



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

**EMG**

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## **1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the EMG Task Team on a UN System Contribution to the Stockholm+50**

Teams Meeting, Thursday, 04.11.2021  
14:00 to 15:30 (Geneva time)

### Meeting Report

#### **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

Mr. Hossein Fadaei (EMG Secretariat) welcomed all the participants to the first meeting of the EMG Task Team on the Stockholm+50 (S+50) international meeting. He introduced Ms. Haruko Okusu, who was recently nominated as the coordinator for S+50 and underlined that UNEP and UNDP have been pioneering the preparations of the international meeting.

The agenda was accepted with no comments.

The EMG Secretariat provided an overview of the progress made so far regarding the establishment of the Task Team on S+50.

- The EMG was requested by UNEP during the mid-term meeting (30 June 2021) to provide a contribution to S+50. Following this request, a first informal meeting of the EMG focal points occurred on July 13 to gather initial thoughts. During SOM27 (8 October 2021), Senior Officials agreed to establish a Task Team on S+50.
- A summary of the key comments from the informal meeting of EMG focal points and key thoughts from the SOM27 were shared. These included emphasising youth engagement throughout the conference, taking the opportunity to build on and highlight recent developments (such as the adoption of the right to a healthy environment by the Human Rights Council), tapping into regional collaborative processes in which UN agencies are engaged, working with students to develop a vision for Stockholm+100, adopting a more forward-looking approach, making sure that S+50 gives a new impetus to the implementation of MEA's, using the international conference to refresh the role of the EMG in enhancing UN coordination on the environment, and so on.

#### **2. Update on the preparations for the Stockholm+50 International Meeting (UNEP)**

Ms. Ligia Noronha (UNEP) introduced S+50 in general and the processes feeding into it.

- S+50 stresses the importance of a healthy planet, which is vital for human wellbeing. This conference calls on our responsibility to uphold the environmental agenda, a responsibility that was already central in 1972. Today, although we face similar problems as 50 years ago, we have much more knowledge and awareness of where the opportunities lie and how we can take them forward.
- Stockholm +50 has been mandated by the UN General Assembly. Resolution A/RES/75/280 of 24 May 2021 agreed that UNEP serve as a focal point for providing support to the organisation of S+50, while Resolution A/RES/75/326 of 10 September 2021 provided the modalities guiding the work forward, including the organization of four plenaries, three leadership dialogues, and a closing segment. The two co-chairs of the leadership dialogues are appointed by Kenya and Sweden, the co-hosts of S+50. Towards the beginning of April, or later, there will be a one-day preparation meeting.
- Agencies expressed their support of the meeting during the EMG SOM27 and emphasised the need for S+50 to be inspirational. There is a need to recognise the emergency related to the triple planetary crises and COVID recovery, but also to focus on our opportunities to think differently and to make this conference inclusive. During the meeting, youth participation has once again been strongly emphasised. At least four meetings occurred with young people in the last months.
- S+50 should follow three principles of engagement: (1) Our intergenerational responsibility, which does not only pertain to future generations, but also to current ones; (2) Our implementing opportunity building on what is past and existing efforts; and (3) interconnected solution and inclusiveness.
- Three leadership dialogues feeding into the S+50 contribution are planned. The first dialogue will reflect on the urgent need for action, the second on sustainable and inclusive recovery from Covid-19 and the third on accelerating implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
- Five aspects have been identified as messages to be shared. These include (1) *Regeneration*, emphasising social and community resilience and institution solidarity in addition to the focus on ecosystem restoration; (2) Sustainable *recovery* from COVID but also from social, environmental and implementation deficits; (3) *Rebalance*, referring not only to our relationship with nature, but also to rebalancing resources and access to them in order to tackle inequalities. Finances also need to be adapted to economic transformations, mainly through repurposing subsidies; (4) *Renewal*, including a stronger multilateralism and aligning public and private agendas; and (5) *Reimagination*, encouraging us to rethink our common future.
- An overview of the global processes in 2021/2022 feeding into S+50 was presented, including the UNFCCC COP26, the CBD COP15, UNEA-5 and UNEA-5.2, LDC5 that sheds light on less developed countries, and so on. The recommendations potentially

resulting from the leadership dialogues should contribute to the environmental dimension of sustainable development through accelerating implementation in this context. A summary of the discussions will be presented in S+50. The multiple processes contributing to S+50 can be separated into private sector engagement (with the World Business Council on Sustainable Development), youth engagement, a science report, MSGs (Multi Stakeholder Groups), and communication outreach (with UNDP).

- A global website was created for S+50: <https://www.stockholm50.global>.

EMG members shared the following views:

- IMO remarked that next year is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the London Convention (*Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972*). Illustrating the tangible outcomes of the two past conferences, London Convention and Stockholm 1972, would be useful. Concerning the London Convention, we could showcase for example the stricter regulations or the banning of incineration and radioactive dumping that have resulted from the meeting. Ms. Noronha remarked that looking into the past is important in order to identify the many positive impacts that have occurred. In doing that, it is crucial to reflect on the implementation gaps that have hindered further impacts. Knowing the gaps that have prevented the past regulations from achieving more is really useful. For example, the Montreal Protocol is a big success from an environmental point of view and reflecting upon it is important.
- FAO mentioned that many inputs were coming from countries through regional or national dialogues and asked how agencies can contribute both collectively through the EMG Task Force and individually through other channels. FAO has observed a great willingness from member states to contribute to S+50, now the question is how exactly this should be done. Ms. Noronha responded that everyone, including the UN, is coming to this conference as a stakeholder. There are multiple ways in which agencies can contribute, individually as a UN agency through the many existing processes, or collectively as an EMG group for the report writing. A typical process in which agencies may participate are the leadership dialogues. Anyone can join the dialogues and bring his or her own perspective into the reflection, which is highly welcomed. Regarding the overall coordination towards the S+50, Haruko Okusu, UNEP, ([haruko.okusu@un.org](mailto:haruko.okusu@un.org)) will be the person in charge.
- UNEP underlined that “UN” does not only encompass agencies, but also member states who carry through our recommendations. Multilateralism needs to be emphasised through creating a narrative celebrating inclusiveness in the past 50 years and the positive impacts they have delivered. Ms. Noronha agreed that celebrating multilateralism is central, but it also needs to be renewed, adapted to the changing society so that trust can be recreated. Looking beyond the UN and its agencies, network multilateralism is also crucial, which necessitates bringing youth, women, indigenous groups, the private sector, and the society in general to the

discussion. This may be brought into a special event such as the Summit of the Future.

- UNESCO asked which concrete outcomes were expected from S+50 and pondered how this celebration can be made inspiring and innovative, so as to avoid having another regular event. Making this conference inspiring is a question of process and format, which should be rethought so that we do not simply do “the usual”. We should question the customary way we operate, with UNEP leading and the other agencies participating. Several good questions mentioned previously were underlined, such as what has been transformed since 1972, what were the concrete impacts, where are we now, and what needs to be done and by whom. It is crucial to find an innovative way to answer those questions in S+50. Supporting a narrative around multilateralism, UNESCO added that communication can be made in many different ways, as proven by the engaging video prepared by UNDP. If we aim at acting together and showing our aspirations to concrete changes, a dialogue might not be an optimal process.

Ms. Noronha declared that making S+50 exciting is a crucial objective. It would be interesting to bring art and culture into this conference, for example by looking at different cultural perspectives on the relationship between humans and nature. By gathering those different points of views, the conference would integrate culture in an inclusive and wholesome manner, going beyond the sole participation of UN agencies and reach indigenous people. She noted that science is also very prominent in S+50, and UNESCO could focus on how science contributed to moving multilateralism forward in addition to focusing on culture for the writing of the report.

ILO asked whether it would be possible to hold simultaneous meetings in other world regions in addition to the main conference in Stockholm, as this would send a message of inclusiveness.

DESA reiterated their willingness and ability to participate in the process feeding into S+50 in any way possible. Ms. Noronha noted that data, statistics, and macro policies in general are relevant for S+50, and DESA might help on this front.

UNEP asked about the difference between the contribution done as a EMG and the technical contributions done as an individual UN agency, such as inputs to the leadership dialogue papers or campaigns. Ms. Noronha replied that multiple ways exist in which agencies can contribute to S+50. Among them are the consolidated report of the EMG, national consultations led by UNDP, regional consultation led by UNEP, and the background papers for the leadership dialogues. Any contributions to the background papers of the leadership dialogues can be sent to Mr. Steven Stone ([steven.stone@un.org](mailto:steven.stone@un.org)). She underlined that the five pathways mentioned earlier are simply meant for guidance, while the three principles of engagement are more fundamental. The objective is to have an intergenerational, implementation oriented and inspirational international meeting. A list of contacts could be shared to guide agencies in addressing the right person.

- UNESCO asked whether a global budget for this event was prepared or whether each UN agency is to contribute the best they can. Ms. Noronha explained that UNDP is running with its own budget as they received a grant from Sweden. UNEP has been allocated a budget to support the whole process feeding into S+50, but the event itself is part of another budget. Part of the allocated budget goes to the EMG to manage this Task Team. Financial support can be found for agencies' projects, but those should remain collective to avoid that each agency goes separately to the funders. Agencies can also have their own budget to develop their ideas since S+50 is not a closed process. She emphasised that any proposals should be communicated to Ms. Haruko Okusu, as she is the overall coordinator for the S+50 process.
- UNEP underlined that they could give some useful insights on the Montreal Protocol, such as why it has been a success or how the challenges that were faced were overcome. Next year is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protocol, and this event could be connected to S+50.
- The EMG Secretariat concluded this section by ensuring that all ideas and perspectives shared will be taken into account when working on the outline of the report and that updates on the progress of the Task Team will regularly be provided.
- Ms. Noronha pointed out that the final report should not be process-oriented, but exciting, inspiring, and interesting. A snappy and concise report would be preferable.

### **3. Consideration of the draft Terms of Reference of the Task Team**

The EMG Secretariat explained that the Task Team aims primarily at guiding the preparation of a UN report as a contribution to S+50. This will be done within the EMG with the help of a consultant. To write this report, materials and information are required from agencies or from other existing resources.

Several entry points are suggested to gather the necessary information, namely two Nexus Dialogues on 23 and 31 November 2021 (<https://unemg.org/stockholm50-nexus-dialogue-series/>), interviews with Heads of Agencies, and tapping into existing information such as EMG processes or additional resources from agencies.

- The CBD Secretariat remarked that numerous processes are taking place besides the EMG Task Team. He suggested that the Task Team could serve as a clearinghouse for the UN system contribution to S+50. That would imply adapting the objectives presented in the ToR, including the facilitation of Heads of Agencies' participation and the communication provision that might fall within the capacities of another UN wide coordination mechanism. But more importantly, it would move the Task Team away from the preparation of a report to supporting a holistic understanding by UN agencies of the whole process contributing to S+50. The EMG Secretariat clarified that the interaction with Heads of Agencies are meant to gather insights for the report.

- UNU offered to invite students from member states, for example through a survey, to look back to the last 50 years to see what has been accomplished. Subsequently, a session could be organised during the meeting to imagine how our future should look like. Setting a vision for the conference could be a useful contribution and this vision could go well beyond 50 years. The youth perspective on this can be brought to the leadership dialogues.
- The EMG Secretariat welcomed further comments on the Task Team's ToR.
- A mapping of who is doing what regarding the contributions to S+50 will be shared with EMG members.

#### **4. Next steps**

The upcoming activities of the Task Team are detailed in the ToR, under "Timeline and Milestones". The immediate next step is to carry through the two Nexus Dialogues, in which participation is highly encouraged. Further information will be provided by email, including the time of the next meeting of the Task Team and the request for possibilities to interview Heads of Agencies.

#### **5. Closure of the meeting**

No further comments were made. The EMG Secretariat closed the meeting.

## List of participants

<b>1</b>	Meriem Bouamrane	UNESCO
<b>2</b>	Frederik Haag	IMO
<b>3</b>	Tim Scott	UNDP
<b>4</b>	Robin Zuercher	ITU
<b>5</b>	Andrea Camponogara	UNFCCC
<b>6</b>	Neil Pratt	CBD
<b>7</b>	Mara Murillo	UNEP
<b>8</b>	Steven Stone	UNEP
<b>9</b>	Ligia Noronha	UNEP
<b>10</b>	Sheilagh Henry	OCHA
<b>11</b>	Monika MacDevette	UNEP
<b>12</b>	Lara Geadah	ESCWA
<b>13</b>	Kaveh Madani	UNU
<b>14</b>	Solene Le Doze	ESCAP
<b>15</b>	Philippe Wealer	
<b>16</b>	Haruko Okusu	UNEP
<b>17</b>	Gergana Kiskinova	WTO
<b>18</b>	Monica Castillo	ILO
<b>19</b>	Maria Cristina Cardenas	BRS
<b>20</b>	Olivia Bonner	UNEP
<b>21</b>	Carla Calistri	UNEP
<b>22</b>	Alessandro Amadio	UNIDO
<b>23</b>	Sophia Mylona	Ozon Secretariat
<b>24</b>	Edeltraud Guenther	UNU
<b>25</b>	Therese Arnesen	OHCHR
<b>26</b>	Maaïke Jansen	HLPF
<b>27</b>	Manuel Hoff	IOM
<b>28</b>	Seemin Quaym	UN Women
<b>29</b>	Xavier Michon	UNCDF
<b>30</b>	Sarah Taravella	
<b>31</b>	Lev Neretin	FAO
<b>32</b>	James Hale	UPU
<b>33</b>	Jane Hupe	ICAO
<b>34</b>	Barbara Tavora Jainchill	UNFF
<b>35</b>	Hossein Fadaei	EMG
<b>36</b>	Jannica Pitkanen	EMG
<b>37</b>	Anna Kaplina	EMG
<b>38</b>	Marie Clerc	EMG
<b>39</b>	Carl Giardina	EMG