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ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG



**26<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting of the Environment  
Management Group**

Technical Segment, 15 October 2020

Senior Segment, 28 October 2020

EMG/SOM.26

Distribution: EMG Members

## Report of the Meeting

### I. Summary of Proceedings

1. The twenty-sixth meeting of the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group (EMG) was held as a web conference on 28 October 2020. The technical segment took place online on 15 October. The Senior Officials Meeting was chaired by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Chair of the EMG, Ms. Inger Andersen, whereas the technical segment was chaired by Mr. Satya Tripathi, Assistant Secretary-General and EMG Secretary.
2. The technical segment considered progress made in the different EMG processes over the past year and approved twelve action points for the future work of the EMG on behalf of the Senior Officials.
3. Subsequently, the senior segment engaged in a high-level discussion focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and environment and human rights
4. The senior segment meeting was attended by 41 EMG members and three observing entities (Annex III). The meeting and information documents are available on the EMG website: [www.unemg.org](http://www.unemg.org).

### A. Technical Segment

The technical segment was opened at 15:00 CEST with introductory remarks by the chair, Mr. Satya Tripathi, Assistant Secretary-General, 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.26\_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 17:00 CEST.



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### *I. Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda*

5. The chair opened the technical segment by welcoming all participants. He explained that the Senior Officials Meeting, including the meeting of the technical segment, takes place in October rather than September due to the ongoing global pandemic that forced a change in the modalities of the UN General Assembly, in which context the Senior Officials Meeting is normally held. For this reason, the Senior Officials will exceptionally convened online rather than in person this year.
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.

### *Consultative Process on Biodiversity*

8. Mr. Neil Pratt (CBD Secretariat), presented the progress made in the Consultative Process on Biodiversity. Two inputs have been submitted to the Open-Ended Working Group under the CBD to support the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In addition, the Consultative Process has prepared 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”* including information provided by 51 UN entities on the relevance of biodiversity to their mandates, activities and programmes as well as key roles that EMG members could play to support Member States in addressing direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss.
9. The report further includes a high-level statement by heads of agencies, committing their support to Member States in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. The report will be launched and made visible before and during the CBD COP15. Mr. Pratt conveyed the CBD Executive Secretary’s appreciation to all EMG members for the significant efforts that have gone into this work, stressing that the work of the Consultative Process will provide a valuable foundation for system-wide support of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. He further highlighted the significance of the request for the EMG’s contribution deriving from a formal intergovernmental body under the CBD. Member States attach high priority to integrated approaches to biodiversity.



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## Action I: Consultative Process on Biodiversity

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.

## The E-Waste Coalition

10. Ms. Jannica Pitkanen (EMG Secretariat) provided an overview of the work of the E-waste Coalition. In line with the decision of the 25<sup>th</sup> 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. The Coalition has prepared and agreed on its Terms of Reference at the technical level, currently incorporating comments received during a consultation with Coalition members' legal divisions. A fundraising strategy and work plan are being finalised to further clarify the fundamental aspects of how the Coalition will work together going forward. An interim secretariat hosted by volunteering Coalition members will ensure continuity of the Coalition's functions. EMG members who are interested in joining the E-waste Coalition were encouraged to contact the EMG Secretariat.

## Action II: E-waste Coalition

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.

#### UN Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms

11. Mr. Feras Ziadat (FAO) presented the progress on the Sand and Dust Storm (SDS) Coalition. Launched during the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on 6 September 2019, the Coalition has brought together 15 UN entities to promote cross-sectoral support at global, regional, and national levels.
12. Since its launch, the Coalition has prepared a strategy and its action plan, both anchored by five key elements: 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. To operationalize the action plan, five working groups were proposed: 1) Adaptation and mitigation; 2) Forecasting and Early warning; 3) Health and Safety; 4) Policy and Governance; and 5) Mediation and Regional Collaboration.
13. Thus far, the Coalition has held three meetings, with the fourth being held under the leadership of FAO in October 21-22, 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.
14. During third Coalition meeting on 2 July 2020, the Coalition's lead was officially transferred from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) for the next two years.
15. WMO stated the desire of the World Meteorological Organization to lead on the forecasting and early warning component of the SDS Coalition Strategy. With three operational centres in Europe and Asia and regional support from UNEP and ESCWA, WMO can provide operational and data expertise to the Forecasting and Early Warning Working Group. WMO highlighted that the EMG has provided a good venue for the initial discussion relating to the structure and modalities of the Coalition.

#### Action III: UN Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms

##### 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.

#### Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics

16. Ms. Patrycja Enet (EMG Consultant) presented progress on the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics, which was established in May 2019 and comprises 23 entities and 1 observer. The Task Team's main objective is to contribute to the stock-taking and "state of action" analysis prepared by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group on marine litter and microplastics, and provide a comprehensive inventory of mandates, activities, projects, programmes, initiatives, partnerships, and collaborations in the UN system on issues relating to marine litter and microplastics.
17. During spring through early-summer 2020, the Task Team conducted survey submissions, a webinar, and 50 individual consultations. Ms. Enet stated that the draft report is currently being finalized.

#### Action IV: Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics

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.

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

18. Ms. Holly Mergler (UNDP) and Ms. Jannica Pitkanen (EMG Secretariat) presented an overview of the consultative process on advancing environmental and social sustainability in the United

Nations system. The Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming ensures that UN programme and project management considers environmental (e.g. biodiversity, natural resource management, climate, pollution, etc.) and social (e.g. human rights) impacts.

19. The Model Approach has seen considerable application on a voluntary basis. 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.
20. Seven interagency deep-dive calls were organized to exchange information on the implementation of the Model Approach, including the following topics: labour standards, accountability mechanisms, community health and safety, climate risks, organizational structures for standards management, chemicals related standards and human rights due diligence.
21. The Consultative Process has continued working through an expanded task team and has presented and developed references, guidance materials, and tools related to the application of the Model Approach, including the environmental and social implications of COVID-19 to risk assessment, and establishing a knowledge exchange platform for UN entities on internal environmental and social sustainability.
22. Ms. Mergler emphasized that the task team invites any interested agencies in the process of exchange, sharing lessons learned, and the adoption/development of relevant standards.
23. Ms. Pitkanen stated that the consultative process has been involved in the development of the second phase of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN system 2020-2030 through a separate task team of 27 UN entities. With Phase I of the Strategy approved and endorsed by CEB in May 2019, Phase II expands the scope to cover sustainability in UN programmes and projects.
24. 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 more time is needed to 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.
25. ILO commended the consultative process to be both useful and insightful, remarking that the ILO is using the Model Approach to build an internal set of standards.

## Action V: Consultative Process on Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System

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).

### Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management

26. Ms. Isabella Marras of the Sustainable UN (SUN) Facility presented the work of the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management. The twelfth edition of the Greening the Blue report is scheduled to launch on 16 November 2020, despite this year's difficulties. 79% of IMG entities, covering 90% of UN's GHG emissions, will report new data for 2019, creating the possibility to anticipate the results of the 2020 inventory exercise.
27. The Greening the Blue website is being updated to provide an improved platform for UN personnel and UN entities to showcase their efforts in reducing their environmental impacts. The updated website is scheduled to launch in November 2020, shortly after the report.
28. Following a request by the Chief Executives Board and the UN Secretary General, the EMG Secretariat and SUN have provided guidance on Phase 1 of the UN Strategy for Sustainability Management, starting with biodiversity, climate action, and sustainable buildings. The SUN team is currently finalizing a new guidance "Important and Desirable Actions (IDEAs)" related to the leasing/relocating, renovating and building new offices, including a performance criterion.
29. 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 are operationalized by the SP WG, breaking them down into individual, concrete tasks that organisations need to follow to ensure compliance.





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30. Ms. Marras remarked that the IMG has been working together for 10 years to implement commitments in facility and operational management, but it increasingly finds itself working in other collaborative processes, e.g. biodiversity, procurement etc.

#### **Action VI: Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management**

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.

#### [Environmental Management Peer Reviews of United Nations Entities](#)

31. Mr. Ivan Blazevic (EMG consultant) presented an update on the Environmental Management Peer Review process. The EMG Secretariat initiated the peer review process in 2012 to provide UN entities the possibility of reviewing each other's environmental sustainability profile and performance, with the objective of strengthening the UN leadership role and support Member States in furthering global sustainability.
32. To date, 11 peer reviews have been conducted involving UNIDO, WMO, UNEP, IMF, UNRWA, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UN Women, and WHO.
33. An analysis was made to assess the benefits and shortcomings of the process, in an effort 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.
34. Preliminary results indicate that 140 technical recommendations rose out of the 11 peer reviews, with at least half of those recommendations being implemented, which in the context of financial, resource, and COVID-19 challenges, is an achievement. There are certain universal recommendations, including: need to improve energy monitoring and management, efficiency of



operational equipment, and regular cleaning of solar photovoltaic cells. A complete analysis of all benefits and shortcomings of the process will be published shortly.

35. Despite robust interest and the positive impact, new and planned reviews are currently on hold. Interviews with the 11 locations yielded a unanimous request not to perform remote peer reviews (as would be required in the context of the ongoing pandemic), as there is concrete and significant value in being on location. However, 80% of interested parties for future/planned peer reviews would accept a remote process. Further discussions on possible remote peer reviews will be held.
36. Sustainable UN (SUN) Facility stated that it is critical to follow-up after the peer reviews, but the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management neither has the mandate nor resources to do this. Follow-up is important to understand what concrete organizational behaviours (e.g. reduction in GHG emissions) come out of the peer review process, perhaps strengthening the case for them and the integration of sustainability at all levels of the UN.

#### Action VII: Environmental Management Peer Reviews of United Nations Entities

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.

#### UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies for the Environment

37. Mr. Hossein Fadaei (EMG Secretariat) presented an overview of progress made on the UN System-Wide Framework for Strategies for the Environment (SWFS). The SWFS is the main vehicle through which 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 analysing this data in terms of progress made, gaps/challenges/and opportunities for further collaboration among the EMG members.
38. The first SWFS report was released in 2017, encompassing cases of agency best practices. Following its publication, there was a request to focus thematically in subsequent publications, in



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lieu of an annual comprehensive report. Therefore in 2020, the second SWFS report was prepared as a thematic report on biodiversity by the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity. Finalized in September 2020, the report addresses key roles that UN organizations could play to support member states, and how their activities address direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss within their mandate. 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.

39. The third SWFS report will build on a systematic, data collection methodology to report on UN agencies' environmental scopes and current commitments under the SDGs.

#### **Action VIII: UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies for the Environment**

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.

#### **EMG Nexus Dialogues**

40. Ms. Nina Arden (EMG Consultant) presented an overview of EMG Nexus Dialogues held during 2020. Given challenges and travel restricted posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dialogues have been adapted to fit an online format, allowing broader participation and reduce their length.
41. A 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 but due to international measures, it has been postponed to a later date, in relation to the adjusted schedules of the CBD and SAICM processes.
42. In 2020 thus far, six Nexus Dialogues were organized. A *3-Part Series on COVID-19 and the Environment* (14-16 July 2020), and a *3-Part Series on Human Rights and the Environment* (24 July; 22-23 September 2020). The COVID-19 and the Environment series focused on three umbrellas (Pollution & Waste, Building Back Better, and System Resiliency & Health-Related Interdependencies) to share views and perspectives, capacity building efforts, and identify collaborative opportunities in addressing sustainable development in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

43. The Human Rights and the Environment series was organized in close collaboration with OHCHR, and focused on the Right to a Healthy Environment, its substantive and nexus elements such as biodiversity, safe climate, toxic waste, procedural rights, and rights-based environmental action, and ending with a workshop which discussed interagency and UN system work on the nexus topics.
44. The final 2020 Nexus Dialogue will be Mineral Resource Governance, prepared to be held on 17 November 2020. Forthcoming 2021 Dialogues will cover topics such as gender and the environment, and Stockholm +50.

### Action IX: EMG Nexus Dialogues

#### 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.

### *III. Potential new topics for future work of the EMG*

#### *A) Issue Management Group on Human Rights and Environment*

45. Mr. Ben Schachter (OHCHR) presented the proposal on the establishment of an IMG on human rights and environment. The nexus dialogue series on human rights and environment informed the proposal and led to a consensus among EMG members of the usefulness of such collaboration. The proposal, initially discussed at the EMG midterm meeting in April, was further elaborated by an internal workshop following the nexus dialogues. There was agreement that given the evolving normative consensus around human rights in relation to the environment, it is an appropriate time to establish the IMG to strengthen coordination across the UN system on this topic. The UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights also points in this direction.
46. The potential scope of the IMG includes promoting integration of the human right to a healthy environment in the work of UN country teams, human rights treaty bodies and MEAs, drawing on existing UN efforts and UNDG guidance on human rights based approach; supporting efforts to build back better and more sustainably from the COVID-19 crisis promoting a Human Rights based approach to the UN's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts including green stimulus packages; facilitating and enhancing coordination and information sharing among UN actors and actors in human rights and environment at the international , regional and national levels; improving

protection measures for environmental human rights defenders and strengthening dialogue between defenders, the UN system and governments; and promoting public participation, access to information and access to justice in environmental matters.

47. Exact activities and Terms of Reference will be discussed with interested members of the EMG prior to and during the first meeting of the new IMG. It is envisaged that the IMG would operate for an initial period of 18 months with the possibility of extension. OHCHR reaffirmed its interest in supporting the work of the IMG.

#### **Action X: Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment**

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to establish an Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment with the purpose to integrate the human right to a healthy environment in the work of the UN ensuring a coherent, rights-based approach to environmental action throughout the UN system;
- b) Request the EMG Secretariat to facilitate the establishment of the IMG and to support its work.

#### **B) Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure**

48. Mr. Joseph Price (UNEP) presented the proposal to establish a Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure in the context of the implementing the UNEA4 resolution on this topic. Follow the nexus dialogue on sustainable infrastructure which EMG hosted last year, the EMG Midterm Meeting was introduced to the draft good practice guidance framework for sustainable infrastructure, containing 10 high level principles for policy makers. Since then, regional consultations with member states have been completed to collect feedback on these principles. With sustainable infrastructure being central to deliver on the Paris Agreement, the SDGs and green recovery post COVID-19, an EMG consultative process is proposed to strengthen cross-UN coordination on this topic.

49. The process is envisaged to include a review of the good practice framework building on the expertise of the different entities; a compilation of relevant knowledge products, tools and policy guidance created by relevant entities, which would complement guidance and provide member states with practical means of implementing the principles; a calendar of relevant international events and policy processes in the lead up to UNEA5 in 2021; coordinated input to relevant events and policy processes as opportunities to raise awareness on sustainable infrastructure at the global level; and a follow up meeting to the nexus dialogue focusing on

how sustainable infrastructure can deliver on the SDGs while stimulating economies and building resilience in the post COVID-19 context.

50. DESA noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee of the Secretary-General and ECOSOC recently held a joint meeting on developing sustainable infrastructure, utilising science, technology and innovation (STI) in response to COVID-19. The meeting demonstrated clear relevance and vital importance of sustainable infrastructure and STI for COVID-19 response and achieving the SDGs. Responding to COVID-19 could offer an opportunity for building resilient and sustainable infrastructure, including social infrastructure. Institutional innovations have fallen short on global policy harmonization and accelerating sustainable infrastructure investment. DESA welcomed the proposal to launch a consultative process in this area and looked forward to receiving additional information on how its work is envisaged. DESA further offered its support through its work on energy, sustainable transport, oceans, water and sanitation, food systems and more broadly in the context of technology facilitation mechanisms.

51. ICAO expressed its full support for the proposal on sustainable infrastructure.

52. UNDP expressed its full support of the two presented proposals and highlighted that in implementing their sets of work to be approved, these work streams have many synergies with ongoing EMG processes, to which it will be important to make connections.

#### **Action XI: Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure**

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to establish a Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure to strengthen the coordination of UN-system support to Member States in this area of work;
- b) Request the EMG Secretariat to facilitate the establishment of the IMG and to support its work.

#### *IV. Overview of the SOM senior segment*

53. The chair provided an overview of the format, structure, and topic of the high-level segment. It was highlighted that the proposed outcome of the SOM is to establish a task team to build and follow up on their shared perspectives in preparing a proposal on system-wide opportunities for collaboration on the environment in the context of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

54. As a proposal for consideration of the Senior Officials, the following suggested action was proposed:

## Action XII: Consultative Process on COVID-19 and the Environment

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to establish a consultative process on COVID-19 and the Environment to define a coherent approach and a common narrative on environmental sustainability inclusion in measures to build back better and identify opportunities for collaboration in the UN system.

55. The chair thanked the EMG members for their support and outstanding contributions throughout the year.

## B. Senior Segment

The senior segment was opened at 14:00 CEST on 28 October 2020 by chair Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme. 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, focused on human rights and environment as well as the COVID-19 environment nexus. The twenty-sixth meeting of the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group was declared closed at 15:20 CEST.

### *1. Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda*

56. In her opening remarks the chair referred to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), typically held in the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September. Due to this year's teleconference format, it was decided to slightly delay the SOM's senior segment to allow for greater flexibility in workstreams and time scheduling.
57. The chair reflected on the agreement made by the senior officials during the 25th Senior Officials Meeting to prioritize nature and biodiversity at its highest level during 2020 – known as the “Nature Super Year”. In addition to thanking the admirable efforts by each agency's staff members, she mentioned that the Secretary-General has placed nature/biodiversity on the Chief Executive Board's (CEB) 2020 agenda, indicating that the work in the EMG has resonated successfully up to the CEB.
58. Further, the chair stated that the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), in close collaboration with UNDP, have manifested a draft common approach to focus on three tentative areas of impact in relation to nature and biodiversity: 1. They are critical for peaceful institutions and planetary stability, 2. The necessity of inclusive green recovery from COVID-19, and 3.

Institutions and justice. The intention is to finalize the common approach in time to inspire discussion at 2021's CEB.

## *II. Consideration of the Outcome of the Technical Segment, including EMG Workplan for 2021*

59. Following the adoption of the agenda (Annex II), the chair invited Mr. Satya Tripathi to provide a briefing of the discussions and outcomes of the SOM26 Technical Segment, held on 15 October 2020.
60. Mr. Tripathi highlighted progress on EMG processes in the past year, seven 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 twelve action points as delineated in EMGSOM.26\_3a for the EMG's future work, on behalf of the Senior Officials.
61. Key EMG outcomes from the 2019/2020 operating year included: Consultative Process on Biodiversity; work of the E-Waste Coalition; the successful transfer of UN Coalition of Sand and Dust Storms from UNEP to FAO; progress of the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics; progress on the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming; the Nexus Dialogues; work of the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management; and progress on the second Phase of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System, 2020-2030.
62. The Technical Segment further discussed the opportunity to explore possibilities for an inter-agency, consultative process on sustainable infrastructure, and the establishment of an IMG on Human Rights and Environment.
63. In the absence of any further requests from the Senior Officials the Action Points were considered approved as such. The EMG Workplan 2020-2021 is attached as Annex IV.

## *II. Strategic Discussion on Matters Warranting System-Wide Coordination and Collaboration*

64. The chair initiated a strategic discussion on matters on the imperatives of human rights and environment, and the COVID-19 – environment nexus. She invited Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to present her perspectives on human rights and environment in the UN system and opportunities for collaboration.
65. Ms. Bachelet thanked colleagues for supporting the IMG on Human Rights and Environment, noting that it contributes to existing EMG processes, e.g. the UN Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming, the UN Sustainability Strategy for 2020-2030, and the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity. The IMG aligns with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, especially in the COVID-19 crises' context of building back better. The Call to Action contains a dedicated section on the rights of future generations, including climate justice and calls for, inter alia, increasing United Nations support at the member



state level for laws and policies that regulate and promote the right to a healthy environment, and for effective individual access to justice and effective remedies.

66. The new IMG will address the interlinked economic, environmental, and human rights crises currently faced by humanity, by promoting enhanced interagency collaboration for rights-based environmental action and creating space for multi-stakeholder discussions involving governments, human rights defenders, women, children, youth, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, local communities, and others whose rights are affected by environmental degradation.
67. Ms. Bachelet concluded by asking for entities' support for the IMG as a mechanism for enhanced collaboration, including in the preparation of its TOR.
68. The chair thanked Ms. Bachelet and highlighted that there are two new issues on the table for discussion. Firstly, as aforementioned by Ms. Bachelet, the Senior Officials were invited to consider a common approach which features the indivisibility of human rights and the environment. Secondly, the Senior Officials were invited to engage in a strategic discussion on the COVID-Environment Nexus, which comprises multiple connections including: zoonotic diseases and the One Health Platform; veterinary, planetary, and human health; waste, plastics, and pollution; and human rights.
69. Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), underlined the importance of the intersection between human rights and environment. He noted that due to of the shifting programmatic arenas and unique country challenges, the implementation of human rights frameworks and the rule of law can in some contexts lead to a clash between the rights of a majority and the rights and access of indigenous peoples and local communities, including free, prior and informed consent. He suggested that the EMG could address this issue, soundly supporting the IMG and its future deliverables, and praised the Nexus Dialogues to bring together different actors and their approaches on timely topics.
70. Mr. Steiner suggested that in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic and economic freefall, the EMG can support accelerating the "Building Back/Forward Better" mandates by pursuing a green economy/recovery analytical narrative (e.g. a short note) and dialogue exchange within the frameworks of the SDGs. The narrative can build upon both UNEP's foundational work and ILO's contributions to ensure that the green recovery narrative does not simply parallel the overall COVID-19 response.
71. Secondly, in response to the UNEP report on *Used Vehicles and the Environment* (published 27 October 2020), Mr. Steiner highlighted that digitalization may have important implications for green recovery, e.g. fundamental data rights and cybercrime, and other issues which may be further identified and explored during an EMG Nexus Dialogue.

72. Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), emphasized that a key element of the “Building Back/Forward Better” mandates is the opportunity to address climate change nationally, through different levels of government. Because UNFCCC has limited “on-the-ground” reach, she stressed an ask to UN agencies to assist and support influencing the relevant ministries (economy, finance, and planning) in addition to higher levels of government to assess and improve their policies through a climate change lens.
73. The chair thanked Ms. Espinosa and reiterated that there is prime opportunity to divert economic stimulus policy towards green economy/recovery industry sectors, and broadly – sustainability.
74. Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Operation Support (DOS) shared his reflections on the radial impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Immediately following DOS’ provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medicines, the primary-level challenge has been managing country-level biomedical waste. Mr. Khare praised the partnership with England for yielding excellent good practices, which he volunteered to share with other UN agencies. Further, the lockdowns in different countries have created secondary-level harmful effects on waste management (including solid waste and wastewater), with opportunities for improvement. At the tertiary-level, there is a risk of the complete collapse of supply chains and transportation. He concluded that an economy based on renewable energies will provide greater resilience.
75. Ms. Armida Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), endorsed the EMG Nexus Dialogues as a means to understand the varied dimensions of COVID-19 and the environment. She suggested that the six priorities featured in the Secretary-General’s statement on Building Back Better can anchor a future series of COVID-19 Nexus Dialogues. Further, she mentioned that both blue and green recoveries are critical. In the Asia-Pacific region, issues such as marine pollution which affect oceans (e.g. Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean) should be a key priority area.
76. The chair thanked Ms. Alisjahbana and praised the regional economic commissions for their leadership on the environment, including green and blue sustainable development agendas.
77. Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary General of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), acknowledged the good collaboration across the UN system and highlighted the need for an integrated scientific approach in programmes and implementation. Additionally, she supported the Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure and agrees that in addition to physical infrastructure, other forms of infrastructure (e.g. social, financial, and technological) should also have focus.
78. Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Director of the UN System Coordination Division of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), expressed a written contribution stating the UN Women endorses the IMG as environmental imbalances disproportionately affect women and girls and considered solutions should incorporate their

perspectives and needs. Furthermore, she emphasized the need for gender disaggregated data collection and to embed a gender marker in the allocation of national funds to measure impact.

79. Mr. Richard Damania, Global Lead Economist of the World Bank, stated that due to the sharp and prolonged reversal of economic growth, there is a strong incentive to focus on immediate actions. In response, the World Bank has been developing a narrative and set of tools to counter “short-termism” which includes the explanation that the current catastrophes (i.e. climate change, biodiversity extinction, economic recession, etc.) will saddle future generations with high debt. Based on standard economics, there are four principles: Resilience, Inclusion, Sustainability, and Efficiency (RISE), the most paramount of which is Resilience. The World Bank is in the process of developing a set of diagnostics to understand whether stimulus packages adhere to the four principles, arguing that while the quantity of growth is important – the quality of growth inevitably grows its quantity. Quality of growth is characterized by a focus on natural assets, and preventing it from spilling over into human capital and the economy. The World Bank looks forward to sharing a draft version of the report for constructive criticism.
80. The chair thanked Mr. Damania and welcomed the draft version for peer review
81. Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences at the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), expressed a written contribution stating that UNESCO leads the “Coalition for Nature” with UNEP in order to engage the UN system on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. UNESCO offers to host an EMG Nexus Dialogue with UNEP on the topic of how human communities can live in harmony with other living species to build back better in different socioeconomic contexts.
82. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, expressed strong concern that the science-policy interface is being diminished, and reiterated that UN agencies should seek to collaborate meaningfully on all environmental nexus issues, including climate change, migration, and oceans. The International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2020 will feature the theme of “Building Back Better” to emphasize the relationship between human rights, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the and 2030 Agendas, and the Paris Agreement.
83. The chair thanked Ms. Bachelet and emphasized that the 2020 workstreams concerning biodiversity looks at both terrestrial and marine issues and imperatives, which will be presented to the CEB in 2021.
84. Ms. Vidhya Ganesh, Director of Division of Data, Analytics, Planning & Monitoring at the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) supported the IMG and the interlinkages between human rights and the environment. In response to the digitalization dimension of “Building Back Better,” she cautioned that along with the exponential need for data collection, robust data protection and privacy

features must be considered as well. She concluded by volunteering UNICEF's expertise in green jobs for youth, health education, WASH, and child protection.

85. Ms. Miho Shirotori, Head of Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy at the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) suggested to examine and act on the links between COVID-19 and the environment by observing the global pandemic's effect on manufacturing, trade, foreign direct investment, economic growth, and migration as a trading service.
86. Ms. Edeltraud Guenther, Director of the UN University (UNU) Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources, expressed a written contribution stating that in an upcoming Policy Brief, the UNU will be stressing the importance of nexus approaches and systems thinking to analyse issues which cross-cut environmental, social, and economic domains and borders. An example is the UNU Ph.D cohort on the topic: "Resource Nexus Issues Revealed by COVID-19 for Professional Communities in the Agri-Food Supply Chain" with the aim of providing solutions to increasing the resilience of food systems and food security in vulnerable communities.
87. Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director for Sustainable Development of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), expressed a written contribution stating that ESCWA has engaged with UNEP, UNFCCC, FAO, the World Bank and Islamic Development Bank to bring policy coherence across multi-stakeholder for multiple nexus issues. The Arab Climate Change Policies Centre has been instrumental in enhancing the science-policy interface, supporting capacity-building programmes in regional member states.
88. Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS), thanked UNEP and OHCHR for their work, inviting Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to speak at future CoPs to emphasize the interlinkages between human rights and the environment. The BRS Secretariat has been actively increasing awareness of the global impact of medical waste and stressed urgent interagency collaboration to mitigate the effects. Additionally, Mr. Payet highlighted that a lifecycle approach towards the economy and consumption can yield opportunities to work together.
89. Mr. Frank Van Rompaey, Representative to the UN and Other International Organizations in Geneva at UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) highlighted UNIDO's country-level recovery and transformation work, adopting a holistic approach to the transition to a low-carbon economy through circular industrialization plans and solutions. Whereas past industrialization programs have focused on inclusive growth, there is an opportunity now to enhance environmental dimensions with the support of interagency partners. Further, Mr. Van Rompaey highlighted opportunities in Africa for scaling up integrated solutions, strengthening partnerships, and increasing advocacy towards low-carbon economies. In partnership with the Government of Niger, UNIDO and UNECA are organizing a special summit comprising heads of state and government on Africa's industrialization agenda in the context of the African Continental Free

Trade Agreement. While the summit was initially scheduled for November, it has been postponed. He concluded by offering additional information and welcoming interested partners, specifically to strengthen the environmental dimensions of industrialization.

90. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), relayed a message from the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in which they appreciate the EMG's focus on biodiversity. CBD and CMS are ready to endorse the EMG report on biodiversity, and they are supportive of the ongoing work between CITES, UNEP, FAO, CBD, and CMS to derive a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities, particularly on sustainable wildlife management. Additionally, Ms. Mrema thanked Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of UN Development Programme (UNDP) for leadership on the nature dialogues prior and during the UN Biodiversity Summit.
91. Ms. Mrema referred to lessons derived during the COVID-19 pandemic and underlined the value of identifying one theme which cuts across all of the UN agencies' different mandates, in order to focus collaborative energies. The One Health Approach is a viable example, with which discussions about human rights, chemicals, biodiversity, marine health, land degradation, chemicals, climate change, and the entire spectrum of SDGs can ensue. She expressed concern that UN agencies are in a reactive situation against COVID-19, and moving forward, it is important to focus on long-term preventative measures to ensure the pandemic does not repeat.
92. Ms. Margarita Astralaga, Director of the Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) expressed a written contribution stating that IFAD expresses support with the proposed actions and concern about the impact of biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, climate change, and unsustainable agricultural practices on vulnerable populations. Supporting green, inclusive and sustainable recovery and programmes such as sustainable rural transformation will mitigate the existing burdens faced by those worst affected.
93. Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Director of Climate Change, Natural Resource Management, and Technology at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) expressed a written contribution stating that UNECA is focused on building resilience for African countries, with four key priorities: crowding-in finance for African NDCs; exploring debt-for-nature/debt-for-adaptation swaps; developing a liquidity and sustainability facility to attract private sector investment in SDGs; and supporting nature-based solutions.
94. Ms. Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), expressed support for the Global Biodiversity Agenda and stated that the EMG has significant value in building a common narrative for "Building Back Better" with an environmental focus. She furthered that RAMSAR will be focusing on the interlinkages between wetlands and water and presents this as opportunity to connect biodiversity with the natural resource discourse.

95. Mr. Gernot Laganda, Chief of Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes of the World Food Programme (WFP) expressed a written contribution stating that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of several crises (e.g. public health, climate, economic recession, and conflict) which compound food insecurity. He recommended that the EMG shares information and knowledge about best practices of how countries are managing social, environmental, and climate risks with integrated systems.
96. Ms. Cyriaque N. Sendashonga, Global Director of the IUCN Policy and Programme Group (IUCN) expressed a written contribution stating that IUCN endorses the IMG addressing human rights and the environment, and volunteers their expertise especially on the issue of environmental defenders.
97. Ms. Florence Descroix-Comanducci, Director of Environmental Laboratories at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presented an overview of Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) which seeks to have an early detection of- and global response to pathogens. Additionally, another project NUTECH takes nuclear technology to control plastic pollution in marine environments. She volunteered IAEA's expertise and capacity to support blue recovery efforts and initiatives.
98. Ms. Sheilagh Henry, Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) expressed a written contribution volunteering OCHA's experience in coordinating approaches for climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.
99. Mr. Fredrik Haag, Technical Officer from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), expressed a written contribution extending their appreciation to UNEP and EMG on behalf of the IMO's Secretary-General and expresses support for the action points discussed.
100. Mr. Marco Lambertini, Director General of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), emphasized three positive elements on nature: the science has never been clearer on the dangers, the issue has never before risen to the current level of political attention, and the narrative of the interdependence among healthy society, economy, and nature has been internalized. Mr. Lambertini said that 2021 will be critical to translate the three positive elements into a time-bound action plan with a global reference point. He expressed concern that we are still missing a nature global goal that provides a clear direction for society, companies, business sectors, and government agencies on their next steps with regard to reverse nature loss.
101. The chair thanked Mr. Lambertini and reiterated that during the CBD COP 15 in Kunming, China, the focus should be on educating society about nature, specifically about positive net loss, net zero loss, and restoration as a common goal.
102. Mr. Nick O'Regan, Director of Implementation Practices and Standards at UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) expressed a written contribution stating that investing capacity and resources





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in sustainable infrastructure can support Building Back Better and balance both short-term and long-term needs. He recommended their Principles for Recovery for Investing in Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure from the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership with UNEP, as core messaging.

103. Ms. Jane Hupe, Chief of the Environmental Unit at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), expressed a written contribution emphasizing the availability, sustainability, and sharing of clean energy among industry sectors as an important cross-cutting issue.
104. Mr. Andrew Rudd, Urban Environment Officer at the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) expressed a written contribution expressing concern that cities do not roll-back existing environmental policy (e.g. bans on single-use plastic) in favour of short-term economic gains. Climate and the COVID-19 pandemic must be tackled in tandem.
105. Mr. Ricardo Mena, Director of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva (UNDRR) expressed a written contribution stating that there is a need for a multi-hazard and multi-sectoral approach to disaster risk reduction including three pillars: 1. Integrating biological, technological, and environmental hazards in national and local DRR strategies; 2. Preventing the creation of new risks and reducing existing risks by strengthening resilience in accordance to the Sendai Framework; and 3. Post-COVID recovery strategies and plans needs to be risk-informed to safeguard sustainable development.
106. Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Director of the Land and Water Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reminded that food insecurity and hunger has been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and 83 million more people are likely to be affected due to social unrest and climate change. It is a question of access to food. A Food Coalition has been launched by the Government of Italy with engagement by 35 countries to address the impact of COVID-19 on food. The Food Summit in 2021, called for by the Secretary-General will be another opportunity to focus on sustainable agriculture and food systems.
107. Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), expressed a written contribution requesting support from the EMG to identify specific priority areas within UN system mandates which would contribute to Building Back Better, and to identify contradictory areas of work whose progress would negative impact shared goals. CMS volunteers their expertise and experience.
108. The chair concluded the strategic discussion and soundly endorsed the work by the technical team, including the start of the two proposed processes. She further mentioned that with the Secretary-General's lead, there have been a strong emphasis across the entire UN system on climate and in following that lead, nature and biodiversity have also experienced a rise in interest which was further amplified during the General Assembly within the Summit on Nature and Biodiversity. She





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thanked all of the UN agencies and their workstreams which have a huge potential in shifting from polluting and destructive behaviour into a sustainable green economy.

109. The chair closed the meeting at 15:20 CEST.

### *III. Additional comments*

110. Due to the absence of Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), a written contribution was delivered prior to the meeting. UNOOSA expressed its strong support for the decisions to be taken and actions to be approved. Noting that space-based technologies have enhanced scientific understanding of water cycles, air quality, forests and other aspects of the natural environment, UNOOSA emphasized its readiness to contribute its roles as a gateway, bridge and network to the system wide efforts, looking forward to actively support future actions. Ms. Di Pippo further highlighted that the interagency mechanism UN-Space offers a system-wide coordination and collaboration platform on matters pertaining the use of space technology to support the management of biodiversity and ecosystems. UNOOSA has identified the area of biodiversity and ecosystems as a potential new area of focus, and is aiming at organizing related workshops and capacity building efforts in the future.



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## ANNEX I. Technical Segment Agenda

<p><b>26<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group</b></p> <p>Technical Segment, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (15:00 -17:00 GVA time) Online</p>	<p><b>EMGSOM.26_2a_Agenda</b></p> <p>Distribution:</p> <p>EMG Members</p>
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### Provisional agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Consideration of ongoing work including recommendations to the Senior Officials:
  - (a) *Consultative Process on Biodiversity*
  - (b) *E-waste Coalition,*
  - (c) *Sand and Dust Storm Coalition*
  - (d) *Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics*
  - (e) *Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations*
  - (f) *Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management*
  - (g) *Peer Reviews of environmental management in United Nations entities*
  - (h) *A UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment*
  - (i) *Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues 2020-2021*
4. Potential new topics for future work of the EMG
  - a. *Issue Management Group on Human Rights and Environment*
  - b. *Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure*
5. Overview of the senior segment of the Senior Officials Meeting
6. Any other business



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### Proposed organization of work

Time (CET)	No.	Agenda Item	Associated Document	Presentation by
15:00 – 15:10	<b>Agenda item 1</b>	Opening remarks		<i>Chair</i>
	<b>Agenda item 2</b>	Adoption of the agenda	EMGSOM.26_2a	<i>Chair</i>
15:10 – 16:00	<b>Agenda item 3</b>	<p>Consideration of ongoing work including recommendations to the Senior Officials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Consultative Process on Biodiversity (CBD)</li> <li>b) E-waste Coalition (EMG Secretariat)</li> <li>c) Sand and Dust Storm Coalition (FAO)</li> <li>d) Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics (Patrycja Enet, consultant)</li> <li>e) Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations (UNDP)</li> <li>f) Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management (SUN)</li> <li>g) Environmental management Peer Review Process of United Nations entities (Ivan Blazevic, consultant)</li> <li>h) Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (EMG Secretariat)</li> <li>i) Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues (Nina Arden, consultant)</li> </ul>	EMGSOM.26_3	<i>EMG Secretariat and Lead Agencies</i>
16:00 – 16:20	<b>Agenda item 4</b>	<p>Potential new topics for future work of the EMG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Issue Management Group on Human Rights and Environment (OHCHR)</li> <li>b) Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure (UNEP)</li> </ul>	<p>EMGSOM.26_4a</p> <p>EMGSOM.26_4b</p>	<i>EMG Secretariat and lead agencies</i>



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16:20 – 16:50	<b>Agenda item 5</b>	Overview of the senior segment of the Senior Officials Meeting	EMGSOM.26_5	<i>EMG Secretariat</i>
16:50	<b>Agenda item 6</b>	Any other business		<i>Chair</i>
<b>17:00</b>		<b>Closure of the technical segment of the meeting</b>		<i>Chair</i>



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## ANNEX II. Senior Segment Agenda

<b>26<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group</b>  Senior Segment, 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 (14:00 -15:30 GVA time) Online	<b>EMGSOM.26_2b_Agenda</b>  Distribution:  EMG Members
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### Provisional agenda

1. Opening remarks by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Consideration of the outcome of the Senior Officials technical segment including the EMG workplan for 2021
4. Strategic discussion of the Senior Officials on matters warranting system-wide coordination and collaboration
  - *COVID-19 and the environment, opportunities for collaboration in the UN System*
5. Any other business
6. Closure of the meeting



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### Proposed organization of work

Time (NYC)	No.	Associated document	Remarks
14:00 - 14:15	<b>Agenda item 1</b>	EMGSOM.26_2b	Opening remarks by the Chair
	<b>Agenda item 2</b>		Adoption of the agenda
14.15-14.35	<b>Agenda item 3</b>	EMGSOM.26_3a	Briefing on the outcome of the technical segment by its chair
			Introduction to the new IMG on human rights and the environment by the High Commissioner for Human Rights
14:35 - 15:20	<b>Agenda item 4</b>	EMGSOM.26_5	Strategic discussion by the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group
			<i>COVID-19 and the environment, opportunities for collaboration in the UN System</i>
15:20 - 15:25	<b>Agenda item 5</b>		Any other business
15:25 – 15.30	<b>Agenda item 6</b>		Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

## ANNEX III. A. Technical Segment List of Participants

Organization	Name
UNEP	Mr. Satya Tripathi
	Ms. Mara Murillo
	Ms. Isabella Marras
	Mr. Joseph Price
BRS	Ms. Maria Cristina Cardenas
CBD	Mr. Neil Pratt
CITIES	Mr. David Morgan
DESA	Mr. Alexander Trepelkov
DOS	Ms. Joanna Harvey
ECLAC	Mr. David Barrio Lamarche
ESCAP	Mr. Curt Garrigan
FAO	Mr. Lev Neretin
	Mr. Feras Ziadat
ICAO	Mr. Lorenzo Gavilli
	Ms. Jane Hupe
IFAD	Ms. Renée Ankarfjård
ILO	Mr. Moustapha Kamal Gueye
IMF	Mr. Robert Powell
IMO	Mr. Fredrik Haag
IOM	Ms. Eva Mach
ITU	Ms. Vanessa Gray
IUCN	Ms. Sonia Peña
Minamata	Ms. Claudia ten Have
OCHA	Ms. Emilia Wahlström
OHCHR	Mr. Benjamin Schachter
	Ms. Michelle Bachelet
Ramsar	Ms. Maria Rivera
UN Women	Ms. Carla Kraft
UNCTAD	Ms. Lorena Jaramillo
	Mr. Tansuğ Ok
UNDP	Mr. Tim Scott
	Ms. Holly Mergler
UNDRR	Ms. Marlene Grundstrom
UNECA	Mr. EIAM Kadeweile
	Mr. Jean-Paul Adam
UNECE	Mr. Marco Keiner



Organization	Name
UNESCO	Ms. Meriem Bouamrane
UN-Habitat	Mr. Andrew Rudd
UNHCR	Mr. James Mwangi
UNICEF	Ms. Nancy Fernandes
	Mr. William Abi
UNIDO	Mr. Frank Van Rompaey
UNODC	Sinead Brophy
UNOPS	Ms. Nives Costa
WFP	Mr. Jan Cherlet
WIPO	Mr. Victor Owade
WMO	Mr. Paul Egerton
WTO	Mr. Daniel Ramos
WWF International	Mr. Luca Chinotti
EMG	Mr. Hossein Fadaei
	Ms. Jannica Pitkanen
	Ms. Fatema Johara
	Ms. Patrycja Enet
	Ms. Nina Arden
	Mr. Ivan Blazevic

## ANNEX III. B. Senior Segment List of Participants

Organization	Name	Designation
UNEP	Ms. Inger Andersen	Executive Director
	Mr. Satya Tripathi	Assistant Secretary-General, Head of New York Office, EMG Secretary
	Mr. Arnold Kreilhuber	Acting Director, Law Division
	Ms. Marlene Nilsson	Special Assistant to the Executive Director
	Ms. Neda Monshat	Programme Management Officer
BRS	Mr. Rolph Payet	Executive Secretary
CBD	Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema	Executive Secretary
	Ms. Jyoti Mathus-Filipp	Director, Implementation and Support Division
	Mr. Neil Pratt	Senior Environmental Affairs Officer
CMS	Ms. Amy Fraenkel	Executive Secretary
	Ms. Laura Cerasi	Programme Management Officer
DESA	Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano	Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Co-ordination and Inter-Agency Affairs
	Mr. Alexander Trepelkov	Officer-in-Charge, Division for Sustainable Development Goals
DOS	Mr. Atul Khare	Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support
	Ms. Joanna Harvey	Chief, DFS Environment Section
FAO	Mr. Eduardo Mansur	Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment
	Mr. Lev Neretin	Team Leader, Safeguards, Climate Risks and Bioeconomy
	Ms. Mette Wilkie	Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division
IAEA	Ms. Florence Descroix-Comanducci	Director of the IAEA Environment Laboratories
	Ms. Olena Mykolaichuk	Head, Decommissioning & Environmental Remediation
	Mr. Peter Swarzenski	Laboratory Head
	Mr. Hal Turton	Energy Economist
ICAO	Ms. Jane Hupe	Deputy Director, Environment, Air Transport Bureau
IFAD	Ms Margarita Astralaga	Director, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division
	Ms. Renée Ankarfjård	Senior Technical Specialist
ILO	Mr. Vic Van Vuuren	Director, Enterprises Department
IMF	Ms. Valérie Guillamo	Senior Liaison Officer
IMO	Mr. Fredrik Haag	Head, Office for London Convention and Ocean Affairs, Marine Environment Division.
IOM	Ms. Mariam Traore Chazalnoël	Senior Specialist
ITC	Mr. Joseph Wozniak	Head, Trade for Sustainable Development Programme
ITU	Ms. Vanessa Gray	Head, LDCs, SIDS & Emergency Telecommunications
	Ms. Robin Zuercher	Program Officer, Strategic Planning and Membership Department

Organization	Name	Designation
IUCN	Ms. Cyriaque N. Sendashonga	Head, Global Policy Unit
OCHA	Ms. Sheilagh Henry	Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer
	Ms. Emilia Wahlström	Programme Officer, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit
OHCHR	Ms. Michelle Bachelet	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
	Mr. Benjamin Schacter	Human Rights Officer
RAMSAR	Ms. Martha Rojas Urrego	Secretary General
	Ms. Maria Rivera	Senior Advisor
UN ECLAC	Mr. David Barrio Lamarche	Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
UN ESCAP	Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana	Executive Secretary
	Mr. Curt Garrigan	Chief, Sustainable Urban Development
UN ESCWA	Ms. Roula Majdalani	Chief of Service, Sustainable Development
	Ms. Lara Geadah	Economic Affairs Assistant
UNCCD	Mr. Sasha Alexander Juanteguy	Policy Officer
UNCTAD	Ms. Miho Shirotori	Officer-in-Charge, International Trade and Commodities
	Mr. Tansuğ Ok	Economic Affairs Officer
UNDP	Mr. Achim Steiner	Administrator
	Mr. Tim Scott	Policy Advisor, Environment, Natural Capital and the Environment
	Ms. Michiko Okumura	Senior Special Assistant to the Administrator
UNDRR	Mr. Ricardo Mena	Director
UNECA	Mr. Jean-Paul Adam	Director, Climate Change, Natural Resource Management and Technology
UNECE	Mr. Marco Keiner	Director, Environment Division
UNESCO	Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle	Assistant Director General
UNFCCC	Ms. Patricia Espinosa	Executive Secretary
	Mr. Kunal Sharma	Programme officer, Office of the Executive Secretary
UNFPA	Mr. Oliver Bühler	Chief, Facilities & Administrative Services Branch
UN-Habitat	Mr. Andrew Rudd	Urban Environment Officer
UNHCR	Mr. James Mwangi	Environment Officer
UNICEF	Ms. Vidhya Ganesh	Director, the Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring
	Ms. Rakshya R Thapa	Programme Specialist – Climate, Energy and Environment
UNIDO	Mr. Frank Van Rompaey	Head of Liaison Office in Geneva
UNITAR	Mr. Nikhil Seth	Executive Director
UNODC	Ms. Jenna Dawson-Faber	Programme Officer
UNOPS	Mr. Nick O'Regan	Director, Implementation Practices and Standards
UNU	Professor Taikan Oki	Senior Vice-Rector
	Professor Edeltraud Guenther	Director of UNU-FLORES
UNWOMEN	Ms. Aparna Mehrotra	Director, UN System Coordination Division
UPU	Ms. Susan C. Alexander	Postal Regulation and UN Policies Expert

Organization	Name	Designation
WFP	Mr. Gernot Laganda	Chief, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes Unit
	Mr. Jan Cherlet	Environmental and Social Sustainability Officer
WIPO	Ms. Dalila Hamou	Director, External Relations Division
WORLD BANK	Mr. Richard Damania	Chief Economist, Sustainable Development
WTO	Mr. Daniel Ramos	Legal Officer
CEB	Ms. Federica Pietracci	Programme Officer, HLCP
WWF International	Mr. Marco Lambertini	Director General
	Mr. Luca Chinotti	Senior Specialist, Multilateral Affairs
	Ms. Lin Li	Director, Global Policy & Advocacy
EMG	Mr. Hossein Fadaei	Head, Geneva Office
	Ms. Jannica Pitkanen	Programme Management Officer
	Ms. Fatema Johara	Staff Assistant



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## ANNEX IV. EMG Work Plan 2020-2021



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## Environment Management Group Workplan for 2020- 2021

### Executive Summary

This information note presents a work plan for the Environment Management Group (EMG) for 2020-2021 approved by the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EMG Senior Officials on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The work plan captures activities planned between November 2020 to September 2021 and has three main expected outcomes which pertain to programmatic, operational and management issues, as well as overall policy dialogue and information exchange.

The work plan remains un-costed as there is no common budget for EMG activities. The workplan will be implemented subject to the availability of financial resources and in-kind contributions of member entities.

Environment Management Group work plan for 2020- 2021

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
<b>I. Enhanced coherence in programming</b>	<b>1. Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment</b>	
	i. Facilitate the establishment and management of the Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment with the purpose to integrate the human right to a healthy environment in the work of the UN ensuring a coherent, rights-based approach to environmental action throughout the UN system;	Dec 2020- August 2021

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
<b>I. Enhanced coherence in programming</b>	<b>2. Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure</b>	
	ii. Facilitate the establishment of a Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure to strengthen the coordination of UN-system support to Member States in this area of work;	January- September 2021

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
<b>I. Enhanced coherence in programming</b>	<b>3. Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Complete the tasks outlined in the Terms of Reference of the Task Team</li> <li>ii. 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.</li> </ul>	November 2020-August 2021

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
<b>I. Enhanced coherence in programming</b>	<b>4. Consultative process on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Follow up on the EMG biodiversity report and the CEB decision on implementing the nature action agenda in the UN system in support of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework</li> </ul>	January-August 2021

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
<b>II. Enhanced coherence in advancing environmental and social sustainability of the UN system</b>	<b>5. Consultative Process on Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System</b>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>ii. Raise awareness and facilitate shared learning to support application of the Model Approach through joint webinars, communications and capacity building exercises;</li> <li>iii. Explore opportunity(ies) to apply the Model Approach in country level programming (e.g. UNSDCF process, joint programming).</li> </ul>	January-August 2021
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Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
<b>II. Enhanced coherence in advancing environmental and social sustainability of the UN system</b>	<b>6. Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 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;</li> <li>ii. Continue liaising with the Task Team on Common Premises on the finalization and adoption of the new guidance "Important and Desirable Actions (IDEAs)";</li> <li>iii. Work with UN experts (e.g. UNEP-WCMC, CBD) towards the implementation of the biodiversity aspect of the UN 2020-2030 environmental sustainability strategy;</li> <li>iv. Continue to support the development of Phase II of the Sustainability Strategy in close collaboration with the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability.</li> </ul>	January-August 2021

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
<b>II. Enhanced coherence in advancing environmental and social sustainability of the UN system</b>	<b>7. Environmental Management Peer Reviews of United Nations Entities</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Support 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;</li> <li>ii. Prepare a report on the future of the Peer review process to the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senior Officials.</li> </ul>	January-August 2021

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
<b>III. Enhanced dialogue, policy and information exchange for implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs</b>	<b>8. UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies for the Environment (SWFS)</b>	
	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.	January-December 2021

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
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<b>III. Enhanced dialogue, policy and information exchange for implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs</b>	<b>9. Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues</b>	
	i. Organization of at least 3 nexus dialogues on the environmental aspects of SDGs.	January-December 2021