechanisms are in place to consider this and the EMG could be a platform to consider it.
65. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), highlighted the issue of urbanisation, which is often not properly planned and emphasised the need for proper spatial planning and the involvement of local, regional, and national governments alike to halt biodiversity loss. Urban sprawl will threaten biodiversity hotspots and can only be contained through strengthened urban planning and urban policies. The recently approved UN Habitat Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 reflects the commitment to strengthening the urban environment and making cities more sustainable, resilient and resource efficient. Ms. Mohd Sharif emphasised UN Habitat's interest in working closely with the EMG on formulating a joint UN contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and identifying ways to fill the gap relating to the spatial dimension of biodiversity loss.
66. The chair underlined that the Aichi Targets lacked an urban dimension. Measurable targets such as those that exist for agriculture, could be brought into the urban and infrastructure space for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

67. Ms. Marta Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, stressed that the Ramsar Convention focuses on aquatic ecosystems and that biodiversity therefore is central to the Convention's mandate. Wetlands are the most threatened ecosystem today, being lost three times faster than forests. Wetlands provide services like water, without which sustainable development cannot be achieved, and are the most effective source of carbon storage, for which they were recognised in the last IPCC report. For this reason, the Convention has a key role in contributing to biodiversity ambitions. She underlined that the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is a priority for Ramsar contracting parties, and that the Strategic Plan was designed to be fully aligned with the Aichi Targets and the SDGs. Ms. Rojas Urrego stressed that the Post-2020 Framework should be a common framework for everyone. The eight biodiversity conventions should be seen as the operational arms to address particular areas of the biodiversity agenda. She underlined the importance of aligning with the SDGs as a way to reach out to the 'non-converted'. Finally, the need to link biodiversity efforts and consider SDGs beyond Goals 14 and 15 in this context was stressed.
68. Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), underlined the potential benefits from deeper cooperation among UN entities at both the leaders and secretariat levels. She suggested that EMG could compile a calendar where members can register events and fora under organisations' responsibilities. This would be helpful to build a thread between EMG members' activities and to maximise what can be done, for example by taking advantage of individuals' presence in different locations for different events, and to highlight the inter-relationships between different organisations' agendas. The signal for cooperation needs to be given from all leaders to all staff, and that there needs to be concrete proposals on how to cooperate. It is evident that there is large potential for cooperation but there needs to be guidance in order to generate this dynamic of cooperation to encourage staff to reach out to colleagues in other UN entities. Climate change is an agenda within each organisations' agenda, and progress needs to be made at every level, including decision-making bodies and Secretariats.
69. The chair thanked Ms. Espinosa and acknowledged the value of joint townhalls to communicate collaboration.
70. Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Executive Coordinator for Environmental Finance of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), said biodiversity is central to UNDP's work and Strategic Plan, which focuses on poverty eradication and inequalities. He reiterated UNDP support for the EMG and the CBD Secretariat including the suggestion to establish an interagency Consultative Process to inform the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. UNDP is already working closely with CBD Secretariat, and other Conventions, sister agencies and partners to prepare for CBD COP15. UNDP highlighted its global portfolio of GEF and GCF funded programmes and linked initiatives on innovative finance and resource mobilization, an element that needs to be strengthened in the Post-2020 Framework, as well as

stronger engagement with the private sector on value chains and infrastructure, empowering of local communities and indigenous peoples, and strengthening our biodiversity narrative.

71. Mr. Marco Lambertini, Director General of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), expressed his excitement to see the integrated narrative of climate, nature and development. He reiterated the fact that nature is everyone's business and mentioned the WWF Sustainable Summit in the preceding week where CSOs from various non-environment sectors were present reflecting concern for biodiversity. He also reiterated the need to address the economic drivers of biodiversity loss.
72. Mr. Pavel Kabat, Chief Scientist of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), outlined the clear relationship between biodiversity and the WMO agenda, offering WMO's system approach to enhance work on biodiversity. There is considerable potential in better connecting the Conventions, particularly through co-benefitting policies. WMO offered to extend their scientific and database support for the UNFCCC to the CBD and help with the elaboration of potential co-benefits amongst the Conventions. WMO provides services such as early warning systems and climate-proofing. Mr. Kabat invited participants to consider whether the weather, early warning and climate services can be discussed in a broader context where nature could be included as a stakeholder, making WMO's services more integrated.
73. The chair underlined Mr. Kabat's point about climate change causing weather and weather impacts that themselves cause systemic ecosystem shifts. We are now beginning to understand the impacts these shifts have on our ecosystems, an issue which needs to be thought about in relation to the Conventions and the kinds of services that WMO can provide.
74. Ms. Maria Helene Semedo, Deputy Director General of Climate and Natural Resources at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), highlighted that production, consumption, and transformation processes negatively impact biodiversity, as stressed in the first State of Biodiversity Report for Food and Agriculture, launched by CBD and FAO in 2018. In relation to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework she commented that FAO promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, but that sometimes more weight is given to conservation than to sustainable use. She said that it is important to think about peoples' livelihoods, and to consider biodiversity as a solution in addition to it being a goal. Ms. Semedo highlighted the link between agriculture, food systems, biodiversity and ecosystem services in the farm-scapes, sea-scapes, and landscapes, and reiterated the need for a holistic, collaborative and integrated approach with synergies and trade-offs between solutions.
75. The chair pointed to agricultural subsidies as an issue the UN needs to speak to and encouraged a discussion on how to redirect harmful subsidies towards ones that could promote biodiversity, taking into account lessons learned with subsidies for renewable energy.

76. Ms. Dina Ionesco, Head of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Unit at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said that the IOM has been working for over 20 years to connect environment to migration. Many examples show the connection between biodiversity loss and migration, as well as how displacement can lead to environmental degradation. IOM has worked with UNFCCC, particularly in the task force on displacement, and together with UNCCD released a joint report on land degradation and displacement. IOM has also begun working with IUCN to bring migration onto the agenda of the World Conservation Congress.
77. Ms. Tina Birmpili, Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat (Ozone), brought attention to the impact of the hole in the ozone layer on ecosystems. Comparing to the discourse surrounding climate change, apart from IPBES, there appears to be no critical mass of scientists talking about biodiversity loss. A “Stern Report” on biodiversity could anchor the discussion on something more concrete and easily understood by the general public and policy makers.
78. In response, the chair made reference to the recent report *The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review*.
79. Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS), highlighted the interlinkages between the chemicals conventions and biodiversity and referred to the EMG as an important forum for cross-sectoral strategic thinking where these two areas meet. He mentioned that in 2011 the BRS Conventions produced joint guidance with the CBD on chemicals and biodiversity, and said that an update is necessary, as those who attend the CBD CoP are not representing the same ministries as those who attend the BRS CoPs. A basic challenge is communicating across sectors. Mr. Payet suggested that space be created within the biodiversity negotiations for others even remotely related to connect. He highlighted consumer culture as a driver of biodiversity loss. Raising awareness among consumers is therefore important to bring about change.
80. Ms. Margarita Astralaga, Director for Environment, Climate and Social Inclusion Division of the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD), emphasized that while progress has been made in mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture, this work needs to continue. Ms. Astralaga highlighted the importance of food systems and the lifecycle of producing, marketing, trading and consuming the food, to biodiversity. Food systems link all of the UN system as well as important multi-lateral and inter-governmental organisations. Steps need to be taken to promote integrated approaches that incorporate all the aspects of how we produce, consume, and dispose of food.
81. Ms. Karin Kemper, Senior Director for the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice of the World Bank expressed strong concern that biodiversity loss can roll back development gains, and that in combination with climate change, the impact on the world’s poor can be devastating. The World Bank works to link biodiversity to productive sectors such as agriculture,

water and irrigation. This enables the World Bank to speak with countries, Finance Ministers and other sectoral Ministers about the entire spectrum, from conservation to the productive sectors and their policies and regulations. Various sectoral investment engagements bring funding explicitly to biodiversity. The possibility to bring biodiversity issues to the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action may be brought to the World Bank's spring meeting in the lead up to CBD COP15.

82. Dr. Grethel Aguilar, Acting Director-General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), stated that the new biodiversity targets should be simple, ambitious and bold. Attention should not only be paid to the loss of biodiversity but include ecosystem services and peoples' wellbeing. A push for transformative change across economic, social and political factors is needed. The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 next June is expected to galvanize the support of IUCN Members for a robust Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework outcome for the CBD COP.
83. Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Under-Secretary-General for Partnerships at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), mentioned that this was the first EMG meeting that the IFRC has attended and that observing the EMG has inspired the organisation to develop their own environmental policy. Ms Mahmood referred to the responsibility of international institutions to set an example. The IFRC should focus not only on prevention and mitigation but also be green in their responses. Progress has been made in looking at nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction. Through their network of 13.7 million volunteers in 165,00 branches globally, the IFRC can contribute to a better understanding of challenges in environmental protection at the community and individual level.
84. Mr. Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary General of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), referred to the historically low collaboration between the human rights and environmentalist movements, though this seems to be changing. OHCHR is interested in the protection of environmental protesters, the issue of indigenous rights for whom land rights is not only a human rights issue but also the best way for preserving fragile ecosystems in their historic lands, and; the nexus between the biodiversity and the right to health. OHCHR would like to play more active role in breaking down the current siloed approach.
85. Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), referred to the obvious risk posed by environmental degradation as a driver of disasters. Supporting UN Habitat's statement, she highlighted the importance of environmental solutions in the urban setting. Biodiversity could be made a focus of UNDRR's multisectoral regional platforms. Ms. Mizutori emphasised that the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should be firmly embedded in existing national plans and strategies for coherence.

86. Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), mentioned that migratory species are often seen as the face of biodiversity loss to the general public. For CMS a top priority for the new biodiversity framework is that it better addresses the critical issue of ecological connectivity. This involves looking at areas that provide an ecological function, not just for species but also for the mandates of UN entities, for example related to food, city planning, ecosystem restoration, and world heritage. She reiterated Ms. Mizutori's point about the need for national plans to better implement the various commitments of conventions, particularly the biodiversity conventions, so that there can be more coherence at the national level. Biodiversity conventions should come together to address the IPBES findings and to communicate to those not working with biodiversity what the cross-cutting priorities are.
87. Mr. Raúl García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), said that the organisation has been working on issues related to a paradigm shift in the ECLAC region on patterns of production and consumption from a development dimension. ECLAC is promoting an integrated and holistic approach focusing on inequality. As part of this holistic approach to address inequality, ECLAC has developed a track connected to the management of natural resources and extractive industries and their impact on the environment, biodiversity and the agricultural sector. The next session of UNECLAC in 2020 will be dedicated to influencing public policies in the region for the creation of green business opportunities.
88. Ms. Candice Welsch, Officer in Charge of the Division of Operations for UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), referred to the EMG Nexus Dialogue on environment, peace and security in January 2019, noting the need to pay more attention to the environmental dimensions of SDG16. She referred to the threats posed to biodiversity by organised crime and corruption, highlighting that it is impossible to protect biodiversity without acknowledging the negative impact of crime and corruption. A strong prevention and criminal justice response must be part of a comprehensive approach to achieving sustainable development and the sustainable use of natural resources. Ms. Welsch recommended that the prevention and countering of serious crimes that have an impact on the environment, conservation and biodiversity, specifically wildlife, forest and fisheries crimes be included in the Post-2020 Framework.
89. Ms. Pasca-Palmer of the CBD Secretariat was invited by the Chair to react briefly to the interventions. Ms. Pasca-Palmer thanked everyone for their input and the dynamic discussion agreeing to the need for the Post-2020 framework to be a common framework for all.
90. The chair then concluded the strategic discussions suggesting that the strategic inputs of the Senior Officials will be compiled to be considered in the Post-2020 process. EMG members will continue to work together in preparation of a UN system contribution, recognising that the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is a member state driven process. Furthermore, she referred to the suggested proposal by the technical segment to establish a

Consultative Process (Action X) to provide a contribution by the UN system to the Framework which, to which the Senior Officials agreed.

Action X: Consultative Process on Biodiversity

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to establish an interagency Consultative Process with the purpose to prepare a system-wide contribution to the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Building on the biodiversity-focused report under the System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment, the Consultative Process shall inter alia:
 - i. Prepare a compilation of EMG Members' contributions to the Post-2020 Process;
 - ii. Provide coordinated input from the UN system to the Open-ended Working Group and other meetings with relevance to the Post 2020 Global Framework on Biodiversity;
 - iii. Prepare an analysis on the role and contributions by the UN system to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework, including an analysis of how these efforts fit within the frames of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - iv. Present its contributions, inter alia, to the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group, the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN Biodiversity Summit in connection with the General Assembly and the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and
- b) Request the EMG Secretariat to facilitate the establishment of the Consultative Process and to support its work.

91. The chair closed the meeting at 9:46am New York time.

IV. Additional comments

92. Due to the early departure of Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary General of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), a statement was delivered post meeting as follows: *"UNDESA is facilitating and supporting the High-Level Review of the SAMOA Pathway. Ms Spatolisano wished to stress the need to work collaboratively with and through UN country offices to ensure effective coordination of interventions at national and regional levels and to enhance synergies, focus on the priorities of SIDS, and ensure that they are mutually reinforcing. The SDG & Climate Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP25, which will provide an excellent*



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opportunity for UN agencies to present their work. The 2020 UN Ocean Conference will be held on 2-6 June, 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal. Preparations for the Conference are ongoing. Ms. Spatolisano wished to encourage UN agencies to participate in the Conference at the highest possible level, while also supporting the Conference preparations”.



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ANNEX 1. Technical Segment Agenda

25th Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group Technical Segment, 17 th September 2019 (15:00 -17:30 CET) Audio/video	EMGSOM.25_2a_Agenda Distribution: EMG Members
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Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Consideration of ongoing work including recommendations to the Senior Officials:
 - (a) *E-waste Coalition*
 - (b) *Sand and Dust Storm Coalition*
 - (c) *Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations*
 - (d) *Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management*
 - (e) *Peer Reviews of environmental management in United Nations entities*
 - (f) *Issue Management Group on Environment and Humanitarian Action*
 - (g) *A UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment*
 - (h) *Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues 2018-2019*
4. Potential new topics for future work of the EMG
5. Overview of the senior segment of the Senior Officials Meeting
6. Any other business

ANNEX 2. Senior Segment Agenda

25th Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group Senior Segment, 25 th September 2019 (08:00 -10:00 NY time) UNHQ, General Assembly Building, Conference Room 7 (CR7), 1 st basement	EMGSOM.25_2b_Agenda Distribution: EMG Members
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Agenda

1. Opening remarks by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Briefing on the outcome of the technical segment
4. Strategic discussion by the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group:
 - *Biodiversity in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*
5. Any other business
6. Closure of the meeting



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ANNEX 3. Technical Segment Participant List

Organisation	Name
UNEP	Satya Tripathi
	Katherine Theotocatos
UNITAR	Angus Mackay
UN ECE	Batyr Hajiyev
OHCHR	Ben Schachter
UN ESCWA	Carol Chouchani Cherfane
	Roula Majdalani
	Tarek Sadek
WWF	Claire Blanchard
	Luca Chinotti
UN ESCAP	Curt Garrigan
UNFCCC	Daniele Violetti
CEB	Federica Pietracci
	Francesco Sansoni
	Remo Lalli
UN Habitat	Isabel Wetzel
UNOPS	Itai Mukuvari
	Riikka Jalasvirta
ICAO	Jane Hupe
	Lorenzo Gavilli
BRS	Maria Cristina Cardenas
UNESCO	Livia Sagliocco
	Meriem Bouamrane
ITU	Mijke Hertoghs
UNU	Ruediger Kuehr
UNDRR	Sandra Amlang
	Sarah Houghton
OCHA	Sheilagh Henry
IUCN	Sonia Pena Moreno
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	Maria Rivera
IFAD	Renée Ankarfjard
UNCCD	Utchang Kang
CBD	Neil Pratt
SUN	Isabella Marras
EMG Secretariat	Hossein Fadaei



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Jannica Pitkanen

Irene Ngigi

Arabella Comyn

ANNEX 4. Senior Segment List of Participants

Organisation	Name	Designation
UNEP	Ms. Inger Andersen	Executive Director
	Mr. Satya Tripathi	Assistant Secretary-General, Head of the UNEP New York Office, EMG Secretary
	Ms. Susan Gardner	Director of Ecosystem Division
	Mr. Naysán Sabha	Director of Communications Division
	Mr. Tim Christophersen	Head of Freshwater, Land and Climate Branch
	Ms. Mara Murillo	
CBD	Ms. Cristiana Paşca-Palmer	Executive Secretary
	Ms. Jyoti Mathus-Filipp	Director, Implementation and Support Division
UNCCD	Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw	Executive Secretary
	Ms. Nandhini Krishna	UNCCD/CBD Liaison Officer
IMO	Mr. Frederik Haag	Head, Office for the London Convention/Protocol and Ocean Affairs
UNDP	Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya	Executive Coordinator-Environmental Finance
	Mr. Tim Scott	Policy Advisor, Environment, Natural Capital and the Environment
CEB Secretariat	Ms. Federica Pietracci	Programme Officer, HLCP
UNCTAD	Mr. Olivier Combe	Economic Affairs Officer
OCHA	Ms. Sheilagh Henry	Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer
BRS Secretariat	Mr. Rolph Payet	Executive Secretary
WIPO	Ms. Dalila Hamou	Director of the External Relations Division
World Bank	Ms. Karin Kemper	Senior Director for the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice
UNOPS	Ms. Grete Faremo	Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director



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	Mr. Andrew Reese	
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	Ms. Martha Rojas Urrego	Secretary General
	Ms. María Rivera	Senior Advisor for the Americas
UN DOS	Mr. Atul Khare	Under-Secretary-General
	Ms. Lara Larsen	Senior Environmental Affairs Officer
UNESCO	Dr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi	Inclusive Policy Lab Expert
UNFCCC	Ms. Maria Castano-Cano	Communication Specialist
	Mr. Daniele Violetti	Director of Finance, Technology and Capacity-building
UN ESCAP	Ms. Armida Alisjahbana	Executive Secretary
	Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu	Economist
IUCN	Dr. Grethel Aguilar	Acting Director-General
	Dr Cyrie Sendashonga	Global Director - Policy and Programme Group
	Mr. Jose Hong	Coordination Officer, Director General's Office
WMO	Dr. Paul Egerton	Director of Cabinet
	Prof. Pavel Kabat	Chief Scientist
	Ms. Laura Paterson	
IFAD	Ms. Margarita Astralaga	Director for Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division
UNITAR	Mr. Nikhil Seth	Executive Director
OHCHR	Mr. Andrew Gilmour	Assistant Secretary General
FAO	Ms. Maria Semedo	Deputy Director General, Climate and Natural Resources
	Ms. Mette Wilkie	Director, Forest Policy and Resources Division
UNDRR	Ms. Mami Mizutori	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
	Mr. Huw Beynon	Programme Officer
UNOOSA	Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo	Under-Secretary-General, Director
	Mr. Ian Freeman	Associate Programme Officer
Ozone Secretariat	Ms. Tina Birmpili	Executive Secretary
IFRC	Dr. Jemilah Mahmood	Under Secretary General for Partnerships
	Ms. Tessa Kelly	Climate Change Coordinator
UNFPA	Ms. Laura Londén	Deputy Executive Director
WFP	Mr. Gernot Laganda	Chief, Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction



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IOM	Ms. Dina Ionesco	Head of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Unit
UNHCR	Mr. Richard Towle	Director of the New York UNHCR Office, new EMG focal point
UN DESA	Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano	Assistant Secretary General
UNESCO	Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle	Assistant Director General
	Ms. Anna Bonetti	Programme Coordinator
	Mr. Peter Dogse	Programme Specialist
UN Habitat	Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif	Executive Director
	Mr. Chris Williams	Director
	Mr. Rafael Tuts	Director of the Programme Division
	Mr. Runze Wang	Special Assistant to the Executive Director
WWF International	Mr. Marco Lambertini	Director General
	Ms. Claire Blanchard	Head of Global Advocacy, Global Policy & Advocacy
	Ms. Lin Li	Director of Global Policy and Advocacy
UN ESCWA	Ms. Rola Dashti	Executive Secretary
UNECE	Ms. Olga Algayerova	Executive Secretary
UNU	Ms. Fatima Denton	Director of the Institute on Natural Resources
UN ECLAC	Mr. Raúl García-Buchaca	Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis
CMS Secretariat	Ms. Amy Fraenkel	Executive Secretary
UNODC	Ms. Candice Welsch	Officer in Charge of the Division of Operations
EMG Secretariat	Hossein Fadaei	Head of Office
	Jannica Pitkanen	Programme Management Officer
	Irene Ngigi	Team Assistant