



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

**EMG**

<b>28<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group</b>  Technical Segment, 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 (15:00 -17:00 CEST) Online	<b>EMGSOM.28_3a</b>  Distribution: EMG Members
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### **Progress Report and Recommended Actions**

This report presents progress on work by ongoing Issue Management Groups, Task Teams and Consultative Processes under the Environment Management Group and proposes actions and directions for their work in 2022-2023. The Technical Segment is expected to consider the progress made and approve the suggested action points on behalf of the Senior Officials. A summary of approved action points will be presented to the Senior Officials at their meeting on 3 November 2022.

## I. Issue Management Group on Biodiversity

1. The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EMG Senior Officials established [the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity](#) in 2021 and endorsed its [Terms of Reference](#), outlining the purpose of the IMG to facilitate and enable a streamlined approach to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, [the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity](#) and [the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#).
2. At its first meeting in September 2021 the IMG with members representing 46 UN entities, divided its work into three working groups co-chaired by UNDP, UNEP, and UNESCO and supported by FAO in working group c:
  - a. *Awareness raising and knowledge sharing on the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity*
  - b. *Accountability & global-level reporting within the UN system*
  - c. *UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration*
3. The wider IMG and the three working groups have met throughout the year to prepare the outputs agreed in the ToR. Deliverables include an inventory of biodiversity related technical guidance, knowledge products and training materials developed by UN entities, with the objective to increase the availability of these resources to regional and national teams, as well as other coordination mechanisms.
4. A draft monitoring and reporting framework on the implementation of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity has been prepared ([EMGSOM.28 INF3](#)). The framework relies on data already being collected such as the QCPR and Greening the Blue reporting and aims to measure the progress made on the implementation of the Common Approach as well as in terms of outputs and biodiversity considerations in UN operations. Subject to the availability of funding, it is expected that a baseline will be established followed by the production of a midterm and final report on the implementation of the Common Approach at the global level. The framework is currently being finalized by the IMG.
5. The IMG has heard regular updates on the advancing of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration with members sharing information about how they support and respond to the Decade.
6. Regular updates have also been given to the IMG on the advancement of negotiations on the Post 2020 global biodiversity framework. The IMG is developing a roadmap for its engagements towards and during the CBD COP15 to be held in December 2022, including a proposed UN pavilion and a roundtable of Heads of Agencies to be held in the margins of the high-level segment of the COP.

### Suggested Action

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to extend the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity for one more year to continue facilitating a coordinated approach to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity.

## II. Consultative Process on a Pollution-Free Planet

7. At their 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the EMG Senior Officials agreed to establish a [Consultative Process on Pollution-Free Planet](#) with the objective to prepare a UN system-wide approach towards achieving the [Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet](#). The Consultative Process held its first meeting on 15 February 2022 to consider and agree on its Terms of Reference.
8. On 1st September 2021, the UN Senior Management Group (SMG) met to discuss ‘Multilateral Solutions to Marine Litter and Plastics Pollution’. The UN Secretary-General requested the Executive Director of UNEP to lead a working group to unite efforts across the UN system and with external stakeholders on solutions for challenges posed by plastic pollution. Following a proposal by UNEP to the first meeting of the Consultative Process, a Core Working Group on Plastic Pollution was established to respond to the Secretary-General’s call. The objectives of the Core Working Group on Plastic Pollution include strengthening common and coordinated UN communication, advocacy, and knowledge and information sharing on plastic pollution.
9. The Core Working Group met on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March to agree on its Terms of Reference. The Core Working Group has since prepared a set of joint key messages on plastic pollution that the Office of the Secretary-General may refer to when preparing the Secretary-General’s and the Deputy Secretary-General’s speeches and remarks at relevant events. The key messages may also be used by UN entities for communication and advocacy purposes. An overview of how the UN system supports Member States in addressing plastic pollution, as well as a mapping of internal sustainability measures is currently under preparation. Building on the overview, a common offer by the UN system to support an inclusive and just transition towards a plastic pollution-free planet will be prepared. Briefings and updates have been given to the Core Working Group on the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.
10. At their 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Senior Officials further agreed to consider the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics to be a resource expert group supporting the mainstreaming of marine litter and microplastics reduction activities in relevant ongoing processes. The Task Team has been serving as a subgroup to the Consultative Process on a Pollution-Free Planet, providing input as needed. For example, the [EMG report on marine litter and microplastics](#) and the related database of programmes and projects undertaken by UN and related entities has been utilized by the Core Working Group on Plastic Pollution as a source for preparing the overview of how the UN System and stakeholders provide sustainable solutions to the challenge of plastic pollution.

11. [The EMG report on marine litter and microplastics](#) was officially launched through a 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. The launch showcased how UN Agencies are working collaboratively to help Member States address the issue systemically across the lifecycle. The report was also made available as an Information Document to UNEA 5.2 in February 2022, and it was presented at international fora such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) event in March 2022 on marine litter in the APEC Region; and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the UN Office of Legal Affairs at the United Nations Nippon Foundation session on Marine Environmental Protection and Marine Plastics in May 2022. The report's Executive Summary is available in all UN languages.
12. To rally the capacities of the UN System on marine litter and plastic pollution, in particular to strengthen the base for improved collaboration and coordination on marine litter and microplastics in the UN System, a news item about the EMG report "[Massive, coordinated effort needed to reverse ocean plastics crisis, says new UN report](#)" was prepared and published on 31 January 2022.
13. Upon completion of the mandate of the Core Working Group on Plastic Pollution, the Consultative Process may continue the development of a system-wide approach towards a pollution-free planet. The Consultative Process may also decide to create other thematic working groups on specific areas of pollution.

#### **Suggested Action**

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to continue the Core Working Group on Plastic Pollution to consider contributions by the UN system to the multistakeholder engagement process of the Intergovernmental negotiation committee (INC) on plastic pollution;
- b) Agree to extend the Consultative Process on a Pollution-Free Planet to develop a UN system-wide approach towards achieving the [Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet](#) including through thematic working groups as needed.

### **III. Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure**

14. In October 2021, EMG Senior Officials decided to extend the [Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure](#) for a second year to focus on country implementation. A year two [supplement](#) to the original [Terms of Reference](#) was drafted and discussed in a meeting of focal points in January 2022.
15. A second edition of the [International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure](#) ("Principles") was released in May 2022, incorporating a new definition on nature-based solutions from the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution on nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development ([UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#)). The second edition contains a Secretary General

foreword, and reflects feedback, inputs, and formal endorsement by EMG members as a key output of the Consultative Process. The Principles were also recognized in a new UNEA resolution on sustainable and resilient infrastructure ([UNEP/EA.5/Res.9](#)), which encourages Member States and other stakeholders to consider integrating and implementing them into national policies.

16. To better understand implementation challenges and opportunities, and explore the Principles in-depth in a country context, a “Barrier Analysis” for sustainable infrastructure was conducted in Chile by UNU-FLORES in collaboration with UNEP. Working closely with Chile’s Ministry of Public Works, the study uncovered barriers and potential policy solutions across buildings & construction, energy, transport & mobility sectors, while examining water as a cross-sectoral resource. The views and recommendations from a broad range of actors have informed a forthcoming policy roadmap and scientific journal article (to be produced over the coming months). Chile’s Ministry of Public Works is also referring to the 10 Principles in its new sustainability agenda, following the collaboration.
17. In June 2022, the EMG hosted a [Nexus Dialogue on Investing in Natural Infrastructure](#) as part of the Consultative Process – exploring a priority theme connected with Principle 4. The event was co-led by UNEP and UNDP, with speakers from IUCN, the Network of Indigenous Youth of Latin America, and the Caribbean, OHCHR, UNDP, UNOPS and the World Bank. Speakers identified financing and policy mechanisms for scaling up natural infrastructure, considered challenges and opportunities for integrating natural infrastructure into national plans and investment policies, and reflected on the broader discourse and key stakeholders.
18. Members continued to share relevant knowledge and resources. For example, in the meeting of focal points in August 2022, FAO presented on the recently launched [SMART Irrigation – SMART WASH](#) concept and a case study from Lebanon.
19. The Consultative Process coordinated with the Sustainable United Nations facility, but the two workstreams did not carry out additional joint activities due to the available capacity and resources.

#### **Suggested Actions**

The Senior Officials:

- a) Decide to conclude the Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure, following the delivery of its mandate.
- b) Encourage EMG members to continue to promote and support sustainable infrastructure through other existing fora such as the [Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership](#) and the G20.
- c) Continue to communicate and coordinate with the EMG on the topic of sustainable infrastructure as appropriate and/or as opportunities arise.

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

20. The [Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment](#) was established by the 26th EMG Senior Officials Meeting in October 2020, with the objective of integrating the human right to a healthy environment into the work of the UN. The importance of this activity is highlighted in a number of core policies, including the [Secretary General's Call to Action for Human Rights](#) (Call to Action) and the [Common Agenda](#). The Call to Action urges strengthening of the synergies between human rights and all pillars of the work of the United Nations, multilateralism that places human rights at its very centre, and the advancement of the human right to a healthy environment, all of which are central to the work of the IMG.
21. At the 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Official's Meeting in 2021, the mandate of the IMG was extended. Four further meetings of the IMG have been held since the 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Official's Meeting: in October 2021 and February, May, and September 2022. The first three of these meetings focused on reviewing the activities set out in the workplan, discussed further below. The fourth meeting, which took place in September 2022, discussed the renewal of the mandate of the IMG and its future workplan.
22. In the past year, the IMG completed the bulk of the activities set out in its workplan. Under Focus Area 1, it developed a Common Narrative on Upholding the Human Right to a Healthy Environment to Address the Triple Planetary Crisis ([EMGSOM.28 INF 4](#)). The Common Narrative was the subject of consultation with both IMG members and with the Secretary General's Call to Action group, as well as UNDP and country level colleagues, before being finalised. A related checklist with the aim of assisting country teams with their work has also been prepared and will be circulated to the IMG for comments. Draft guidance on integrating human rights into NBSAPs is being prepared and is expected to be circulated to the IMG for comments in the coming weeks. Under Focus Area 2, strategies for engagement with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) ([EMGSOM.28 INF 5](#)) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ([EMGSOM.28 INF 6](#)) were finalised. A public briefing note containing key messages concerning human rights and desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) was also prepared and circulated during UNCCD COP15 ([EMGSOM.28 INF 7](#)). Under Focus Area 3, thematic webinar trainings on the right to a healthy environment and climate change, biodiversity and pollution respectively were developed and delivered in July and September 2022.
23. Besides this, the IMG carried out a number of activities additional to those set out in its workplan. These included collaborating on side events at UNFCCC COP26, UNCCD COP 15 and CBD intersessional meetings, as well as convening a side event at Stockholm +50 on the UN system's commitment to advancing the human right to a healthy environment. The activity relating to Joint guidance/support on Integrating human rights into National Programmes of Action (NPAs) for Pollution Prevention" did not proceed due to lack of capacity. The preparation of guidance/support on integrating human rights into NDCs was also postponed until after the 28<sup>th</sup> Senior Official's Meeting.
24. The range of activities carried out by the IMG reflect the critical and increasing importance of its subject matter. The connection between human rights and the environment and the importance of the Right to A Healthy Environment has been re-emphasised on a number of occasions in the past year, including through [the Stockholm Declaration](#), the [UN General Assembly's resolution on the Right to a Healthy Environment](#) and the [UN 2.0 process](#). In order to fulfil its objectives, the IMG has identified a need to take a longer-term approach to its work, which will in turn allow for a greater level of strategic planning. In order to develop the content of its future workplan, a detailed questionnaire has been sent to IMG members, with responses requested by mid-

September. The future workplan was also discussed at the IMG's 7<sup>th</sup> meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The results of these discussions and responses will be used to form the basis of the workplan.

### Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Take note of the work of the IMG on Human Rights and the Environment including:
  - i) The Common Narrative on Upholding the Human Right to a Healthy Environment to Address the Triple Planetary Crisis in connection with the UN Secretary General's Call to Action on Human Rights;
  - ii) The Strategy for Engagement with the Convention on Biological Diversity;
  - iii) The Strategy for Engagement with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and
  - iv) The public briefing note: 'Advancing a Human Rights-Based Approach to Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought: Key Messages.'
- b) Agree to extend the IMG's mandate to continue its work to promote the integration of the human right to a healthy environment into the work of the UN.

## V. Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations

25. Following the endorsement by the CEB (November 2021) of [Part II of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020–2030](#), the [Consultative Process](#) has in close collaboration with the [IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management](#) and through the dedicated Sustainability Strategy Task Team, focused on designing a framework for implementation of the Sustainability Strategy.
26. A virtual "roadshow" was organized with the objective to raise awareness about the sustainability strategy and to learn from existing governance structures and monitoring and reporting processes of other interagency processes. Information exchange opportunities were arranged with UN-Women on the UN system-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP), the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management on Greening the Blue and the IMG on Biodiversity in the Common Approach to Biodiversity, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on Our Common Agenda and the UN disability inclusion Strategy.
27. Building on the information collected and lessons learned during the roadshow, the Task Team considered different options and elements of a governance structure for the Sustainability Strategy. The Task Team agreed that the governance structure should include a network of representatives of member organizations, a body to which the network reports progress and a

secretariat that supports the network and the reporting. As the ultimate placement of such secretariat will require further reflection and funding, the Task Team proposes for the approval by the Senior Officials, an *interim* governance solution by which the EMG Secretariat, with the support of the SUN Facility, assumes the role of Secretariat and the Senior Officials of the EMG assume the role of the Network of Senior Representatives. A network of technical focal points already exists within the EMG. The detailed proposal is available as meeting document [EMG.SOM28 INF 2](#).

28. The Task Team created a working group of interested entities to propose a monitoring and reporting framework for the Strategy. A comprehensive mapping of existing indicators related to internal sustainability management in the UN system was prepared as a basis for the working group's deliberations, in order to build as much as possible on already existing reporting. The working group has further elaborated on the draft scorecard which was prepared as part of Part II of the Strategy, and prepared a set of proposed indicators to measure progress towards the implementation of the Strategy. This proposal will be submitted to the new governance structure, once established, for endorsement. A select number of entities will be invited to pilot the scorecard and the outcome indicators in 2023. A first system-wide sustainability report is expected to be produced in 2024.
29. Further to its work on the Sustainability Strategy, the Consultative Process through the [Model Approach](#) Working Group, continued to facilitate collaboration on the application of environmental and social standards in UN programming. A proof of concept was prepared outlining different options for an online knowledge sharing platform. This work will continue in 2023.
30. In collaboration with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), interviews have been held with a small number of agencies at different stages of implementing environmental and social safeguards, to understand their needs for support. Based on these interviews, a proposal for strengthened interagency collaboration and joint trainings will be prepared.
31. In collaboration with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), the Model Approach Working Group has explored ways in which the Model Approach can support UN Country Teams in applying the Guiding Principles of the UN Cooperation Framework. An analysis of how elements of the Model Approach can prove useful at different stages of the UNSDCF cycle and in trainings developed by the DCO was prepared.



## Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Endorse the proposed governance structure described in document EMG.SOM28\_INF\_2.
- b) Agree that the EMG Secretariat and SUN Facility will continue to provide secretariat support to the implementation of the Sustainability Strategy, on an interim basis for one year, until a long-term host organization for the secretariat of the Sustainability Strategy is appointed.
- c) Decide that the Consultative Process becomes a working group under the Network of Technical Focal Points of the Sustainability Strategy and will be renamed as 'Working group on the sustainability of programmes'.
- d) Decide that the new 'Working group on the sustainability of programmes' will absorb the tasks of the 'Working group on the Model Approach'.
- e) Task the network of technical focal points to develop a knowledge hub for exchange of good practice, innovative solutions and shared learning related to the implementation of the Sustainability Strategy, and to continue information and knowledge exchange on environmental and social sustainability in programming through the Working group on the sustainability of programmes.

## VI. Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management

### UN Environmental Inventory and Climate Neutrality

32. In 2022, the UN system remains committed to full climate neutrality for GHG emissions. Results of the 2022 inventory exercise have been circulated to UN entities so that they can begin procuring the necessary offsets for their unavoidable emissions.
33. The *Greening the Blue Report 2022*, continues to align more closely with the objectives, indicators of the *Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System 2020-2030 Phase I: Environmental sustainability in the area of management*. In particular, the data collection for the 2022 edition of the report included survey questions for two additional indicators from the Strategy. Further, the data collection for the Environmental Governance portion of the *Greening the Blue Report* was carried out much earlier in the year with preliminary results circulated to UN entities in the summer. This gives entities six months to implement improvements to their internal environmental sustainability efforts before the end of the calendar year. Meaning progress and improvements will be reflected sooner in next year's reporting cycle.

### Reducing the UN Environmental Footprint

34. A new guidance document, the Inventory Management Plan (IMP), has been developed and made available to UN entities as of 2022. The IMP clearly details how the yearly environmental impacts of each UN entity is calculated. This document improves the understanding of focal points and is expected to increase reporting accuracy and completeness.

35. On Environmental Management Systems (EMS), the EMS working group including environmental focal points and the SUN team has developed a guidance document, templates, and checklist for internal audit in the UN system made available to UN entities as of 2022. Training on the same topic is planned during autumn 2022.
36. In collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and the IMG on Biodiversity, a preliminary indicator set for protecting biodiversity in four key management areas: procurement; operations/facilities; staff awareness; and catering/events has been drafted and SUN, through partnerships with select UN entities is moving forward with an early piloting of the indicator set. Upon completion of this limited pilot, feedback will be collected, and the indicators will be further refined and then piloted with all UN entities.

### **Green Events Tool and Virtual and hybrid Events guidance**

37. To address the most significant environmental aspect from the UN system, GHG emissions from air travel to meetings and conferences, the SUN team in collaboration with the Swedish EPA and Swedish Transport Administration has shared a methodology with a systematic approach to integrate sustainable virtual and hybrid meetings in the organizational culture. Guidance material on hybrid- and virtual meetings planning and technical set up, checklists, surveys on culture and incentives and a meeting planning tool has been developed and delivered along with a 10-step methodology. A webinar where UN system entities shared good practices was also held and recorded. The material has been made available to the Greening the Blue community.
38. The UNEP SUN team along with the Gulf Organisation for Research & Development (GORD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) launched on September 14<sup>th</sup> an online [Green Events Tool's \(GET\)](#). GET helps organizations meet their climate mitigation targets by greening their events. From transportation and lodging to paper trails, catering, and energy use, the GET provides an all-encompassing approach that identifies ways to host eco-friendly events with reduced carbon footprint and other impacts. The GET tool is a free-to-use resource available to UN entities and all other organizations.

### **Sustainable Procurement**

39. Procurement is key to pursuing the goals of the UN Sustainability Strategy. Greening the Blue, with inputs from HLCM Procurement Network, will report on UN progress with Sustainable Procurement Policies, based on the UN Annual Statistical report on procurement data issued by UNOPS on the [UN Global Market Place](#). The HLCM PN Sustainable Procurement Working Group planned that, for the next years, capacity building on sustainable procurement will be intensified via multi-agency collaboration. In parallel, statistics related to the number of sustainable procurement tenders, based on the HLCM SP indicators framework, will be released via the UN Global Market Place, the UN Annual Statistical report, and the Greening the Blue report.
40. To be complete, the calculations on the UN GHG footprint may also need to integrate emissions derived from the supply chain. A number of organizations, both within and outside the EMG, are exploring the feasibility of assessing their scope 3 emissions.

### **2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review**

41. In December 2020, the UN QCPR asked the United Nations development system to:

29 (b) Advance the development of a system-wide approach, implement measures and report regularly to their respective governing bodies, through existing reporting and mandates, on their efforts to reduce their climate and environmental footprint. Ensuring consistency of their operations and programmes with low emissions and climate-resilient development pathways; stressing the urgency of climate action and contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

42. For the first time in March 2022, the [Report of Secretary General](#)<sup>1</sup> (paras 237-240) to the Economic and Social Committee of the General Assembly published information on the internal environmental performance of the UN Development Group organisations based on Greening the Blue data.

### Impact beyond the UN system

43. SUN continues to stay engaged with the “Greening Government Initiative (GGI)” which was started by the governments of Canada and the United States. SUN remains invited to attend meetings and relevant discussions where countries share lessons learned, promote innovation, and set common greening goals.

#### Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Commit to accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainability Strategy in UN management and facilities and increase internal capacity and resources for full implementation.
- b) Commit to accelerate the reduction of GHG-emissions from meetings and conferences in the UN system by:
  - i. Continuing to reduce travel by further use of virtual- and hybrid conferences in place of in person conferences and meetings;
  - ii. Reducing the number of in person participants at conferences; and
  - iii. For necessary in person meeting and events, implementation of the Greening events of the UN sustainability strategy taking advantage of the existence of the green events Tool.
- c) Decide that the IMG becomes a working group under the Network of Technical Focal Points of the Sustainability Strategy and will be renamed as ‘Working group on environmental sustainability in the area of management’.

## VII. UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS) for the Environment

44. Since 2017, the EMG has compiled synthetic and thematic overviews of system-wide cooperation and collaboration on the environment in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda, responding

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<sup>1</sup> Implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system - Report of the Secretary-General

to paragraph 88c of the Rio+20 outcome document and to UNEA resolution 1/11 that requested the Executive Director of UNEP to develop system-wide strategies on the environment mainly through the EMG.

45. The [first SWFS report, a synthesis report](#) released in 2017, displayed examples of system-wide cooperation and collaboration on the environment in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda. The [second SWFS report](#) prepared in 2020 was a thematic report on biodiversity.
46. At their 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the EMG Senior Officials requested the Consultative Process to prepare the third SWFS report which will be an update of the first synthesis report, considering progress made in the context of interagency collaboration and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
47. The report, which will build on a desk study and on the EMG's contribution to the Stockholm+50 international meeting, will highlight areas of collaboration and synergy taking place within the UN system on different environmental topics. A draft will be shared for EMG members' comments and input before the end of the year.
48. The midterm meeting of the EMG Technical Segment held in May 2022 considered a proposal by UNEP to encourage additional EMG engagement on data and statistics for the SDGs to stimulate further collaboration across the UN Systems, and to analyze and identify emerging tools that can close gaps and issues in this process. Rather than creating a new interagency process to address this issue within the EMG, it is suggested that this proposal be taken up by the Consultative Process within the frames of the SWFS.

### Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to extend the Consultative Process to finalize the third edition of the SWFS report.
- b) In the context of the Consultative Process, consider ways to enhance the use of environmental data to better inform policymakers and close gaps in environmental data and statistics related to the SDGs.

## VIII. EMG Dialogues

49. The EMG Senior Officials at their 27<sup>th</sup> meeting welcomed the continuation of the EMG (Nexus) Dialogues as a mechanism for ongoing discussion and continued exchange of lessons learned and recommendations among UN entities and other stakeholders on the implementation of the SDGs including their environmental dimensions.
50. The following dialogues have been organized in 2021-2022 bringing together intergovernmental and interagency participants including the UN system, Member States, civil society, academia, and NGOs.

51. [Stockholm+50, part 1: Taking Stock of Our Responsibility & Opportunity, 23 November 2021](#). This dialogue gathered 12 experts and experienced officials to reflect on successes, lessons learned and gaps in mainstreaming and implementing the environmental dimension of sustainable development by the UN over the past 50 years. The dialogue contributed to the development of an EMG report to the Stockholm+50 international meeting.
52. [Stockholm+50, part 2: Foreseeing the Future of Our Responsibility & Opportunity, 30 November 2021](#)  
Nine experts and experienced officials engaged in a discussion on actions to accelerate the achievement of the environmental dimension of the SDGs and a healthy planet for the prosperity of all. The dialogue contributed to the development of an EMG report to the Stockholm+50 international meeting.
53. [Investing in Natural Infrastructure, 7 June 2022](#)  
Organized in collaboration with UNEP’s Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Team, UNDP and PAGE, this dialogue focused on how natural infrastructure can deliver on the SDGs while stimulating economies and building the resilience of infrastructure systems in the COVID-19 recovery context.
54. The EMG Dialogues continue to be an appreciated forum for interagency interaction on current and emerging environmental topics. The Dialogues serve as a space for connection and networking, and often lead to the identification of areas for further collaboration among agencies and with other stakeholders. Dialogues in the pipeline to be organized in 2022-2023 include a series on the impact of +1.5 degrees on UN programming, the environmental aspects of minerals and metals and closing the knowledge gap on sustainable consumption and production.

### Suggested Actions

The Senior Officials:

- a) Welcome the continuation of the EMG Dialogues as a mechanism for ongoing discussion and continued exchange of lessons learned and recommendations among UN entities and other stakeholders on the implementation of the SDGs including their environmental dimensions.
- b) 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.

## IX. Task Team on a UN System Contribution to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting

55. The EMG Senior Officials agreed at their 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to submit a contribution to the Stockholm+50 international meeting that provides a UN system-wide perspective on delivering on the vision of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

56. A Task Team inclusive of XX member entities was created to guide the preparation of a UN report as a contribution to meeting. The Task Team held its first meeting in November 2021 to agree on its Terms of Reference, meeting a total of five times throughout the year. During these meetings, UN entities were kept informed about the preparations for Stockholm+50 as well as channels through which they could contribute, such as providing substantive input into the background papers and participating in the Leadership Dialogues.
57. To provide input to the EMG report, two Nexus Dialogues were held on 23 and 31 November 2021 (<https://unemg.org/stockholm50-nexus-dialogue-series/>) to consider achievements and challenges encountered by the UN system in addressing the environmental agenda since the 1972 Stockholm Conference. The Dialogues highlighted reflections of a diverse array of people who have worked with the UN system in different capacities on lessons learned since 1972, and their recommendations on the future implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
58. The report [“Delivering on the vision of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”](#) as well as a [Summary for Policymakers](#) were prepared building on a review of flagship reports and outcomes from recent global environmental processes. The report summarizes reflections by Heads of Agencies and experts in the UN system on achievements and challenges encountered in addressing the environmental agenda since the 1972 Stockholm Conference, as well as aspirations and commitments towards accelerating mandates and actions to address the planetary crises.
59. A complementary report [“The Impact of the Stockholm Conference on the UN System: Reflections of 50 Years of Environmental Action Interim Report”](#) was prepared synthesizing the perspectives shared by the Heads of 33 programs, funds, specialized agencies and MEAs through interviews and written submissions. The reports were made available on the official Stockholm+50 website in time to support the preparatory meeting held in New York on 28 March 2022. The EMG also contributed to the broader media outreach on Stockholm+50 through the interviews with Heads of Agencies, parts of which were recorded as inspirational video messages released on Twitter.
60. The EMG high-level Roundtable *Accelerating Integrated Action for a Healthy Planet and Prosperity for All* was held in Stockholm on 2 June 2022. Two panels comprised of 16 UN agency and MEA heads and deputies discussed what the UN system can do to accelerate integrated action for the environment and how UN agencies can respond to and help implement MEAs on the ground. A summary of the Roundtable by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin can be found [here](#).

### Suggested Actions

The EMG Senior Officials:

- a) Take note of the EMG contribution to the Stockholm+50 international meeting.
- b) Agree to conclude the Task Team upon completion of its mandate.

## X. Collaboration with the UN Sustainable Development Group and the Development Coordination Office

61. In light of the midterm meeting of the EMG Technical Segment which endorsed a [proposal stressing the importance of collaboration between the EMG and Development Coordination Office \(DCO\) jointly proposed by UNEP and UNDP](#), a dialogue has started between the two secretariats in order to identify opportunities for collaboration.
62. The purpose of this exercise is to support UNSDG and DCO efforts in strengthening UN system-wide support to UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators to tackle the triple planetary crisis building on efforts by the EMG, the Secretary-General's Calls to Action, and other UN environmental initiatives. Synergies within and across existing EMG workstreams will be enhanced, and horizontal coherence strengthened as a result.
63. Activities will include mapping of UN initiatives and knowledge products relevant to the triple planetary response and strengthening awareness, knowledge, and capacity of RCOs/UNCTs on key entry points for integrated programming that addresses the triple planetary crisis. Existing UN system resources including those developed by the EMG workstreams will be curated into user friendly formats and e-platforms for use by RCOs/UNCT. Furthermore, a series of EMG Dialogues targeting RCOs/UNCTs will be organized.

### **Suggested Action**

The EMG Senior Officials:

- a) Acknowledge the importance of collaboration between the secretariats of the EMG and the UNSDG to strengthen horizontal alignment and efficiency and UN country support in addressing the triple planetary crisis.