



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



27th Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group Technical Segment, 30 th September 2021 (15:00 -17:00 CEST) Online	EMGSOM.27_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

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 2021-2022. 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 7 October 2021.

I. Consultative Process on Biodiversity

1. The EMG Senior Officials Meeting in September 2019 agreed to establish a Consultative Process on Biodiversity following the request of the CBD to contribute to the Open-ended Working Group (WG2020) on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In September 2020, SOM26 endorsed the EMG report entitled "[Supporting the Global Biodiversity Agenda: a United Nations System Commitment for Action to assist Member States delivering on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)" and extended the mandate of the Consultative Process to follow up on the findings of the report along with continued input to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework which has been delayed due to the pandemic.
2. In March 2020, the Secretary General called on the UN System to mainstream biodiversity work in key areas (e.g., food and agriculture, sustainable forest management, ecosystems, biosafety, governance and justice, etc.), engage in cross-agency collaboration (including by entities not traditionally involved in biodiversity work), and enhance UN communications and advocacy (Executive Committee meeting, 25 March 2020).
3. On 14 May 2020, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed a stronger focus on nature across the UN system, and tasked its High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) to develop a common approach on integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the UN's policy and programme planning and delivery. Building on the work of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity and other inter-agency coordination mechanisms, [the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity](#) was approved by the HLCP at its 41st session and endorsed by the CEB on 4 May 2021.
4. The UN Common Approach and the report of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity were publicly launched at an EMG [High-level Dialogue](#) on 25 May 2021, re-iterating the UN system's commitment and shared recognition of the urgency to address the loss of biodiversity.
5. On 30 June 2021, the EMG mid-term technical segment considered a proposal to transform the Consultative Process to an Issue Management Group on Biodiversity to support, inter alia, the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the UN Common Approach to biodiversity and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Following that, the [Terms of Reference](#) (ToR) of the Issue Management Group was prepared for consideration and approval of the EMG Senior Officials at their 27th meeting.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Establish an EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity to facilitate and enable a streamlined approach and support to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the UN Common Approach to biodiversity and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- b) Endorse the [ToRs](#) of the Issue Management Group prepared by the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity.

II. Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics

6. Through its Resolution 4/6, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) at its 4th session ¹, requested the EMG to engage in, and contribute towards the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics (AHEG) by providing, inter alia, a mapping of all relevant UN agencies, programmes, initiatives and other sources of expertise relating to marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics. In response, the EMG Senior Officials decided to establish an interagency Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics.
7. The Task Team has been actively engaged in the preparation of the requested system-wide contribution in line with its [ToR](#). Two interagency meetings and 50 in-depth interviews with 45 entities were organized to gain an understanding of UN System activities and initiatives on marine litter and microplastics and to elaborate on ways to strengthen the coordination of UN-system support to Member States.
8. At their 26th meeting, the Senior Officials extended the mandate of the Task Team to complete the tasks outlined in its Terms of Reference. The 23 Task Team members and other contributors (22 UN entities) have continued their work leading to the preparation of the final report: “An overview of UN Activities and Initiatives related to Marine Litter and Microplastics: UN system-wide contribution to support Member States in addressing marine litter and microplastics.”
9. The report provides a mapping of existing UN agencies, programmes, initiatives and expertise relating to marine litter; identifies synergies and opportunities for enhancing collaboration among UN entities; and facilitates coordination and joint programmatic initiatives and planning on marine litter and microplastics in the UN System.
10. The report summarizes information from 45 EMG members and other UN entities on UN System expertise that directly or indirectly relates to marine litter, including plastic pollution, covering activities across product life cycles and multidisciplinary realms while contributing to a broader stock-taking prepared by the AHEG. A database of programmes and projects undertaken by UN and related entities is linked to the report. The database is to be integrated in existing platforms as a digital inventory of UN EMG members marine litter and microplastics activities and initiatives, facilitating knowledge and information sharing.
11. The report is presented for consideration by the Senior Officials at their 27th meeting to be submitted as an information document to the 5th meeting of UNEA in February 2022. The report is a first step towards further expanding UN system-wide collaboration through a more integrated and systematic interagency approach.
12. The Task Team is considering to launch and present the Report at appropriate occasions such as during UNEA 5 and the UN Oceans Conference in 2022.
13. Building on the EMG report, the Task Team will hold its third meeting in October 2021 to continue information exchange on marine litter and microplastics and to ensure continued dialogue in the context of the UN System’s support to Member States in addressing marine litter and microplastics.

¹ Resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.6

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Endorse the EMG report “An overview of UN Activities and Initiatives related to Marine Litter and Microplastics: UN system-wide contribution to support Member States in addressing marine litter and microplastics.”
- b) Agree to present the report to relevant interagency and international *fora*, such as the UNEA 5.2 and the UN Oceans Conference.
- c) Consider the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics to be a resource expert group supporting the mainstreaming of marine litter and microplastics reduction activities in relevant ongoing processes, including in follow up to the EMG report.

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

14. Following the endorsement of the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming by the Senior Officials in 2019, the Consultative Process has continued promoting the application of the Model Approach in the following two ways.
15. Firstly, the Model Approach Task Team, which falls under the Consultative Process, facilitates the exchange of experiences amongst UN entities on the application of environmental and social standards in programming. Interagency deep-dive calls, which are open to all agencies, were organized on grievance and redress mechanisms, gender-based violence, the World Bank’s environmental and social framework, and the Green Climate Fund’s standards.
16. Secondly, the Consultative Process on Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System also provides guidance to the UN system on the application of the Model Approach in UN programming at country level. A draft concept note to pilot the Model Approach in a number of countries and build capacities of staff was consulted and developed in partnership with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
17. A separate Task Team of 37 UN entities developed the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN system 2020-2030 – Phase II: Towards leadership in environmental and social sustainability. The development of Phase II started after Phase I was endorsed by the CEB in 2019, as Phase I included a commitment that it would be further “incorporated into a comprehensive sustainability strategy for the United Nations system, encompassing a broader and fuller picture of environmental and social sustainability in United Nations system policies, programming and support functions.” Phase II of the strategy, which is presented at the SOM27 for endorsement, fulfils this commitment. It describes how environmental and social sustainability considerations (based on the 2030 Agenda and other UN commitments) can be fully mainstreamed in the UN system and UN entities. Phase II focuses on processes rather than targets. The goal envisaged by Phase II is to establish the UN, by 2030, as the global gold standard for environmental and social sustainability management.

18. The Task Team for the development of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN system 2020-2030 proposes the establishment of a steering committee to guide the implementation of Phase II of the strategy. The steering committee will be composed of representatives of UN entities wishing to lead the implementation. The composition of the steering committee will reflect the diversity of entities' mandates, sizes, and structures.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Endorse the "Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030 – Phase II: Towards leadership in environmental and social sustainability" for submission to the CEB".
- b) Endorse the establishment of a steering committee, composed of representatives of UN entities wishing to lead the implementation of the Strategy at programme and operations level.
- c) Agree to extend the Consultative Process for another year to guide the establishment of the steering committee for the implementation of the Strategy; guide knowledge sharing on the application of the Model Approach; and guide the piloting of the Model Approach in UN country-level programming.

IV. Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management

UN Environmental Inventory and Climate Neutrality

19. In 2021, the UN system is committed to reach full climate neutrality for 2020 GHG emissions. Results of the 2021 inventory exercise will be obtained by October, with the 'Greening the Blue' report launching in November 2021 prior to COP26 UN Climate Change Conference.
20. The Greening the Blue report 2021 will align more closely with the objectives, indicators and the structure of the strategy for sustainability management in the UN system 2020-2030 Phase I. In particular, a new section on progress integrating Greening the Blue objectives in management functions such as sustainable procurement, inclusive of social and environmental aspects, and in human resources such as staff training and management accountability. It is planned that, gradually, the Greening the Blue report will align fully with the Sustainability Strategy Phase I.

Greening the Blue tutorial

21. By fall 2021, the 2021 Greening the Blue tutorial will be released, resulting from a collaboration between UNDP, UNEP, the IMG and 20 UN Entities. This one-hour online animation will indicate UN System environmental objectives and sustainable living to UN staff, which is mandatory in UNEP, UNDP and numerous other UN entities. The updated tutorial better reflects the UN system commitments and efforts in internal environmental sustainability and the UN 2020-2030 Sustainability Strategy Phase I.

Reducing the UN Environmental Footprint

22. Two new guidance documents have been validated and are available to UN entities as of 2021:

- a) “Important and Desirable Environmental Actions for Selection and Establishment of Resilient and Efficient UN Offices (IDEAs Guidance)” related to leasing/relocating, renovating and building offices, including performance, was endorsed by the UN Task Team on Common premises and is a base for a module in the Development Cooperation Office’s (DCO) training for facility managers in Country Offices.
 - b) The Greening the Blue Greenhouse Gas Science-based Targets Guidance for UN Organisations, developed by SUN and the IMG, targets UN staff working in the area of GHG emission reductions and target setting for management and operations.
23. In collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and the IMG on Biodiversity, work has started on the development of indicators and guidance improving and protecting biodiversity in four key management areas: procurement; operations/facilities; staff awareness; and catering/events.

Sustainable Procurement

24. Procurement is key to pursuing the goals of the UN Sustainability Strategy I and II. Greening the Blue 2021, with inputs from HLCM Procurement Network, will report on UN progress with Sustainable Procurement Policies, based on the UN Annual Statistical report on procurement data issued by UNOPS on the [UN Global Market Place](#). The HLCM PN Sustainable Procurement Working Group planned that, for the next years, capacity building on sustainable procurement will be intensified via multi-agency collaboration. In parallel, statistics related to the number of sustainable procurement tenders, based on the HLCM SP indicators framework, will be released via the UN Global Market Place, the UN Annual Statistical report and the Greening the Blue report.
25. To be complete, the calculations on the UN GHG footprint may also need to integrate emissions derived from the supply chain. A number of organisations, both within and outside the EMG, are exploring the feasibility of assessing the GHG emissions footprinting of their procurement. In the context of a more comprehensive approach to UN Sustainability as proposed by the UN Sustainability Strategy Phase II, the feasibility of a more complete environmental footprint analysis will be discussed by the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management.

2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review

26. In December 2020, the UN QCPR asked the United Nations development system to:
- 29 (b) Advance the development of a system-wide approach, implement measures and report regularly to their respective governing bodies, through existing reporting and mandates, on their efforts to reduce their climate and environmental footprint. Ensuring consistency of their operations and programmes with low emissions and climate-resilient development pathways; stressing the urgency of climate action and contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*
27. This Decision of the General Assembly has a very positive bearing for the work of the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management as a vast majority of the IMG members belong to the UN Development System, and they will receive through this Decision strategic support from the Member States for their internal sustainability work.
28. The “system-wide approach to reduce the climate and environmental footprint” is already provided by the “UN 2020-2030 Sustainability Strategy Phase I” (and by the forthcoming Phase II). The Strategy Phase I is also integrated in the [Business Operations Strategy \(BOS\) Guidance](#) under “environmental sustainability,” and its objectives for key management areas can be of support to the definition of individual Business Operations’ Strategy.

29. Furthermore, the Greening the Blue reporting exercise can also be utilized to report on the above requirements.
30. The Environment Management Group and UNEP propose that the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management utilize its existing package of guidance and best practices and well-established collaboration to support the integration of the UN Sustainability Strategy objectives in the Business Operations Strategies.
31. It remains a responsibility of individual entities to implement the UN Sustainability Strategy at all levels, whether headquarters or field-based facilities and operations, and accelerate action to reduce the climate and environmental footprint of the UN and align with “low emissions and climate-resilient development pathways” as requested by Member States.

Impact beyond the UN system

32. The Green Climate Fund has now officially joined the Greening the Blue initiative.
33. The governments of Canada and the United States are forming a "Greening Governments Initiative" (GGI), being a community of practice for those improving governmental environmental performance. It will enable countries to share lessons learned, promote innovation, and set common greening goals in the early stages of development. GGI reached out to UNEP to explore future engagement in sharing knowledge with the UN on Greening the Blue efforts.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Commit to accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainability Strategy in UN management and facilities.
- b) Recognize the need to integrate the UN Sustainability Strategy’s objectives into the UN Reform’s Business Operation Strategies to achieve the objectives requested by the 2020 QCPR to limit the environmental and carbon footprint of the UN.
- c) Commit to utilise the new Greening the Blue online training as a mandatory training for UN personnel.

V. Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure

34. In November 2020, EMG Senior Officials agreed to establish a Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure to strengthen the coordination of UN-system support to the Member States in this area of work. The first meeting of the Consultative Process was held on 17 March 2021, with 28 participants across UN entities as well as IUCN and WWF. A draft [ToR](#) was discussed and then finalized following the meeting.
35. A questionnaire was dispatched to focal points for providing written feedback on the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure and potential endorsement, as well as for sharing complementary normative guidance from different entities. This addresses output a) in the ToR, where the Principles are envisioned to be endorsed as an UN-wide framework, either in their current form or as a revised document.

36. Concurrently, an invitation to contribute sustainable infrastructure tools and case studies was shared with focal points in order to deliver on outputs b) and d). The tools will be integrated into the existing [Sustainable Infrastructure Tool Navigator](#) - an online platform - as applicable, to support Member States' implementation of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure.
37. In June 2021, a live calendar of UN events and international policy processes was established (output c) to highlight key dates and opportunities for engagement in the lead-up to UNEA-5.2 in February 2022. The calendar was made public on the [EMG sustainable infrastructure web page](#), and focal points were given editorial access to contribute to the calendar. The calendar covers three tiers:
 - a. High priority/UN global events and processes
 - b. Specific thematic events
 - c. Deadlines for a submission
38. A smaller Task Team has been envisioned to discuss the feedback received on the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure and to plan the next steps. The Task Team will consider UNU's proposal of future 'barrier analyses' (including potential sectoral deep dives and a priority thematic focus) and will also be tasked to maintain the calendar of events.

Suggested Action

The Senior Officials:

- a) Invite EMG Members to contribute to the outputs of the Consultative Process, including sharing of complementary sustainable infrastructure tools and case studies and adding to the live calendar of events.
- b) Endorse the second edition of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure.
- c) Agree to extend the Consultative Process until the 28th Senior Officials Meeting in 2022 to focus on issues surrounding implementation of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure.

VI. Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment

39. An Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment was agreed to be established during the 26th EMG Senior Officials Meeting in October 2020. As set out in its ToR, the objective of the IMG is to integrate the human right to a healthy environment into the work of the UN to ensure a coherent and rights-based approach to environmental action throughout the UN system. The ToR and work of the IMG draw on the findings of relevant EMG processes, initiatives and nexus dialogues, including the dialogues organized on 24 July and 22 September 2020 on the human right to a healthy environment and the Workshop held on 23 September 2020 with EMG focal points.
40. The IMG met for the first time on 17 February 2021 to adopt its ToR and discuss next steps. At its second meeting on 20 April 2021, the IMG agreed to focus on three areas with lead agencies as follows: 1) integrating a right to a healthy environment in UN system work at country level (UNDP

lead); 2) integrating human rights into Multilateral Environmental Agreements (OHCHR lead); and 3) capacity-building on human rights and the environment for the UN system (UNEP lead). A workplan for the IMG was also developed and is intended to remain a flexible document to respond to changing circumstances.

41. First meetings of the task teams under each focus area of the work plan took place in April and May to further develop it. A shared workspace for the IMG has been set up to facilitate information-sharing, and a consultant is in place to support the work of the IMG.
42. At its third meeting on 21 July 2021, the IMG presented and discussed the activities taking place under each of the three focus areas of the workplan. This included: developing a common narrative on human rights and the environment in a development context; developing an engagement strategy on human rights and the environment in relation to the UNFCCC; and identifying topics and timings for thematic deep-dive webinars related to the subject matter of the IMG.
43. A high level of participation and engagement in the initial meetings of the IMG highlighted the need for this platform for collaboration on human rights and the environment. The IMG determined that it was necessary to take an integrated approach to human rights, development and the environment to achieve UN objectives related to the environment and will support efforts to develop a UN common narrative in this regard. It will work to articulate guidance for human rights-based approaches to climate change, biodiversity and pollution in order to provide practical guidance to country teams on all three elements of the triple planetary crisis. By developing engagement strategies with respect to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the IMG will work to advance a rights-based approach to the triple planetary crisis at both national and global levels, in particular by exploring common themes and synergies relating to the 'Rio Conventions' (UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD). In order to facilitate this work, the IMG needs to support efforts to build capacity within the UN system. A review of existing resources showed that there was a need for training as well as improved dissemination of existing tools and information.

Suggested Action

The Senior Officials:

- d) Take note of the work of the IMG on Human Rights and the Environment and agree to extend its mandate until the 28th Senior Officials Meeting in 2022, at which time further extension of the IMG shall be given due consideration.
- e) Take note of the engagement strategy on human rights and the environment in relation to the UNFCCC produced by the IMG.

VII. Consultative Process on Green Recovery

44. In their 26th meeting in October 2020, the EMG Senior Officials addressed how to accelerate the achievement of the environmental dimension of the SDGs, while supporting recovery efforts and building back better in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Senior Officials decided to establish a consultative process to help the UN system identify opportunities for collaboration

and define a coherent approach to a green, inclusive and rights-based recovery from the pandemic while taking into account human-environment interaction.

45. The first meeting of the EMG Consultative Process on COVID-19 and the Environment took place on March 11, 2021, related to ongoing activities such as the green recovery within different UN agencies and provided feedback on the ToR, including expected outcomes of the Consultative Process. Following the meeting, the ToR was finalized and approved by the focal points.
46. Two surveys were undertaken to collect information from UN agencies on how green recovery should be defined and implemented, what the UN system is doing in this regard, and how the efforts by the UN agencies could be better coordinated and mainstreamed.
47. Green recovery narrative was prepared and reviewed by a working group and the co-chairs of the consultative process (UNEP and ILO). It is expected to be finalized by the end of September.
48. Data is currently collected through surveys and interviews with UN agencies, as well as online research and reviewing reports produced by UN agencies to identify programs, initiatives, guidance documents and other tools on COVID-19 response and recovery, as well as their relationships with the SDGs, with the view of highlighting the main areas of contribution of the UN agencies.
49. Additionally, gaps and opportunities for collaboration on green recovery are identified based on the feedback from different stakeholder groups and reviewing the current state of interactions between them. The final report containing the Green Recovery Narrative, the mapping of UN activities at the COVID-19-environment nexus, and the analysis of gaps and opportunities for further collaboration is expected to be finalized by the end of September.

Suggested Action

The Senior Officials:

- a) Endorse the EMG Report “Inclusive Green Recovery: An Essential Post-COVID-19 Paradigm Shift to Build Back Better” as a contribution to the ongoing efforts, including to the work of UNSDG Task Team on the Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19, to enhance coherence and collaboration in the UN system for green, inclusive, and rights-based recovery.
- b) Decide to conclude the Consultative Process on COVID-19 and the environment following the delivery of its mandate.

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

50. In follow up to paragraph 88(c) of the Rio+20 outcome document, the first session of the UNEA ² requested the Executive Director of UNEP to develop system-wide strategies on the environment mainly through the EMG, and to invite the engagement of the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate broad ownership in the

² UNEA Resolution 1/11

United Nations at all levels. In 2014, the 20th SOM established a Consultative Process to contribute to the preparation of System-Wide Strategies on the Environment.

51. 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/challenges/and opportunities for further collaboration among the EMG members.
52. The [first SWFS report](#) was released in 2017, encompassing examples of system-wide cooperation and collaboration on the environment in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda. Subsequently, in response to a request from UN organizations concerned with additional reporting burden, the Consultative Process agreed on the preparation of an annual thematic report in lieu of an annual comprehensive synthesis report. Therefore, the [second SWFS report](#) was prepared in 2020 as a thematic report on biodiversity by the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity.
53. The EMG was requested to provide inputs into the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review in terms of tracking implementation of the UN System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment. Future editions of the SWFS report will contribute to the QCPR reporting by providing a system-wide snapshot of major developments within UN entities in the area of environment, including an overview of initiatives and examples of the organizational changes UN entities are undertaking to better respond to the integration of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.
54. A concept note for the third edition of the SWFS report is under preparation with a focus on the review of the UN system’s contributions from an environmental perspective in the context of the “Stockholm+50 international meeting: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, which will take place in June 2022. The report will focus on the UN system’s role, contributions, experiences and lessons learned in supporting the integration and implementation of the environmental agenda within the 2030 agenda at all levels and scales.
55. The future editions of the SWFS reports will include a summary of progress reports and results of the existing EMG processes.

Suggested Action

The Senior Officials:

- a) Encourage UN agencies to contribute to the third edition of the SWFS Report.
- b) Extend the Consultative Process to prepare the third edition of the SWFS Report.

IX. EMG Nexus Dialogues

56. The continued travel restrictions and socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated that the Nexus Dialogues remain adapted to a virtual format, allowing for unprecedented engagement and partnerships with EMG members and other stakeholders.
57. Building on the momentum of 2020’s dialogues, the following dialogues have been or will be organized by the end of 2021:

58. [Gender and Biodiversity: A 2-Part Series of Nexus Dialogues \(29-30 March 2021\)](#) was organized in close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat. The session Unpacking Linkages with Gender and Biodiversity in UN System Efforts providing a ranked overview of persistent gender and biodiversity nexus challenges, linking them to overarching sustainable development agendas. It was followed by a closed workshop: Towards Gender-Responsive Biodiversity Action and Outcomes, feeding technical inputs regarding the implementation of the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action for Biodiversity, and reflected gender-responsive commitments in the [first draft](#) of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The outcome document can be found [here](#).
59. [Addressing COVID-19 for the Environment: A 3-Part Series of Nexus Dialogues \(27 April, 4 May, and 15 June 2021\)](#) was organized in close collaboration with UNEP, UNEP-FI, RCNYO, and the Regional Commissions: ESCAP, ECE, ECA, ECLAC, and ESCWA. The dialogue on Defining Green Recovery identified three building blocks for an inclusive green recovery and enabling conditions combined with explicit next steps for Member States and the UN system. The dialogue on Financing Green Recovery recommended the need for trust and synergy of capacity for three main actors with financial means: the private sector, financial institutions, and governments. The Regional Nexus Approaches to Building Back Better dialogue presented each region's development priorities and suggested the pursuit of a Common Approach to Building Back Better. The 3-Part Series fed into the EMG draft narrative on Green Recovery as part of the Consultative Process on COVID-19 and the Environment. An executive summary of the 3-Part Series can be found [here](#).
60. [Food System Resilience through Integrated Natural Resource Management \(7 June 2021\)](#) was organized in close collaboration with UNU-FLORES. The Nexus Dialogue, also a Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue, sought to investigate the accelerating effect of Integrated Natural Resource Management, compounded by Circular Bioeconomy strategies, as a leverage point to reduce and mitigate poverty, health and climate risks. The Dialogue contributed to a proposal on developing a Joint Policy Paper and a subsequent EMG Issue Management Group on Food System Resilience. The outcome document can be found [here](#).
61. [Sustainable Recovery through Sustainable Fashion: Focus on the Environmental Dimensions \(7 September 2021\)](#) is organized in close collaboration with the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNECE, UNESCO, UNFCCC and ILO to facilitate an exchange of different approaches to address the environmental facets of the Sustainable Fashion Nexus, in pursuit of a sustainable recovery in the COVID-19 context.
62. A 2-part series on the Stockholm+50 (October/November 2021) is envisioned to extract UN system reflections on the achievements and challenges encountered since the 1972 Stockholm conference, lessons learned and recommendations to impart on the future implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
63. A nexus dialogue to enhance alignment between the Biodiversity and Chemicals & Waste Frameworks (tbd, 2022) is organized in close collaboration with UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, OCHA, and the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The dialogue intends to raise UN system-wide awareness of the possible synergies and alignments between the biodiversity and chemicals & waste post-2020 frameworks and understanding of opportunities for increased normative coherence.
64. Thus far, the quantified impact of the Nexus Dialogues has been the unprecedented engagement of 125 high- and expert-level speakers across more than 72 agencies, and engaging more than

1160 intergovernmental and interagency participants, including the UN system, multilateral/bilateral agencies, Member States, and other NGOs.

65. Subject to the decisions taken at the SOM27, forthcoming Nexus Dialogues in 2022 will cover emerging topics proposed by EMG members, including: Rethinking the UN Approach on Strategic Foresight for Environmental Action, in close collaboration with UNEP, which explores the possibility of developing a common UN-wide narrative on foresight, horizon scanning, anticipatory action and preparedness for environmental risks and issues of global concern.

Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Welcome the continuation of the Nexus Dialogue as a mechanism for ongoing discussion and continued exchange of lessons learned and recommendations among UN entities and other stakeholders on the implementation of sustainable recovery efforts in the COVID-19 context, the 2030 Agenda, and the SDGs, including their environmental dimensions.
- b) Encourage UN agencies to propose emerging nexus themes for, and contribute towards, future Dialogues by sharing their experience and exchanging ideas on innovative solutions to emerging, persistent, and systemic environmental challenges with other stakeholders.

X. EMG informal meeting on UN system-wide contribution to the Stockholm+50 high-level meeting

66. Following a [proposal by UNEP](#) to the EMG mid-term Meeting on 30 June 2021, the EMG was invited to provide a contribution to the Stockholm+50 high-level meeting, which will mark the 50th anniversary of Stockholm+50 Conference on Human Environment held in Sweden in June 1972.
67. EMG Focal Points met on 13 July 2021 ([meeting report](#)) to share thoughts on the type and modality of a possible contribution by the EMG. The meeting agreed to propose to the Senior Officials the creation of an EMG Task Team to support the preparation of an EMG report to Stockholm+50. It was suggested that the report could be built on inputs from UN entities, a series of nexus dialogues and Heads of Agency interviews to provide the following:
- A system-wide picture of the role of the UN system in addressing the environmental agenda since the Stockholm Conference, including successes and challenges;
 - A system-wide picture of how the environmental agenda has been integrated into, and implemented within the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and other related initiatives and frameworks; and
 - A system-wide perspective on the UN system contribution to accelerating action towards healthy planet for the prosperity of all.
68. The main objective of the Task Team will be to steer the formulation of the EMG contribution to the Stockholm+50 high-level meeting. Terms of Reference for the Task Team will be developed upon the perspectives and the decision of the Senior Officials at their 27th meeting.

Suggested Actions³

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to establish a Task Team of UN agencies to prepare a UN system-wide report as a contribution from the EMG to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting.
- b) Encourage EMG members to contribute to the EMG report by providing inputs to the report and participating in the Nexus Dialogues and interviews.

XI. New proposals for consideration of the EMG in 2021-2022

69. Eight new proposals have been submitted by the EMG members at the mid-term Technical Segment of the 27th Senior Officials Meeting for EMG's consideration in 2021-2022 (see Concept Notes at [Governance – UN Environment Management Group \(unemg.org\)](https://unemg.org)). Two of the proposals have been withdrawn: [Rethinking the UN Approach on Strategic Foresight for Environmental Action](#) and [Enhancing collaboration between the post-2020 Biodiversity and Chemicals Framework](#). The following approach is suggested to address the remaining six new issues. This approach aims to respond positively to the demands of the EMG members while being mindful of the EMG criteria for selection of the issues, the urgency of the suggested issues and the resources of the EMG Secretariat. The suggested approach will allow to better explore the UN-wide relevance, impact and added value of the new proposals while responding to the issues that warrant system-wide collaboration.⁴

- I. Issues which will benefit from further evaluation through EMG nexus dialogues in 2022:
 - 1 [Understanding the consequences of a 1.5°C temperature rise on United Nations' programming](#) (OCHA).
 - 2 [Environmental Sustainability and Digital Transformation](#) (UNEP).
- II. Issues that do not require establishing inter-agency processes:
 - 3 [Proposal on Joint Policy Paper \(JPP\) on Food System Resilience](#) by UNU-FLORES (UNU may draft a proposal to be shared with EMG members for comments – no need for a consultative process at this stage).
- III. Issues that can be merged with current EMG processes:
 - 4 [IMG on the UN System Response to the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) (FAO) - to be merged with the EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity.
- IV. Issues that require the consideration of establishing new EMG processes:
 - 5 [Consultative process on a pollution-free planet](#) (UNEP).
 - 6 [UN system-wide contribution to the Stockholm+50](#) (UNEP) (see section X above).

³ This decision can be revisited based on the results of the strategic discussions of the Senior Officials during their 27th meeting on the Stockholm+50 international meeting.

⁴ For the list of IMG's/CPs in 2021-2022, see Table 1 below.

Suggested Actions⁵

The Senior Officials:

- a) Take note of the suggested new issues by the EMG members for consideration of the EMG in 2021-2022.
- b) Agree to work further on the following suggested issues through the EMG Nexus Dialogues:
 - Understanding the consequences of a 1.5°C temperature rise on United Nations' programming (proposed by OCHA).
 - Environmental Sustainability and Digital Transformation (proposed by UNEP).
- c) Agree to merge the following issue with the current EMG processes:
 - Proposal by FAO for IMG on the UN System Response to the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to be merged with the EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity.
- c) Agree to establish a Consultative Process on Pollution-Free Planet to strengthen the coordination of UN-system support to Member States in this area of work (proposed by UNEP).
- d) UN system-wide contribution to the Stockholm+50 - see section X above.

⁵ To be finalized upon the results of the Senior Segment of the 27th SOM.

Table 1. EMG workstreams in 2021-2022

	IMGs/Consultative Processes	2021	2022
1	Converted to 2022 Nexus: Consultative process on understanding the consequences of a 1.5°C temperature rise on United Nations’ programming	■	■
	Merge with proposal: IMG on the UN System Response to the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration		■
2	Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics	■	■
3	Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System	■	■
4	IMG on Sustainable Infrastructure	■	■
5	IMG on Human Rights and Environment	■	■
6	IMG on Green Recovery	■	
7	The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management	■	■
8	Consultative Process on a UN System Wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS) on the Environment	■	■
9	Consultative process on a pollution-free planet		■
10	UN system-wide contribution to the Stockholm+50 Conference	■	■
11	Proposal on Joint Policy Paper (JPP) on Food System Resilience		■
	Nexus Dialogues		
12	EMG Nexus Dialogues	■	■
	Converted to 2022 Nexus: IMG on Environmental Sustainability and Digital Transformation		■
	Converted to 2022 Nexus: Consultative process on understanding the consequences of a 1.5°C temperature rise on United Nations’ programming		■

■	Existing workstream
■	New proposal
■	New merger