



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



<p>4th meeting of the EMG Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment Date and time: 13 October 2021, 14.00-15.30 CEST</p>	<p>Participants: in annex 1</p>
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Report of the meeting

Agenda

Subject	Objective
<p>1. Update on the 27th Senior Officials Meeting (due to take place on 7th October 2021, preceded by a technical segment on 30th September 2021)</p>	<p>for information</p>
<p>2. Updates on activities under IMG workplan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Focus Area 1 of workplan (Update on development of Common Narrative on Human Rights and the Environment in a Development Context) – UNDP b. Focus Area 2 of workplan (General update and discussion of human rights engagement strategies towards the ‘Rio Conventions’ – UNFCCC, CBD, and UNNCCD) – OHCHR c. Focus Area 3 of workplan (Presentation of survey results related to deep dive training and next steps) – UNEP 	<p>for information and discussion</p>
<p>3. AOB</p>	<p>for discussion</p>

1. Update on the 27th Senior Officials Meeting

Gita Parihar, the EMG consultant for Human Rights and the Environment, opens the meeting by welcoming the participants and presenting the agenda. The Technical Segment of the 27th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) took place on 30 September 2021, and the Senior Segment took place on 7 October 2021. At the SOM, the Senior Officials extended the mandate of the IMG until September 2022 and recognized the IMG’s Strategy for Engagement with the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. Also relevant to the work of the IMG, the Senior Officials formalized the consultative process on biodiversity as an issue management group on biodiversity.

OHCHR adds that at the SOM, the Senior Officials adopted all action points across the board of the EMG’s work areas. There was also an active discussion on Stockholm+50 and issues related to pollution, throughout which human rights issues arose. Further, the Senior Segment of the SOM took place one day before the Human Rights Council (HRC), which at its 48th session, adopted two resolutions that will impact the work of the IMG. First, the HRC adopted a resolution recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and inviting the General Assembly to consider adopting a similar resolution. This development further validates the work of the IMG, which

may support the implementation of this right as a part of its long-term strategy. Second, the HRC adopted a resolution establishing the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change, which is an important development with respect to the way human rights mechanisms will continue to address climate change going forward. OHCHR shares links with more information on the two resolutions.

2. Updates on activities under IMG workplan

a. Focus Area 1 of workplan (Update on development of Common Narrative on Human Rights and the Environment in a Development Context) – UNDP

- The EMG Consultant presents an update on the development of a Common Narrative on Human Rights and the Environment in a Development Context. A decision was made to keep the Narrative concise and focussed on key human rights and environmental messages. The draft Narrative will soon be circulated with the IMG. The next step for this output involves turning the Narrative into communicable messages that can be distributed across media platforms.
- OHCHR presents an update on joint guidance for UNCTs and national level agencies on integrating human rights in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for climate change, and National Programs of Action (NPAs) for pollution prevention. The work is still in its early stages, but progress has been made to varying degrees. Participants interested in getting involved with this work are invited to reach out to UNDP or OHCHR.

b. Focus Area 2 of workplan (General update and discussion of human rights engagement strategies towards the 'Rio Conventions' – UNFCCC, CBD, and UNNCCD) – OHCHR

OHCHR presents the following updates for Focus Area 2:

- On the engagement strategy on human rights and environment in relation to the UNFCCC, the Strategy for Engagement with the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC has been finalized and adopted. The Strategy envisages the coordination of a joint UN system side event on SDG 16 at COP26 and a related joint briefing note on priorities for rights-based climate action at COP 26. The proposal for a side event was accepted and will be taking place on Saturday, 6 November 2021, from 6.30-7.45 PM. It focuses on SDG 16 and issues related to participation, access to information, access to justice, and advancing a rights-based approach to climate action. Participants interested in co-sponsoring this event are invited to contact OHCHR. OHCHR will look into how human rights can be incorporated into the other side events being held, the full slate of which has been released and is available on the side event online registration site of the UNFCCC. The draft briefing note has been circulated to the IMG. Participants who were unable to access the draft are invited to share their emails in the chat so that the draft can be sent to them. As the workplan envisages finalisation of the strategy by 15 October 2021, feedback is welcome as soon as possible. An updated version incorporating the feedback will be circulated on 18 or 19 October 2021. OHCHR shares links to the Strategy and to the program of COP26 side events. The World Bank representative provides an email requesting that the draft briefing note be sent to her.

- Work has begun on drafting a strategy for engagement on human rights with the CBD COP-15. The High-Level Opening of COP15 takes place on 12 October 2021. The strategy will envisage engagement with the next two segments of the COP15: the negotiations of the ad-hoc open-ended working group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, taking place in January in Geneva, and COP15 itself, taking place in early March 2022.
- The development of the engagement strategy on human rights and environment in relation to the UNCCD is still at an early discussion stage.

c. Focus Area 3 of workplan (Presentation of survey results related to deep dive training and next steps) – UNEP

UNEP presents the following updates for Focus Area 3:

- On thematic deep dive workshops for staff of interested organizations on climate change, biodiversity, and pollution, a survey was conducted earlier this year on preferences for the modality of the deep dive webinars and trainings. Twelve agencies responded to the survey by 16 August 2021, the results of which were shared in the invitation to this meeting. Generally, responses noted the need for improvement on the knowledge and integration of human rights into the work of the organizations. Responses also expressed the need for the webinars and trainings to reach staff at regional and country offices in addition to staff at headquarters.

Based on these responses, it was decided that three two-hour webinars will be held, one on each thematic focus area: climate change, biodiversity, and pollution. It is also being considered that each webinar be organized into two sections: the first section on policy, focusing on the materials developed under focus areas 1 and 2; the second section on common approaches in practice.

The webinars are planned to take place in the first quarter of 2022. A concept note on the webinars is currently being developed, and it will be shared with the IMG once it is complete.

OHCHR adds that, on thematic deep dive webinars for RCs on environmental rights in cooperation with DCO, DCO has contacted OHCHR, UNDP, and UNEP to discuss webinars for UNCTs on issues related to climate change. They were contacted in the context of their roles both in supporting the work of the IMG and in supporting the work of the Secretary General's Call to Action on Human Rights. More discussion is needed on how those two roles work together.

3. AOB

The EMG Consultant introduces the next steps. In the coming weeks, the minutes of this meeting and the various documents discussed will be circulated to the IMG, including the Common Narrative on Human Rights and the Environment in a Development Context, the UNFCCC COP26 briefing note on rights-based climate action, and the concept note on the deep dive webinars and trainings. The EMG Consultant thanks the participants for joining and closes the meeting.

Annex 1: Participants of the meeting on 13/10/2021

Amanda Kron	OHCHR	Marina Maiero	WHO
Anna Kaplina	EMG	Marina Venancio	UNEP
Benjamin Schachter	OHCHR	Olivia Bonner	UNEP
Bernard Combes	UNESCO	Renée Ankarfjard	IFAD
Bianca De Paulis	EMG	Robert Lewis-Lettington	UN-Habitat
Carl Giardina	EMG	Robin Michelle Zuercher	ITU
Edeltraud Guenther	UNU	Sam Jeremy	EMG
Enni Kallio	UNCCD	Sarah Brand	FAO
Gita Parihar	EMG	Sheilagh Louise Henry	OCHA
Jenny Springer	IUCN	Tanvi Mani	UNFCCC
Katerina Tsotroudi	ILO	Thierry Tremblay	UNDOS
Lowri Angharad Rees	UN Women	Tracy Hart	World Bank
Marie Clerc	EMG		