

## Task Team Meeting of the EMG Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure

7th September 2021

Meeting minutes

**Moderator:** Mr. Joseph Price (UNEP)

**Presenters:**

Mr. Joseph Price (UNEP)

Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP)

Mr. Christian Schneider (UNU-FLORES)

Ms. Elena Mendoza Barajas (UNU-FLORES)

Other UNEP:

Mr. Dominic MacCormack

**UN, EMG:**

Ms. Anna Kaplina

Ms. Marie Clerc

Mr. Sam Jeremy

**Participants:** list appended

**Agenda:**

10h00-10h05	Welcome and <i>tour de table</i>
10h05-10h15	Overview of Task Team activities and summary of written feedback received on the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure (UNEP)
10h15-10h40	Reactions to feedback and proposed activities; further comment (All)
10h40-10h50	Proposal of barrier analysis in support of International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure (UNU)
10h50-11h05	Reactions to proposal (All)
11h05-11h15	Summary and next steps (UNEP)

### ***Overview of Task Team activities and written feedback received outlined by Mr. Joseph Price (UNEP)***

- The EMG Secretariat suggested a Task Team to advance the key activities in this Consultative Process for Sustainable Infrastructure. So this team was established to collectively address the key outputs in the ToR of the process. The proposed tasks (below) are therefore focused on these outputs:
  - 1) Discuss the feedback received on the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure (“Principles”) and plan next steps
  - 2) Consider UNU’s proposal of future barrier analyses to support implementation of the Principles
  - 3) Add to/maintain the live calendar of events in the lead-up to UNEA-5.2
    - High priority/global events
    - Specific thematic events
    - Deadlines for submissions
- On the written feedback on the Principles: the Principles were found to be complementary to other UN entities’ normative guidance/activities, including for: incorporating environmental considerations into labour standards; emphasising the importance of strategic planning; advancing nexus approaches and the promotion of nature-based solutions. Specific comments included the suggestion to highlight the role of the international system more prominently in the Principles.
- The aim is to deliver a revised second edition of the Principles as an output for the second part of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2). UNEA was supposed to be in February 2021, but was split into two parts, with tabling of new resolutions held off until February 2022.

#### **Ms. Anna Kaplina (UN, EMG)**

- On the Senior Officials Meeting: the approval for all Consultative Processes is expected next year and therefore it would be beneficial to suggest topics of discussion for the Task Team at the Senior Officials Meeting.

### ***Discussion and Q&A on the comments on the Principles and proposed tasks***

#### **Mr. Maher Salman (FAO):**

- On clarifying tools for sustainable infrastructure: it would be helpful to define tools more clearly in-text, and to integrate the tools within the Principles outlined.
- Also, it might help to clarify who is involved in the design and implementation of each principle.
  - **Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP):** On clarifying tools: currently, there is a link to an online database of tools (Sustainable Infrastructure Tool Navigator) – but it may still be beneficial to include more information on tools used, within the text itself. The initial aim was to avoid too many mentions of specific tools that may distract from the main issues, and which may be politically sensitive. Nonetheless, defining the tools could potentially be helpful to give detail and overview. Moreover, a criteria could be developed for this without simply listing tools that may be distracting.
  - **Mr. Dominic MacCormack (UNEP):** On the Sustainable Infrastructure Tool Navigator, co-managed with GIZ: the objective is to add additional content to the database, with thematic pages to provide information on topics such as biodiversity and gender. This will

help provide information on tools for practitioners and policymakers, organised around the phases of the infrastructure life cycle. The navigator currently contains over 100 tools, and UNEP is working to add the new suggestions provided by EMG members. The current update to the website means that changes can be incorporated as the website is updated.

- UNEP is currently developing tool-specific case studies to examine the practical usage of tools. The case studies will provide an illustration of how and why specific tools can be used.
- **Mr. Maher Salman (FAO):** case studies and tools together will be very helpful.

#### **Mr. Maikel Lieuw-Kie-Song (ILO)**

- On feedback processes: are we updating the existing Principles or developing additional complimentary publications?
  - **Mr. Joseph Price and Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP):** the existing publication will be revised as a second edition, but an extensive revision or separate publication is not planned at this stage given the feedback received. Barrier analysis can support the Principles, and other complementary guidance can be organised and consolidated.

#### **Mr. Maher Salman (FAO)**

- Principles should be followed up with actions. How do we envisage to take ready-made cases and show the Principles in practice? Actions in new countries or places are required too. Can we do more to promote the implementation of these Principles?
  - **Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP):** the current focus is on UNEA 5.2, with the goal of being able to re-launch the second edition of the Principles with the support of a broad coalition of stakeholders that includes different Member States and other UN entities, financing partners and external actors. With multi-stakeholder collaboration, conducting barrier analysis and other methods will then be needed to make use of these partnerships. This Task Team can work towards applying Principles beyond single case study examples.

#### **Mr. Maikel Lieuw-Kie-Song (ILO)**

- Broadening the coalition to get a bigger group of actors behind the Principles is important. A revised document could help to implement the Principles. Practical considerations must be better captured in revised document, and it may help to include examples of actors that have used these Principles. However, this will be difficult as there are limited actors who have used these Principles thus far. How can this process improve learning and knowledge sharing via collaboration?
  - **Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP):** The changes will ensure that the Principles are flexible and aligned to individual mandates, based on lessons learned and real-world implementation. The Principles may be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis, which could help to ensure Member States' experiences are captured.

#### **Ms. Anna Kaplina (UN, EMG)**

- On the topic of Task Team developments: developments depend on members of the group and the UN Biodiversity common approach.
- The consultative process on the Model Approach and sustainable standards rely on a range of agencies and organisations to support their implementation. Therefore, the EMG can help with

this cross-sectoral process and multi-stakeholder participation required for the successful implementation of a common standard (Model Approach).

**UNU proposal for barrier analysis to support the Principles** (Overview and presentation provided by Mr. Christian Schneider and Ms. Elena Mendoza Barajas of UNU-FLORES)

**Mr. Christian Schneider (UNU-FLORES)**

- On Barrier Analysis: the implementation of the Principles will benefit from Barrier Analysis. This will provide an analysis of implementation and the obstacles that exist.
- The case studies are helpful to incorporate these Principles into practical settings.
- The Barrier Analysis will help to show challenges prior to implementation of the Principles. It will help define how can hurdles be overcome; they come from different sources and involve different actors. There are barriers that occur at every step, and this analysis helps formulate practical plans to overcome this and support implementation.
- This analysis can be applied to different sectors, stakeholders, and cultural contexts, country-level contexts, etc.

**Mr. Maikel Lieuw-Kie-Song (ILO)**

- Is this framework easily applied across very different contexts? The issues faced in specific national and regional contexts are highly variable.
  - **Mr. Christian Schneider (UNU-FLORES):** this is a very good point, but if case studies are applied correctly and data is collected across regions, the results can be extrapolated across wider regions.

**Mr. Joseph Price (UNEP)**

- Having a specific geographical and sectoral/thematic focus would be useful to make the analysis as practical as possible.

**Mr. Christian Schneider (UNU-FLORES)**

- UNU-FLORES has experience at the sub-national – municipality level in Germany – transnational level within different countries and sector-specific contexts. There are different options depending on the context in which it is applied.
- There are different methods to use, depending on interviews of policymakers, how quickly data can be collected from policymakers, while different contexts will provide different timelines to gather data.

**Mr. Joseph Price (UNEP)**

- It must be decided whether to apply such a framework at a sub-national or national level – national level could be a good place to start before considering a sub-national level.

**Mr. Joseph Price (UNEP) and Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP)**

- The time between now and UNEA 5.2. could be used to rationalise and design a Barrier Analysis for a specific context, with the main work to be conducted through 2022 within an extended EMG Consultative Process. UNEP's regional consultations on sustainable infrastructure of 2020 could form a basis for connecting with interviewees from environment ministries and other ministries

relevant to infrastructure, such as planning, finance and sectoral ministries.

**Next steps:**

- Put proposed 2022 Consultative Process activities on paper (with a focus on implementation challenges, as highlighted), and give colleagues an opportunity to think through different options.
- Outline anticipated next steps ahead of UNEA 5.2 to focal points.
- Plan is to now to revise the Principles based on the comments.
- Technical segment of Senior Officials Meeting on 30 September 2021 – can be used to present tentative proposals for 2022.
- Task Team members to contribute to calendar of events before meeting of focal points on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Appendix 1: participants list**

Number	Name	Institution
1	Mr. Maher Salman	Food and Agriculture Organization of theUN
2	Mr. Emanuele Brancati	International Labour Organization
3	Mr. Maikel Lieuw-Kie-Song	International Labour Organization
4	Ms. Vanessa Gray	International Telecommunications Union
5	Ms. Marie Clerc (intern)	UN Environment Management Group
6	Mr. Carl Giardina (intern)	UN Environment Management Group
7	Mr. Sam Jeremy (intern)	UN Environment Management Group
8	Ms. Anna Kaplina	UN Environment Management Group
9	Mr. Rowan Palmer	UN Environment Programme
10	Mr. Joseph Price	UN Environment Programme
11	Mr. Dominic MacCormack	UN Environment Programme
12	Ms. Apoorva Bajpai	UN Office for Project Services
13	Ms. Elena Mendoza Barajas	UN University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources
14	Mr. Christian Schneider	UN University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources
15	Mr. Bjoern Verse	UN University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources



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