



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



26th Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group Technical Segment, 15 th October 2020 (15:00 -17:00 GVA time) Online	EMGSOM.26_3 Distribution: EMG Members
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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, Task Teams and Consultative Processes under the Environment Management Group and proposes actions and directions for their work in 2020-2021. 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 28 October.

I. Consultative Process on Biodiversity

1. Following the request of the Open-ended Working Group (WG2020) on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to the EMG to facilitate the contribution of the United Nations system to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the 25th EMG Senior Officials Meeting in September 2019 agreed to establish a consultative process on this topic.
2. The Consultative Process met for the first time on the 29th of November 2019, in the margins of the 23rd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, November 25th-29th, in Montreal, considering the Consultative Process' Terms of Reference. A calendar of EMG members' upcoming biodiversity related events was created.
3. As outlined in its ToR, the Consultative Process's main deliverable consists of a system-wide contribution to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by preparing a compilation of EMG Members' submissions to the post-2020 process, providing coordinated input from the UN system to the Open-ended Working Group, and preparing 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 framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Responding to the above mandate, the Consultative Process prepared two contributions to support the development of the framework and submitted them to the CBD's WG2020 on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
4. The second meeting of the Consultative Process took place on 27 February 2020 in Rome, in the margins of the Second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to consider elements of UN system contribution to the implementation of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework . In that regard the Consultative Process agreed to prepare a UN-wide report on the role and contribution of the UN system framework.
5. With the support of a small drafting group , the Consultative Process embarked on the preparation of a UN wide-report describing the UN system's approach both to engage in and support Member States in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including a UN system high-level commitment to engage in its implementation. As a result, the report "Supporting the Global Biodiversity Agenda: a United Nations System Commitment for Action to assist Member States delivering on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework" was prepared.
6. The report provides information from 51 EMG members on the relevance of biodiversity to their existing mandates, as well as to their current activities and programmes. It addresses key roles that the members of the EMG could play to support UN Member States, as well as how their activities can help to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss within their mandates and in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report contains a high-level statement by heads of agencies of 51 UN entities committing to support Member States in the implementation of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

7. Concerned by the negative trends in the status of biodiversity and based on the clear evidence of the need to transform our relationship with nature, the UN agencies have agreed on four main areas of action to support Member States during 2021-2030 including:
 - a) Support country abilities to halt biodiversity loss and to sustainably use and enhance biodiversity through policies and programmes
 - b) Establish strong coalitions for biodiversity
 - c) Mainstream biodiversity in UN internal programmes and operations
 - d) Enhance UN-wide coherence and follow-up on biodiversity
8. The report including the statement of heads of agencies was reviewed and approved by heads of members of the EMG. The report is being finalized for consideration of the Senior Officials at their 26th meeting. It is planned to launch and communicate on the report in events before and during the CBD COP 15.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Consider and endorse the EMG report: Supporting the Global Biodiversity Agenda: a United Nations System Commitment for Action to assist Member States delivering on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- b) Decide to extend the Consultative Process on Biodiversity to follow up on the above-mentioned report in support of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

II. The UN E-waste Coalition

9. At their 25th meeting, the Senior Officials extended 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.
10. The Coalition members (UNU, ITU, ILO, BRS, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, ITC, UN Habitat and WHO) have since focused on the elaboration of the Terms of Reference of the Coalition and the development of a work plan, fundraising strategy and a communications strategy.
11. The Coalition met in February 2020 to consider its draft Terms of Reference, prepared based on the finalized joint presentation of the Coalition in the context of which the Coalition's vision and mission statements, goals and core functions were agreed. The Terms of Reference further elaborate the Coalition's governance structure and management, proposing a structure comprised of a Steering Committee, an Advisory Group and a Secretariat. Following agreement on the draft at the technical level, the draft Terms of Reference were shared for review by each

members' legal department. The Terms of Reference are currently being finalized, taking into account the comments received during the legal consultation.

12. In parallel with finalizing the Terms of Reference, the E-waste Coalition is preparing its fundraising strategy and work plan. The work plan for 2020-2021 outlines four main activities for the period, including developing a regional E-waste Monitor, a multi-sector national pilot project on e-waste and supporting the implementation of an e-waste strategy in Africa. The draft fundraising strategy sets resource mobilisation targets for the Coalition while outlining a strategic approach to engaging with possible donors. Furthermore, a communications strategy is under preparation to define clear communication objectives, target, scope, key messages and tactics for communicating with a range of audiences, including donors, consumers and relevant bodies/entities.
13. The Coalition continues to develop a mechanism for the implementation of joint UN e-waste work at the country/regional level. The mechanism will set out how the UN E-waste Coalition can support countries and regions in further identifying challenges and opportunities along the e-waste value chain and finding suitable, integrated solutions to addressing these. A meeting with private sector representatives, governments, UN entities, non-governmental organizations and development partners was organized in December 2019 in Bonn to further discuss collaboration opportunities across sectors in addressing opportunities and challenges related to e-waste management in Africa.
14. In line with the decision of the 25th Senior Officials Meeting, the E-waste Coalition has prepared for the hand-over of the support functions that have so far been provided by the EMG Secretariat. While the Terms of Reference, fundraising strategy and work plan are being finalised, an interim secretariat, hosted by volunteering Coalition members on a rotational basis, will ensure continuity of the Coalition's functions. Long-term solutions for the secretariat will be discussed in the course of the year ahead upon finalisation of the aforementioned documents.
15. EMG members that engage in e-waste related work and are interested in becoming a member of the E-waste Coalition are encouraged to contact the EMG Secretariat.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Take note of the progress made towards finalising the E-waste Coalition's Terms of Reference and the proposed arrangements for the coordination of the Coalition's activities, ensuring continuity following the hand-over of secretarial support from the EMG Secretariat to the Coalition;
- b) Decide to transfer the coordination of the E-waste Coalition to its member agencies, in light of the progress made by the group and the completed mandate of the Environment Management Group;

- c) Invite the UN E-waste Coalition to inform the Environment Management Group at regular intervals on progress in this area of work.

III. UN Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms

15. The UN Coalition on Sand and Dust Storms was officially launched 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 2019. The Coalition promotes global action on SDS bringing together expertise from different areas relevant to addressing SDS-related issues, and offering targeted cross-sectoral and cross-cutting technical support at global, regional and national levels. 15 UN entities are represented in the Coalition.
16. Following its launch, the Coalition prepared a strategy for its continued work, outlining ways and means to achieve a "five-point plan" by 2022 with the objective to have measurable qualitative and quantitative impacts on SDS issues at global, regional and national levels. The five elements include enhancing UN inter-agency collaboration, advocacy and awareness-raising, exchange of information and capacity building, development of a platform to address SDS and fundraising/resource mobilization.
17. The strategy was accompanied by an action plan including a series of actions proposed to be undertaken by members of the Coalition, following the five elements of the draft Strategy. Five working groups following a disaster risk management and SDS 'lifecycle' approach, are proposed to operationalize the action plan. The five working groups are: 1) Adaptation and mitigation; 2) Forecasting and early warning; 3) Health and safety; 4) Policy and governance; and 5) Mediation and regional collaboration.
18. An "SDS Coalition Governance Framework" was prepared to define issues such as the modalities of the Coalition's work; the structure of the Coalition and other issues relevant to its functioning. The framework further seeks to clarify what it means to be a member of the SDS Coalition; the roles of all members, as well as practical aspects related to how the Coalition will conduct its business (frequency of meetings, etc.).
19. Terms of Reference for a Sand and Dust Storm Application have been developed to be implemented with the help of the WMO Barcelona and Beijing Dust Forecast Centres.
20. Working group 2: Forecasting and early warning held its first meeting on 14 November 2019 in the margins of the Fifth Session of the WMO Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS) Steering Committee (SC) meeting in Hangzhou, China.

21. The third Coalition meeting on 2 July 2020 reviewed the progress made and the Coalition Strategy, Action Plan 2020-2022 and the Governance Guidelines document for the future management of the Coalition.
22. During the meeting the lead of the Coalition was officially transferred from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) for the next two years.
23. The fourth meeting of the Coalition will be held under the leadership of FAO in October 2020 to establish mechanisms for the five working groups and plan priority activities to provide cross-sectoral and cross-cutting technical support at global, regional and national levels, in line with the Coalition's action plan.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Welcome the official establishment of the UN Coalition on Sand and Dust Storms as well as the progress made towards establishing its work practices;
- b) Welcome the leadership of UNEP followed by FAO in ensuring progress towards implementing the Coalition's strategy and action plan;
- c) Decide to conclude the EMG's engagement in the Coalition in light of the completion of the EMG's mandate in this regard;
- d) Encourage relevant EMG members to play an active role in the Coalition and in the implementation of its action plan;
- e) Invite the SDS Coalition to inform the EMG at regular intervals on progress in this area of work.

IV. Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics

24. The EMG Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics was established in response to UNEA resolution 6 (paragraph 8), following the midterm meeting in May 2019 to strengthen the coordination of UN-system support to Member States in addressing marine litter and microplastics. 23 entities and 1 observer nominated focal points to the Task Team that held its first meeting in October 2019, agreeing on the Task Team's Terms of Reference.
25. The main deliverable of the Task Team is a comprehensive overview of UN system activities and initiatives that directly or indirectly address marine litter and microplastics, contributing to a broader stock-taking and "state of action" analysis prepared by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group on marine litter and microplastics. It is hoped that the mapping will lead to the

identification of further collaboration opportunities within the UN system related to marine litter and microplastics. A consultant was recruited to support the preparation of the report.

26. As part of the mapping exercise, a survey was circulated to the Task Team in January. In-depth interviews have been undertaken with close to 50 entities. The drafting of the report and analysis is currently ongoing, expected to be completed by the end of September 2020. Initial results show that the UN system is addressing marine litter at all levels (global, regional, transnational, national and sub-national). Projects mainly cover legislation and standards as well as capacity building, awareness raising and building the knowledge base. Opportunities to present the results to Member States, including through the AHEG and the UN Oceans Conference will be identified.
27. A webinar was organized on 30 July 2020, convening Task Team members and beyond to discuss the anticipated expansion of material production and subsequent increase in litter pollution in the context of the UN system's preparedness to support Member States in addressing marine litter and microplastics in the future.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

Agree to extend the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics to:

- a) Complete the tasks outlined in its Terms of Reference and;
- b) Present the results of the mapping exercise to relevant stakeholders in fora such as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group, the UN Oceans Conference, and others.

V. Consultative Process on Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System

29. Following the release of the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming, the Consultative Process has continued working through an expanded task team, open to all interested agencies, to explore good practice in standards application and develop guidance in the context of the Model Approach. At least five agencies have used the Model Approach as a basis for updating their existing standards, and at least three agencies have utilised the Model Approach to introduce and put in place such standards. One organization intends to use the Model Approach for putting in place standards in the future.

30. A comprehensive overview of available references, guidance materials and tools related to the application in the context of the Model Approach was developed to support agencies in their work.
31. Seven interagency deep-dive calls were organized to exchange information on the implementation of environmental and social standards in the context of the Model Approach. Topics dealt with included labour standards, accountability mechanisms, community health and safety, climate risks, organizational structures for standards management, chemicals related standards and human rights due diligence.
32. A knowledge exchange platform for UN entities on internal environmental and social sustainability was established on Yammer in April 2020. The online platform compiles tools and guidance documents, as well as presentations helpful for UN entities in their work to strengthen their sustainability management.
33. Two interagency meetings were organized to discuss the implications of Covid-19 to risk assessment in UN programming, leading to the development of practical guidance to help identify and manage potential environmental and social risks and impacts in existing and new programmes and projects in the context of COVID-19, including response activities.
34. A separate task team of 27 UN entities is working on Phase II of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN system 2020-2030. The UN Sustainability Strategy is the first attempt of the UN to look at its own environmental and social sustainability in an integrated manner. Phase II will build on Phase I to cover commitments related to sustainability management in programmes and projects. Phase II will also expand the scope to cover social sustainability in addition to environmental sustainability.
35. A senior consultant with experience in conducting sustainability management work was hired to support Phase II. Initial interviews with a limited number of UN entities were carried out, providing input to the draft Phase II outline, which was shared with agencies for comments in February. The Task Team finalized the outline during March and April, beginning the drafting process of Phase II in May. An in-person workshop that was planned to be held in May was cancelled due to the pandemic. Instead, an online workshop with the purpose to identify possible commitments with regard to sustainability in programming and projects was held on 13 May 2020.
36. A zero draft of Phase II was shared with the Task Team for comments end June. Following a compilation and initial analysis of the comments received in August, the Task Team met in September to discuss and agree on next steps. The Task Team unanimously agreed that while there is a clear demand and strong support for the development of Phase II, more time is needed to complete this process to i.a., continue working on the draft commitments, further clarifying crucial concepts and the scope of the document and bridging the gap between Phase I and II. The Task Team expressed its support for a continued process within the frames of the EMG to complete Phase II and arrive at a holistic sustainability strategy in accordance with the vision articulated in Phase I.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

Agree to extend the Consultative Process for another year to:

- i. Finalise Phase II of development of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030 in close collaboration with the Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management;
- ii. Raise awareness and facilitate shared learning to support application of the Model Approach through joint webinars, communications and capacity building exercises;
- iii. Explore opportunity(ies) to apply the Model Approach in country level programming (e.g. UNSDCF process, joint programming).

VI. Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management

UN Environmental Inventory and Climate Neutrality

37. The UN System report "[Greening the Blue–The UN system’s environmental footprint and efforts to reduce it](#)" was published in September 2019 in association with the Climate Action Summit. The Report revealed that, in 2018, total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions amounted to 2.0 million tonnes CO₂eq. A total of 55 UN entities were climate neutral for 2018, representing 95% of the System's reported GHG emission, which brings the UN system a step closer to its goal to reach climate neutrality by 2020.

38. The twelfth edition of the Greening the Blue report is on schedule for launch on 16 November 2020. Even with the difficulties faced this year, 79% of IMG entities, covering 90% of the UN’s GHG emissions will report new data for 2019, ensuring that the UN System can continue to understand its environmental impact and work on its goals of reducing that impact. In early October, it will be possible to anticipate the results of the 2020 inventory exercise.

Greening the Blue

39. The Greening the Blue website is currently undergoing a major renovation. The 2020 Greening the Blue report will reflect those updates. The update of the website aims to provide an

improved platform for UN personnel and for UN entities to showcase their efforts in reducing their environmental impacts. The updated website is planned to be launched in November 2020.

40. The Greening the Blue tutorial which is the first tutorial on environmental sustainability that was designed for UN personnel in 2014 is currently being updated in collaboration with UNDP. The update of the tutorial aims to reflect the latest trends, the global situation and the UN system commitments and efforts in internal environmental sustainability. It is planned to be launched in January 2021.

Reducing the UN Environmental Footprint

41. 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) The SUN team is supporting a team of representatives from Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in initiating collaborations to implement Environment Management Systems (EMS) in their respective MEAs with the goal of improving their internal environmental sustainability, particularly in the area of multilateral meetings where these groups have the largest environmental impact.
 - b) The SUN team is currently finalizing a new guidance “Important and Desirable Actions (IDEAs)” related to the leasing/relocating, renovating and building new offices, it includes a performance criteria for those offices. It was presented to the UN Task team on Common Premises (TTCP) for approval.

Sustainable procurement

42. The twelve Sustainable Procurement indicators developed by the Sustainable Procurement Working Group (SP WG) have been incorporated into the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) in January 2020. Since then 141 UN tenders have been highlighted as sustainable, i.e. they incorporated at least one aspect for each dimension of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. The Phase I requirements for procurement in the UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030 were operationalized by the SP WG, breaking them down into individual, concrete tasks that organisations need to follow to ensure compliance.
43. SUN and IOM will partner to work on a sustainable fleet management project, piloting other UN humanitarian entities. The project aims to provide guidance on how to reduce the environmental impacts of fleet based on better data collection and analysis. The project will be finalized by December 2020.

44. The SUN team has concluded, in August 2020, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Swedish Environment Protection Agency for a renewed partnership of 4 years. The project aims to assist UN entities in three aspects: Environmental Management System (EMS), sustainability reporting and remote events.
45. The SUN team and the IMG provided assistance and technical advices to two JIU reviews (common premises and environmental policies).
46. Since September 2019, three meetings of the Issue Management Group took place, one face to face in Montreal, kindly hosted by ICAO and two online (March and June 2020). 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.
47. In support of this year's status of super year for nature and biodiversity, the Sustainable UN team facilitated a webinar on "Time for Nature @UN" on 8 September 2020 in collaboration with CBD, UNEP-WCMC and EMG. The purpose of the event was to kickstart the discussions on the UN system biodiversity commitments, including the UN 2020-2030 sustainability strategy.

Impact beyond the UN system

48. 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.
49. The Green Climate Fund expressed its interest to officially join the Greening the Blue initiative.

Suggested Actions:

The Senior Officials decide to extend the Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management to:

- a) Finalize the UN environmental inventory and climate neutrality status report (the 2020 Greening the blue report) by November 2020 along with the revamped Greening the Blue website;
- b) Continue liaising with the Task Team on Common Premises on the finalization and adoption of the new guidance "Important and Desirable Actions (IDEAs)";
- c) Work with UN experts (e.g. UNEP-WCMC, CBD) towards the implementation of the biodiversity aspect of the UN 2020-2030 environmental sustainability strategy;
- d) Continue to support the development of Phase II of the Sustainability Strategy in close collaboration with the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability.

VII. Environmental Management Peer Reviews of United Nations Entities

50. The EMG initiated the peer review process in 2012 to review the environmental sustainability profile and performance of UN entities, with the overall objective to strengthen the UN leadership role and support Member States in furthering the global sustainability agenda.

51. To date, 11 peer reviews have been conducted involving UNIDO, WMO, UNEP, IMF, UNRWA, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UN Women, WHO.

52. Despite good results to date as well as general interest in new peer reviews, a number of planned reviews have not gone ahead or are on hold. For example, following the fact-finding mission to UNECA in January 2019, the peer review has not materialized. Discussions continue with the UN Country Team in Colombia to carrying out a peer review of the environmental management of the political mission there. This would be the first peer review that is closely linked to the UN Reform process.

53. While financial constraints and current COVID-19 crisis may have played a role in these delays, it may also indicate the need for a renewed peer review format to better address current needs of the UN system in relation to internal sustainability goals. In order to understand the benefits and shortcomings of the process so far, an analysis of the accomplished peer reviews, including interviews with reviewed agencies and members of the peer review body is being prepared.

54. The objective is to make Peer Reviews more appealing and relevant in the context of the UN Reform, the 2030 Agenda and the UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030), while retaining the

functioning aspects of the existing process and integrating lessons learned. The analysis will also address the possible need and appetite for expanding the scope of peer reviews from facilities and operation to include programs and projects.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Take note of the ongoing process for a review and analysis of the EMG Peer Reviews;
- b) Invite the Peer Review Process, the Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management and the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System to consider the findings of the review as a basis for a new approach to future peer reviews in line with and in support of the UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030;
- c) Request the EMG Secretariat to report on progress made to the next meeting of the Senior Officials.

VIII. UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies for the Environment

55. The 25th EMG Senior Officials Meeting encouraged UN agencies to contribute to the second edition of the SWFS Report with focus on biodiversity and decided to 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.
56. Focus on 2020 has been on the second edition of the SWFS report, which has been prepared as a thematic report on biodiversity by the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity (please see above). Finalized in September 2020, the report addresses key roles that UN organizations could play to support member states, as well as how their activities can help to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss within their mandate and under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report will serve as a basis for a UN agenda for action on biodiversity during 2021-2030. Originally planned to be launched at the CBD COP 15, following adjustment to the rescheduling required by Covid-19, the report will be launched and introduced in events prior and during the rescheduled COP 15.

57. The SWFS is the main vehicle through which the EMG contributes to an effective implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by collecting data on ongoing activities and initiatives in the UN system on the environment and analyzing this data in terms of progress made, gaps and challenges and opportunities for further collaboration among the EMG members. Building on the SWFS, further analysis of major developments within UN entities in the area of environment could be prepared, including their adoption of environment related policies and strategies, both from the point of view of operations and programming. A comparative analysis may provide information on trends when it comes to environmental integration and serve as a “health check” of environmental mainstreaming in the UN system. The role of the SWFS in bringing regular and systemic UN system data and analysis on the environmental indicators of the SDGs to UNEA and HLPF could be further strengthened.

Suggested Action

The Senior Officials:

Extend the Consultative Process to:

- a) Prepare the third edition of the SWFS Synthesis Report benefiting from a systemic approach and methodology in data collection, analysis and reporting on the environmental aspects of the SDGs by the UN System.

IX. EMG Nexus Dialogues

58. The organization of nexus dialogues has required adjustment to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to increased travel restrictions followed by complete lockdowns in many countries, the dialogue concept has been adapted to fit an online format, allowing a broader participation and reducing the length of the dialogues.

59. A nexus dialogue on [*Enhancing Synergies between the Post-2020 Frameworks for Biodiversity and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste*](#) was prepared to be held in Geneva on 23 March 2020. The dialogue’s aim had been set to foster support by multi-level stakeholders for the application of an integrated approach to the planning and development of the post-2020 frameworks of the two disciplines. Due to the international measures put in place in reaction to the escalating pandemic, the dialogue was postponed to a later date. A new date for the dialogue is currently being identified in relation to the adjusted schedules of the CBD and SAICM processes.

60. As part of its nexus dialogues series, the EMG offered its convening role to facilitate an exchange of multisectoral and multilevel stakeholder perspectives on the implications of the pandemic with focus on environmental dimensions and SDGs. A series of three online dialogues organized on 14-16 July 2020 provided an opportunity for UN agencies and other stakeholders to broaden

their reach, share views and perspectives, capacity building efforts and innovative solutions and identify opportunities for collaboration in addressing COVID-environment and sustainable development issues. Under three umbrellas (Pollution & Waste, Building Back Better, and System Resiliency & Health Related Interdependencies), representatives of the international development community addressed specific issues including waste management, valuing and investing in nature, rebuilding the next generation of social, ecological and productive infrastructures, and modernizing environmental governance and multilateralism. The outcome document can be found [here](#).

61. [A 3-part series of virtual Nexus Dialogues on human rights and the environment](#) was organized in close collaboration with OHCHR. A dialogue on the *Right to a Healthy Environment, organized on 24 July 2020*, provided an overview of the importance and global salience of this right. A dialogue on *Examining the Elements of the Right to a Healthy Environment* (22 September) focused on substantive and nexus elements including human rights and biodiversity, a safe climate, human rights and toxic waste, procedural rights and institutions, and what the UN can do to advance rights-based environmental action. Finally, *Supporting Rights-Based Environmental Action: A Workshop* on 23 September discussed concrete and actionable ways forward to promote and coordinate interagency and UN system work on the nexus topics.
62. Forthcoming Nexus Dialogues will cover topics such as mineral governance, gender and environment and Stockholm +50. A dialogue on sustainable fashion has been postponed until further notice.

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 on the implementation of the SDGs including their environmental dimensions;
- b) 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.