

The Second Meeting of the EMG Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure

15th September 2021
Meeting Minutes

Moderator:

Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP)

Presenters:

Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP)

Other UNEP:

Mr. Joseph Price (UNEP)

Mr. Dominic MacCormack (UNEP)

Ms. Marie-Aimée Salopiata (UNEP)

UN, EMG:

Mr. Carl Giardina (Intern) (UN, EMG)

Ms. Fatema Johara (UN, EMG)

Ms. Marie Clerc (Intern) (UN, EMG)

Mr. Sam Jeremy (Intern) (UN, EMG)

Participants: list appended.

Agenda:

15:00 – 15:05	Welcome remarks (Mr. Rowan Palmer, UNEP)
15:05 – 15:10	Update on the Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure (Rowan Palmer, UNEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Written submissions received</i> • <i>Task Team meeting and activities</i> • <i>Live calendar of events</i>
15:10 – 15:25	Reactions to update
15:25 – 15:40	Overview of feedback received on the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure and planned next steps (Rowan Palmer, UNEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Feedback on content, structure and form</i> • <i>Secretary General foreword to second edition for UNEA-5.2</i>
15:40 – 16:20	Discussion and provision of additional verbal feedback on the Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reactions to plans</i> • <i>Potential further endorsement</i>

Discussion:

Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP):

- Leading the Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Team and working with the EMG Secretariat on the Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure.

Agenda:

- We would like to provide update on the Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure since the first meeting, including:
 - A discussion on the feedback and planned revision of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure
 - The possible extension of the Consultative Process into 2022 and to discuss some of the activities and the outputs that we could deliver in the second year.

Timeline:

- We met for the first time on March 17th 2021, and at that meeting we agreed on different outputs from the process, including: EMG members' review of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure; the preparation and maintenance of a consolidated calendar in the lead up to Unit 5.2 and to target and coordinate interventions on sustainable infrastructure; thirdly, the ongoing provision of coordinated inputs into those events, and finally, there was a discussion on a second Nexus Dialogue on sustainable infrastructure.
- The Principles were initially shared in May 2021, and the deadline for comments was June 30th 2021. Therefore, comments, case studies, and tools that are relevant to the Principles have been submitted. The tools have been collated and are now being updated and integrated into the Sustainable Infrastructure Tool Navigator.

Task Team meeting recap:

- A smaller Task Team has been convened to discuss the feedback on the Principles and the next steps on September 8th. This Task Team includes members of UNU-FLORES who have suggested the barrier analysis to support the implementation of the Principles.
- Meeting with the Task Team last week: discuss the feedback in detail and is fairly straightforward to address, no major overhauls to document.
- Based on the feedback, the Principles are found to be complementary to existing normative guidance and activities or initiatives amongst the other Members, especially for establishing safeguards and codes of practice, incorporating environmental considerations into labour practices and standards, emphasizing the importance on planning and upstream planning, and promoting nature-based solutions and mitigation of impacts to nature and biodiversity.

Next steps:

- It was decided at the Task Team to revise the Principles to gain endorsement for the resulting 2nd edition of the Principles from the EMG ahead of UNEA 5.2.
- The Senior Officials Meeting will convene on 07th October, following the Technical Segment on the 30th September 2021.
- This will be good opportunity to propose endorsement of the 2nd edition of the Principles. Therefore, it would be useful to have a final check of the document ahead of this meeting to see if there are any final comments or additions to be addressed before it is proposed to the EMG Members at the Senior Officials Meeting. This will enable us to proceed with preparations for UNEA 5.2.

Ms. Fatema Johara (UN, EMG):

- On the Technical Segment and Senior Officials Meeting: information on this should have been received yesterday, with another email being sent shortly regarding all the documents available on website and the Senior Officials Segment that will be held on 7th of October 2021.

Mr. Christophe Xerri (IAEA):

- Sustainable infrastructure is linked more and more with the principles of circular economy, can you confirm whether this is discussed in enough detail in the report or flagged in the comments?
 - **Rowan Palmer (UNEP):**- confirms that the circular economy is closely linked to aims of sustainable infrastructure, and that it is referenced in the Principles, such as Principle 5 on resource efficiency and circularity.
 - **Mr. Joseph Price (UNEP):**
 - There were no specific comments on circularity, but UNEP received useful comments from UNU-FLORES whose works is closely relevant to circularity, although, this linkage could be highlighted further if required.

Mr. Christophe Xerri (IAEA):

- Reducing waste associated with infrastructure is also important when we are looking at end of life infrastructure. This must be included within the early stages of development and planning, including decommissioned infrastructure and decoupling GHG emissions from infrastructure and finding sustainable production pathways.
 - Confirms **Mr. Rowan Palmer's (UNEP)** point that case studies can reflect the process of circularity in more detail. Mentions that they might be able to provide a case study on this in the future.

Ms. Jane Hupe (ICAO):

- Offers congratulations on the work which will be very helpful to all organisations by providing guidance on sustainable Infrastructure. The ICAO has high ambitions with regard to sustainability and therefore this will be very useful framework.
- However, the document should be careful not to step into areas such as international standards. For example, some tools and some of the language used go beyond a guiding principle and were not agreed internationally. This might be problematic because it could endanger the acceptance of the Principles. The ICAO would like to have this endorsed by Senior Managers at the ICAO, but this will require revision to specific wording or tools that go beyond the agreed guidance.
- The deadlines can be achieved but it is important to be flexible in the way people are engaged in the process or the co-benefits will become less tangible.
- The ICAO would like to showcase this work at the Green Airport event.
- Agrees that circularity is very important and ensuring that the entire lifecycle of products or services is checked.
 - **Mr. Rowan Palmer's (UNEP):** Offers thanks for the useful comments and requests a follow up with specific comments that can be addressed.

Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP):

- The aim is to circulate the revised Principles this week or on Monday depending on the extent of comments. Therefore, please send additional comments in the next couple of days ahead of proposal.

On UNUFLORES's proposed barrier analysis approach:

Mr. Tobias Hatzfeld (UNU-FLORES):

- UNU-FLORES proposes to use barrier analysis by going through the 10 Principles and identifying potential barriers that could occur in relation to specific policies in some countries. Based on this, the barrier analysis will highlight potential challenges of implementing the Principles.

Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP):

- The Task Team meeting highlighted that there are different ways of approaching this analysis, such as conducting analysis of multiple sectors, or focusing one sector and multiple principles. It was discussed that it could form a key activity for the 2022 Consultative Process.

Mr. Christophe Xerri (IAEA):

- On the barrier analysis approach: we are always talking about challenge and not discussing enough of the opportunities, and, therefore, we must do an opportunities/enabler analysis in addition to a barrier analysis.

Mr. Tobias Hatzfeld (UNU-FLORES):

- Agrees and adds that the Task Team thought about mobility, energy and construction as sectors to look into first.

Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP):

Next step:

- Develop a revised ToR for Phase 2 for the group with an outline of key focal points, activities and new proposals. This can be the basis for the next in-depth discussion after the Senior Officials Meeting on 07th October 2021.

Extending the Consultative Process to 2022 – suggested by EMG Sec. as a possibility?

Mr. Curt Garrigan (ECAP):

- Due to the highly cross-cutting nature of this topic, the consultation process should continue because the issue is so relevant to all countries and all regions across multiple sectors.
- However, this process needs to evolve and develop an exit strategy to avoid the process continuing in perpetuity.
- The exit strategy is the main issue that needs to be resolved at this point.
 - **Mr. Rowan Palmer (UNEP):** it is important to clarify what the outputs are that can really be of service to the final objectives
 - **Mr. Curt Garrigan (ECAP):** fully supports the extension of the consultative process.



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Next step:

- Finalise revision of document based on the comments received by the end of the week, if there are any last-minute comments then please send them as soon as possible. Aim to have a proposed ToR of Phase 2, keeping in mind 'exit strategy' as mentioned by **Mr. Curt Garrigan (ECAP)** and follow up by email, with meeting notes, and attached target date.

Appendix 1: participants list

Number	Name	Institution
1	Mr. Mateo Salomon	UN Development Programme
2	Mr. Christophe Xerri	International Atomic Energy Agency
3	Ms. Jane Hupe	International Civil Aviation Organization
4	Mr. Gerard Bos	International Union for Conservation of Nature
5	Mr. Xavier Michon	UN Capital Development Fund
6	Mr. Curt Garrigan	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
7	Mr. Dominic MacCormack	UN Environment Programme
8	Mr. Joseph Price	UN Environment Programme
9	Ms. Marie-Aimée Salopiata (Intern)	UN Environment Programme
10	Mr. Rowan Palmer	UN Environment Programme
11	Mr. Carl Giardina (Intern)	UN Environment Management Group
12	Ms. Fatema Johara	UN Environment Management Group
13	Ms. Marie Clerc (Intern)	UN Environment Management Group
14	Mr. Sam Jeremy (Intern)	UN Environment Management Group
15	Ms. Nele Kapp	UN Human Settlements Programme
16	Ms. Apoorva Bajpai	UN Office for Project Services
17	Ms. Margot Pieters	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
18	Ms. Sheilagh Louise Henry	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
19	Mr. Tobias Hatzfeld	UN University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources
20	Mr. Garo Batmanian	World Bank
21	Ms. Agnès Lostis	World Intellectual Property Organization