



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



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## EMG Strategic Narrative 2023-2030 <sup>1</sup>

### I. Introduction

The Environment Management Group (EMG) was established in 2001 pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 53/242 to enhance United Nations system-wide interagency coordination related to environment and human settlements. It was mandated to identify, address and promote the application of cross-sectoral solutions in order to collectively resolve specific problems, issues and tasks on the environmental and human settlements agenda requiring enhanced inter-agency cooperation in a given timeframe, through facilitating effective and collaborative involvement of the relevant United Nations system agencies, programmes and organs and of other potential partners, as appropriate.

Based on the EMG's [Terms of Reference](#), this strategic narrative aims to guide and frame the work of the EMG in 2023-2030, taking into account the results of past and ongoing EMG processes, [the findings and recommendations of the EMG reports to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting](#), the UN Secretary-General's report "Our Common Agenda", the objectives of the Decade of Action and the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030. A number of specific issues will be addressed under three broad thematic areas which will have the flexibility to absorb new and emerging issues.

Under each thematic area the EMG will seek to:

- Promote multilateral and multisectoral policy discussions with respect to the international environmental and sustainable development agenda;
- Prepare UN system-wide strategies and common approaches to promote policy coherence;
- Prepare policy and normative guidance, guidelines and tools within the UN system;

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been prepared by the EMG Secretariat for agenda item 4 of the 28th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials to inform their strategic discussion on the future work of the EMG. The document will be finalized following the outcome of the Senior Officials Meeting.

- Support the CEB, HLCP, HLCM and the UN Development Cooperation Office in mainstreaming and implementing environmental priorities across UN policies, programming, management and operations, including in UN Country Teams.

## II. Thematic Areas

### **Thematic area 1: Making EMG future ready in support of an inclusive and strengthened international environmental governance**

Following the EMG's current work on biodiversity and pollution as well as looking at "Our Common Agenda", work in this area would focus on emerging trends (such as the triple planetary crisis, macroeconomic uncertainty, technological innovation) that impact international environmental governance arrangements. The EMG would explore ways in which the UN system as a whole can work together to mitigate adverse effects and capitalize on opportunities for further environmental action. This would allow the EMG to be better prepared, more proactively engaged and more reflective of considerations of intergenerational equity, gender, and human rights.

#### ***Current and potential EMG initiatives:***

- The UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) (*ongoing*)
- Developing a common approach to addressing pollution (*ongoing*)
- Supporting implementation of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity (*ongoing*)
- Developing a common approach to addressing climate change (*to be discussed by SOM28*)

### **Thematic area 2: Promoting partnerships to enhance the implementation of environmental SDGs and the environmental dimensions of the SDGs**

The EMG could explore ways to operationally link the UN system's work so as to encourage Member States to undertake integrated approaches to sustainable development. Methodological approaches could include enhanced UN system-wide networking and enabling enhanced participation by various stakeholders in multilateral environmental governance, policy setting, and implementation. This would enable the UN system to support the coherent, integrated, and effective management of the global environmental commons as a key element in the achievement of the SDGs. The EMG could also interact more consciously with the UN Sustainable Development Group to open a dialogue aimed at assisting UN Member States to meet the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.

#### ***Current and potential EMG initiatives:***

- Promoting the human right to a healthy environment (*ongoing*)
- The EMG SDGs Nexus Dialogues (*ongoing*)
- Strengthening The One Planet Network ( A UN Alliance for SDG 12 ) (*potential*)
- Environment and trade (*potential*)

### **Work area 3: Enhancing UN leadership in sustainability management**

The UN Sustainability Strategy outlines the vision of the UN system being a leader in integrating environmental and social sustainability considerations across its work in a systematic and coherent way, practicing the principles that it promotes and leaving a positive legacy. The EMG continues to support enhanced internal sustainability in the UN system, assisting entities to establish and meet sustainability targets. This could include the development of a well-interconnected and innovative ecosystem that supports the creation of dialogue and synergies between organizations, supports effective transfer of expertise and provides a forum for presentation of new research and innovation solutions.

#### **Current and potential EMG initiatives:**

- *Facilitating the implementation of the UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030 (ongoing)*
- *Greening the Blue (ongoing)*