

## **Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment**

### **Current Workplan**

**Objective:** Integrate the human right to a healthy environment into the work of the UN at the national, regional and global level to ensure a coherent and rights-based approach to environmental action throughout the UN system.

**Context:** The work of the Issue Management Group will 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, as well as the ongoing EMG Consultative Processes on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; on Sustainable Infrastructure; and on COVID-19 and the environment.

The IMG will also support capacity-building and peer-learning on rights-based approaches in UN programming including with respect to frameworks such as the UN Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming, the UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030 and the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

**Timeline:** 18 months (with possibility of extension)

#### **Co-Chairs:**

- OHCHR
- UNDP
- UNEP

**Role of Co-Chairs:** Set agenda and organize quarterly meetings. Coordinate work under three focus areas and of the IMG as a whole ensuring consistent progress toward achievement of the workplan and its objectives in sync with those of the EMG and its mechanisms. Facilitate enhanced coordination and information-sharing between UN entities and actors on human rights and the environment. Report on progress to EMG and Senior Officials meetings.

**Role of Focus Area Leads:** With respect to the focus area in question, set agenda and organize regular meetings (monthly or as otherwise determined by needs of the focus area group). Coordinate with other focus area leads, IMG co-chairs, the EMG Secretariat and other EMG mechanisms to ensure consistent progress toward achievement of the workplan and its objectives. Facilitate enhanced coordination and information-sharing between UN entities and actors on human rights and the environment.

**Role of contributing organizations:** With respect to the focus area in question, contribute to efforts to define and achieve the agreed upon objectives.

#### **Focus Areas**

**1) Joint and integrated policy and programming support on human rights and the environment to country level, and to regional DCO offices.**

**Focus Area Lead:** UNDP

**Contributing Agencies:** OHCHR, UN Women, UNEP, ILO, UN-HABITAT,

**Indicative activities:**

- In close coordination with the work developed under the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights and drawing on relevant existing initiatives, develop concise, concrete and practical draft guidance on integrating environmental rights in UN Common Country Analysis and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.
- In close coordination with the work developed under the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights and drawing on relevant existing initiatives, develop concise, concrete and practical guidance on integrating human rights in the development of obligations and non-State actor commitments under multilateral environmental agreements, including e.g. Nationally Determined Contributions and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and Land Degradation Neutrality commitments under the UNCCD.

Proposed output	Indicative timeline	Lead agency
Explore creation of temporary desk support function for UNCTs with DCO	August/throughout mandate	UNDP
Joint guidance for UNCTs and national level agencies on integrating human rights in NDCs <sup>1</sup>	Q3 2021	OHCHR
Joint Guidance for UNCT’s and national level agencies on integrating human rights in NBSAPs <sup>2</sup>	Q3 2021(check this timeline vs new global biodiversity framework)	OHCHR
Joint guidance/support on Integrating HRs into National Programmes of Action (NPAs) for Pollution Prevention.		ILO
Support to pilot/use NDC and NBSAP guidance	Qs 1 and 2, 2022	UNDP/OHCHR

<sup>1</sup> To be aligned with guidance on NBSAPs below, in coordination with the relevant MEA secretariats

<sup>2</sup> To be aligned with guidance on NDCs above, in coordination with the relevant MEA secretariats

Develop a Common narrative on Human Rights and Environment in a Development Context and a Checklist on integrating human rights into climate action on national policy level, for the Common Country Analyses/UNCDFs, linked to broader Model Approach efforts to provide capacity support to the system and work under the SG C2A and support to roll out	September/October 2021	UNDP
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## 2) Integrating human rights into multilateral environmental agreements

**Focus Area Lead:** OHCHR

**Contributing Agencies:** UN Women, UNDP, Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNEP, ILO, ITC, WWF INT, CBD Secretariat, UN-HABITAT, WIPO, ESCWA, IOM

**Indicative activities:**

- Draft joint strategies for engagement with key intergovernmental negotiations related to climate change, biodiversity, land and other critical environmental issues. These strategies should consider the potential for: joint events; cross-Rio collaboration eg. on the rights of Indigenous Peoples; joint briefing notes; entry points for technical guidance, as well as opportunities to improve coordination on human rights and the environment across MEAs.

Output and activities	Timeline	Actors responsible
<b>Engagement strategy on human rights and environment in relation to UNFCCC</b>		
Draft outline with key entry points and priorities developed	By mid-June	Focus area lead (OHCHR and UNFCCC, others welcome to join)

Review of draft outline and meeting of task team	End-June	Task team
First full draft developed	By 15 July <i>N.B. 31 May - 17 June 2021: UNFCCC virtual meeting</i>	Focus area lead
Review of draft and meeting of task team	15 - 30 July	Task team
Revised draft developed	By 15 August	Focus area lead
Review of draft in IMG	TBD	IMG
Final draft developed	TBD	Focus area lead + IMG
Engagement at UNFCCC COP 26	1-12 November	
<b>Engagement strategy on human rights and environment in relation to CBD</b>		
Draft outline with key entry points and priorities developed, to include engagement with IUCN World Conversation Congress scheduled for 3-11 of September and potential joint events with the other Rio Conventions.	By mid-late May	Focus area lead (OHCHR, WWF (tbc) and CBD, others welcome to join)

Review of draft outline and meeting of task team	Meeting in mid-June <i>N.B. 3 May – 13 June</i> <i>Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice</i> <i>Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation</i>	Task team
First full draft developed	15 June – 15 July <i>N.B. 22 May:</i> <i>International Day for Biological Diversity 2021: “We’re part of the solution”</i>	Focus area lead
Review of draft and meeting of task team	1-15 August	Task team
Revised draft developed	16-30 August	Focus area lead
Review of draft in IMG	TBD	IMG
Final draft developed	TBD	Focus area lead + IMG
Engagement at CBD COP 15	11-24 October	

<b>Engagement strategy on human rights and environment in relation to UNCCD</b>		
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Draft outline with key entry points and priorities developed	June N.B. 17 June:  Desertification and Drought Day 2021: “Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land”	Focus area lead (UNCCD and OHCHR others welcome to join)
Review of draft outline and meeting of task team	July	Task team
First full draft developed	August	Focus area lead
Review of draft and meeting of task team	TBD	Task team
Revised draft developed	TBD	Focus area lead
Review of draft in IMG	TBD	IMG
Revised draft developed and shared for final comments	TBD	Focus area lead + IMG

Final draft developed	TBD	Focus area lead + IMG
Engagement at UNCCD COP 15	In 2022 [Date TBC]	

**3) Global deep-dive webinars and trainings on human rights and the environment**

**Focus Area Lead:** UNEP

**Contributing Agencies:** OHCHR, UN Women, UNDP, UNFFS/DESA, WIPO, FAO, UNFCCC, ILO, ITC, ESCAP, CBD Secretariat, ESCWA, UNICEF, UNECE

Purpose:

- To increase understanding on human rights and the environment among UN staff at all levels
- To strengthen capacity of the UN system addressing human rights and the environment in an integrated manner
- To advance implementation of human rights and the environment by the UN system

**Indicative activities:**

- Organize three thematic deep dive workshops on (1) climate change (2) biodiversity loss and (3) pollution for all interested staff of the participating organizations.
  - o The thematic deep dive workshops will make the use of the guidance and tools developed under Focus Areas 1 and 2.
  - o The workshops will draw on relevant initiatives, such as recognition and implementation of the right to a healthy environment and address women’s rights and gender equality, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, the right to participate in public life, the right to access to information, children’s rights and intergenerational equity, human mobility, environmental human rights defenders, labour rights, the rights of workers and a just transition in environmental action; building better from COVID-19; environmental justice; responsible business conduct, human rights and the environment; one health approach and nature-based solutions.
- To increase the support to the RCs, FA3 will organize one deep dive thematic workshop on human rights and the environment for RCs in cooperation with DCO.

Possible activities/outputs	2021				2022	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Identify topics and develop concepts for thematic deep-dive webinars			X			
Thematic deep dive workshops for staff of interested organizations: climate change, biodiversity and pollution					1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Thematic deep dive webinar for RCs on environmental rights in cooperation with DCO (to discuss further with DCO)				x		

#### **ANNEX 1: Indicative key events in 2021-2022**

<b>Q1 2021</b>	UNEA-5.1, HRC 46
<b>Q2 2021</b>	HRC 47
<b>Q3 2021</b>	HRC 48, HLPF (focus on SDG 13+16), IUCN World Conservation Congress
<b>Q4 2021</b>	UNFCCC COP26, CBD COP15
<b>Q1 2022</b>	UNEA-5.2, HRC 49, Stockholm + 50 (during 2022)
<b>Q2 2022</b>	HRC 49