



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



Mid-Term Technical Segment of the 28th Senior Officials Meeting
18th May 2022
MS Teams
from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Geneva time

EMG SOM28 /mid-term/03

Distribution: EMG members

Mid-Term Progress Report

Note by the Secretariat

This note has been prepared to support the discussions of the midterm technical segment of the 28th Senior Officials Meeting by providing a short progress report on the work of the EMG Issue Management Groups, Consultative Processes and Task Teams, as well as the next steps of their work in line with the decisions taken by the 27th Senior Officials' Meeting in October 2021. The referred documents and reports in this note can be found at the EMG website www.unemg.org.

I. Collaboration on Global Environmental Issues

a) Issue Management Group on Biodiversity

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
Establish an EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity to facilitate and enable a streamlined approach and support to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the UN Common Approach to biodiversity and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.	Ongoing The IMG on Biodiversity was established by the Senior Officials at their 27 th meeting. The IMG has organized its work through three working groups: 1) Awareness raising and knowledge sharing 2) Accountability and global-level reporting	Finalise the monitoring and reporting framework. Continue supporting and facilitating knowledge exchange as well as efforts in support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

	<p>3) UN Decade for Ecosystem Degradation</p> <p>A draft outline of a monitoring and reporting framework and an inventory of knowledge products in support of the objectives of the Common Approach have been prepared.</p>	
<p>Agree to merge the proposed IMG on a UN System Response to the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration with the EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Working Group III of the IMG is focused on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.</p>	

b) Consultative Process on a Pollution-Free Planet

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
<p>Agree to establish a Consultative Process on Pollution-Free Planet to strengthen the coordination of UN-system support to Member States in this area of work.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Consultative Process was established through a letter by the EMG chair to the EMG members on 14 December 2021. The first meeting was held on 15 February, in which the later finalised ToR was discussed. The Consultative Process focuses initially on addressing plastic pollution through a Core Working Group, which was established in response to the UNSG's call to unite efforts across the UN system on solutions for challenges posed by plastic pollution. The Core Working Group met on 16 March 2022 to agree on its ToR. Expected deliverables include joint messages for communication and advocacy to maximize the effectiveness of communication on plastic pollution; an overview of how the UN system and stakeholders provide sustainable solutions to the challenge of plastic pollution; a common offer to support an inclusive and just transition towards</p>	<p>The Core Working Group on Plastic Pollution is currently finalising a set of key messages on plastic pollution for the UN Secretary-General. These will be shared with the Consultative Process for comments.</p> <p>Work has started to prepare the overview of how the UN system and stakeholders provide sustainable solutions to the challenge of plastic pollution, building on the EMG report on marine litter and microplastics.</p>

	a plastic pollution-free planet; and a set of targets and indicators on internal performance of UN entities.	
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c) Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
<p>Agree to present the report, developed by the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics to relevant interagency and international fora, such as the UNEA 5.2 and the UN Oceans Conference.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Task Team met on 24 November 2021 to discuss report outreach and the future role of the Task Team.</p> <p>The report “Addressing marine litter and microplastics: UN system-wide contributions” was launched through the high-level panel discussion A UN System Response to Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, held on 13 January 2022 in collaboration with the Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues, GRID-Arendal and the Government of Norway.</p> <p>The report together with the Executive Summaries in all UN languages is accessible on the EMG webpage on marine litter and microplastics.</p> <p>A news item about the report “Massive, coordinated effort needed to reverse ocean plastics crisis, says new UN report” was prepared and published on the EMG website on 31 January 2022.</p> <p>The report was made available as an Information Document to UNEA 5.2.</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to present the EMG report during the UN Oceans Conference and other international fora.</p>
<p>Consider the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics to be a resource expert group supporting the mainstreaming of marine litter</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Task Team will serve as a subgroup to the Consultative Process on a Pollution-Free</p>	

and microplastics reduction activities in relevant ongoing processes, including in follow up to the EMG report.	Planet, providing input as needed.	
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d) Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
Invite EMG Members to contribute to the outputs of the Consultative Process, including sharing of complementary sustainable infrastructure tools and case studies and adding to the live calendar of events.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complementary tools and case studies have been exchanged among EMG members and are being integrated into the Sustainable Infrastructure Tool Navigator - an online platform to support Member States' implementation of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure.</p>	
Agree to extend the Consultative Process until the 28th Senior Officials Meeting in 2022 to focus on issues surrounding implementation of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure has provided inputs to the Second Edition of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure ("Principles"), now finalised for launch in 2022.</p> <p>To understand country-level implementation issues and opportunities, a "Barrier Analysis" is being conducted by UNU-FLORES in Chile. A systematic literature review and stakeholder mapping exercise have been completed, with interviews, workshops, questionnaires and reports (including a policy roadmap) to follow.</p>	<p>A Nexus Dialogue on "Investing in Natural Infrastructure" will be organized on 7 June 2022. Among other objectives, the event will help identify mechanisms for implementing the Principles (in particular Principle 4: "Avoiding Environmental Impacts and Investing in Nature"). Invitations will be circulated shortly.</p> <p>Implementation of the Principles in EMG Members' work, including through the Sustainable United Nations facility, will be explored further in the coming months.</p>

e) The IMG on Human Rights and the Environment

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
<p>Take note of the work of the IMG on Human Rights and the Environment and agree to extend its mandate until the 28th Senior Officials Meeting in 2022, at which time further extension of the IMG shall be given due consideration.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The common narrative on advancing the human right to a healthy environment to address the triple planetary crisis has been revised in the light of comments from the IMG and the Secretary General’s Call to Action Group. It is now being shared with the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment and UNDP country level colleagues for comments. A draft checklist with the aim of assisting country teams with their work has also been prepared and will be circulated to the IMG for comments.</p> <p>Strategies for engagement with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) have been finalised. A public briefing note containing key messages concerning human rights and desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) has also been circulated for comments and finalised.</p> <p>A concept note for webinar trainings has been prepared and potential speakers/moderators identified.</p> <p>Joint guidance/support on Integrating human rights into National Programmes of Action (NPAs) for Pollution Prevention” is not proceeding due to lack of capacity</p> <p>The guidance/support on integrating human rights into NDCs is being postponed until next year.</p>	<p>Finalise the common narrative and checklist.</p> <p>Prepare country-level guidance on integrating human rights into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).</p> <p>Hold three webinar trainings related to human rights and the triple planetary crisis.</p> <p>Develop a longer-term strategy for the IMG to be proposed along with an extension of the mandate to SOM28.</p>

II. Enhancing UN environmental and social sustainability

f) Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) in the United Nations system

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
<p>Agree to extend the Consultative Process for another year to guide the establishment of the steering committee for the implementation of the Strategy; guide knowledge sharing on the application of the Model Approach; and guide the piloting of the Model Approach in UN country level programming.</p>	<p>The Sustainability Strategy Task Team has met twice to discuss the basis for a governance structure. A draft proposal is being elaborated building on agencies' feedback.</p> <p>A working group has been set up to develop the monitoring and reporting framework.</p> <p>A "roadshow" is ongoing to raise awareness about the UN Sustainability Strategy in the UN system and identify synergies with other inter-agency processes. So far, meetings have been held with eight different inter-agency processes and bodies.</p> <p>A concept outlining alternatives for ESS knowledge sharing online is under development.</p> <p>The Model Approach Working Group is preparing an overview on the role of safeguards in operationalizing principles at country level to be used as input to trainings for RCOs and UNCTs.</p>	<p>Prepare a proposal that outlines a suggested governance structure and monitoring and reporting framework to be submitted to the EMG Senior Officials.</p> <p>Continue raising awareness in the UN system about the UN Sustainability Strategy.</p> <p>Arrange meetings, including at least one hybrid meeting, of the working group to prepare the monitoring and reporting framework.</p> <p>Consider the knowledge sharing concept and agree on a way forward for the knowledge sharing platform.</p> <p>Continue identifying ways in which safeguards/the Model Approach can be a useful tool in applying the Guiding Principles for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).</p>

g) The IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations system

Tasks	Progress	Next Steps
<p>Commit to accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainability Strategy in UN management and facilities</p>	<p>Update of criteria and reporting practices in regard of monitoring of targets and indicators of the UN Sustainability strategy in the Greening the Blue reporting process.</p> <p>First alignment with the reporting practices of the QCPR reporting framework</p> <p>Identification on hotspots where further action and support is needed to accelerate progress on strategy objectives</p> <p>Awareness raising and targeting actions to attract attention and drive action from Senior management (Letter to heads of entities from UNEP E.D., discussions w office of Secretary general, contribution to integrate environmental objectives in senior managers compacts.</p>	<p>Further develop the UN System wide reporting process of UN entities to be more agile and coherent with other UN reporting mechanisms.</p> <p>Facilitate working groups on hotspots such as e.g. EMS, Scope 3 emissions, travel policy and emissions reductions, to accelerate progress, exchange and sharing of good practices.</p> <p>Continue to address senior management commitment and accountability by e.g. support the development of their role in the governance structure for the UN Sustainability Strategy and support the development of accountability mechanisms.</p> <p>Develop with GRID Geneva a terms of reference for the next generation of UN environmental inventory in line with Un sustainability strategy Phase I</p>
<p>Recognize the need to integrate the UN Sustainability Strategy's objectives into the UN Reform's Business Operation Strategies to achieve the objectives requested by the 2020 QCPR to limit the environmental and carbon footprint of the UN system.</p>	<p>A first analysis and compilation of available guidance material and tools has been presented to UN country teams. A first analysis of the UNCT indicators</p> <p>Development of an easy access tool to compare the environmental performance of prospect UN common premises (linked to the IDEAs guidance) on environment was performed.</p>	<p>Further alignment and development of environmental indicators of UNCT and the sustainability strategy.</p> <p>Communicate available tools, training and guidance to UN country teams.</p> <p>Further funding is needed to be able to proceed with additional activities.</p>
<p>Promote utilising and making mandatory the updated Greening the Blue online</p>	<p>Tutorial updated and available in 3 official UN languages online Greeningtheblue.org</p>	<p>Promote the tutorial in BOS and UNCT contexts.</p>

tutorial as training for UN system personnel.		
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III. Supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals

h) Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS) on the Environment

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
Extend the Consultative Process to prepare the third edition of the SWFS Report.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The third edition will serve as an update to the synthesis report published in 2017, based on recent EMG mappings including the marine litter report and the Stockholm+50 report.</p> <p>A draft outline is currently under development.</p>	Share the draft outline for the third edition of the SWFS report with EMG members for comments.
Encourage UN agencies to contribute to the third edition of the SWFS Report.	<p>Upcoming</p>	

i) EMG Nexus Dialogues

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
Welcome the continuation of the Nexus Dialogue as a mechanism for ongoing discussion and continued exchange of lessons learned and recommendations among UN entities and other stakeholders on the implementation of sustainable recovery efforts in the COVID-19 context, the 2030 Agenda, and the SDGs including their environmental dimensions.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>In the lead up to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting, a 2-Part Nexus Dialogue series was held on 23 and 30 November 2021 to encourage consideration and reflection within the UN system on successes, lessons learned and gaps in mainstreaming and implementing the environmental dimension of sustainable development, as well as on ways to accelerate achievement of the environmental dimension of the</p>	<p>Two nexus dialogues are in the pipeline:</p> <p>A dialogue on “Investing in Natural Infrastructure” will be organized on 7 June 2022.</p> <p>A nexus dialogue series on the impact of climate change on UN programming will organized in 2022.</p>

	SDGs to achieve a healthy planet for the prosperity of all.	
Encourage UN agencies to propose emerging nexus themes for, and contribute towards, future Dialogues by sharing their experience and exchanging ideas on innovative solutions to emerging, persistent, and systemic environmental challenges with other stakeholders.	Ongoing	EMG Members are invited to suggest topics for Nexus Dialogues.
Agree to work further on the issue of the consequences of a 1.5°C temperature rise on United Nations' programming through a Nexus Dialogue.	Ongoing A concept note is being developed for a Nexus Dialogue series on the impacts of 1.5°C rise on UN programming in collaboration with OCHA, UNFCCC and UNHCR.	Finalise the concept note and set a date for the first Nexus Dialogue.
Agree to work further on the issue of Environmental Sustainability and Digital Transformation through a Nexus Dialogue.	Upcoming	Invite interested agencies to plan a possible Nexus Dialogue on this topic.

j) Task Team on a UN System Contribution to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting

Tasks	Progress	Next steps
Agree to establish a Task Team of UN agencies to prepare a UN system-wide report as a contribution from the EMG to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting . Encourage EMG members to contribute to the EMG report by providing inputs to the report and participating in the nexus dialogues and interviews.	Ongoing Two Nexus Dialogues on Stockholm+50 were organized in November to serve as a basis for the development of the EMG contribution. Two reports have been prepared as a collective effort: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering on the vision of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - 	Organise the EMG roundtable to take place during Stockholm+50 in June. Professional layout of the EMG reports.

	<p><u>A UN System Contribution to Stockholm + 50</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ + Summary for policymakers ● <u>The Impact of the Stockholm Conference on the UN System: Reflections of 50 Years of Environmental Action</u> <p>Advance version of these reports were made available on the Stockholm+50 website in time for the Preparatory Meeting on 28 March. The reports have since been finalised, taking into account comments and feedback from EMG members.</p> <p>The EMG side event application to organize a roundtable of Heads of Agencies has been approved. A concept note is being developed by the Secretariat.</p>	
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