

<p>28th Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group</p> <p>3 November 2022 (14:00 -15:30 CET) Online</p>	<p>EMGSOM.28</p> <p>Distribution: EMG Members</p>
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The 28th Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group (EMG)

Summary Report

Introduction

1. The 28th meeting of the Senior Officials (SOM28) of the Environment Management Group (EMG) was held as a web conference on 3 November 2022. Chaired by Inger Andersen, EMG Chair and UNEP Executive Director, SOM28 was preceded by a Technical Segment on 13 October. 52 EMG members and 3 observing entities attended the meeting (see [Annex I](#)). Meeting documents are available on the [EMG website](#).

2. In her introductory remarks, the Chair described 2022 as an eventful and defining year for the environment. She underlined the importance of strengthening the environmental base of the SDGs and improving environmental mainstreaming in Common Country Analyses and UN Country Cooperation Frameworks, which requires greater system wide coherence both at national and at the UN-wide level. She thanked all UN entities for their contribution to the EMG input to Stockholm+50 and underlined the landmark recognition by the UN General Assembly of the universal human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. She stressed that the work of the EMG could not come at a more important moment, building on the reflections of the EMG at Stockholm+50 to support the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, but also closer in time to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; the intergovernmental negotiating committee on plastic pollution; contributing to “Our Common Agenda”; and the 2023 SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future in 2024.

Approval of the EMG workplan 2022-2023

3. The Senior Officials considered and approved [23 recommended Action Points](#) proposed by the Technical Segment for the future work of the EMG, which will form the [EMG workplan 2022-2023](#). The action points propose system wide collaboration in the following inter-agency processes:

- a) IMG on Biodiversity
- b) Consultative Process on a Pollution-Free Planet
- c) IMG on Human Rights and Environment
- d) Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system
- e) IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the UN system
- f) Consultative Process on a UN System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment
- g) Continuation of the EMG (Nexus) Dialogues
- h) Inter-Secretariat collaboration between the EMG and UNSDG-DCO

4. The new proposed topics of *environmental aspects of minerals and metals* and *mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production* will be addressed through EMG Nexus Dialogues. The new topic of collaboration on environmental data and statistics will be addressed through the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment.

5. Two interagency processes have been closed following the completion of their mandates including:

- Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure
- Task Team on a UN System Contribution to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting

6. Going forward, and as a result of the UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030, the Senior Officials agreed that the Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability and the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management become working groups under the Strategy's governance structure in order to bring clarity to their relationship and the landscape of interagency collaboration on internal sustainability. Next year, one comprehensive progress report on the work under the Sustainability Strategy will be prepared rather than two separate reports for the two groups.

Strategic discussion on strengthening system-wide coordination and collaboration

7. The Chair introduced the topic for the strategic discussion, highlighting the importance of defining a stronger strategic narrative for the EMG to make it more “fit for purpose” and “future ready” to deliver on the interconnections of the environment with development, peace, health, human rights and humanitarian affairs. While the EMG continues its work to strengthen global interagency collaboration and policy coherence, it needs to add value to the UN reform and accelerate the achievement of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs through enhancing UN system wide coherence at the global level; and partnerships and alignment of its work with the UNSDG and DCO to operationalize UN-wide strategies on the environment. For this, the UN needs to also become bolder in improving sustainability of its own management, programmes and operations.

8. In that regard, the Chair invited the Senior Officials to frame their remarks taking into account the questions provided in the [Strategic Discussions Note](#) and the [Draft EMG Strategic Narrative 2023-2030](#), with a view to informing its finalization to guide the future work of the EMG.

9. The Senior Officials provided the following key thoughts and perspectives:

a) **Making EMG “future ready” and “fit for purpose” to address emerging global trends**

- Adopt a data driven and knowledge based systematic approach.
 - Support system wide responses to the current interlinked and intergenerational crises of energy, biodiversity, climate, food and health.
 - Harness the vast amount of data that the UN system has for early warning and forecast analysis.
 - Promote the spirit of open science and data sharing and close the gaps for countries to better report on the environment-related SDG indicators.
- Engage with issue-based policy programming.
 - Bring sets of agencies together to ensure policy coherence.
- Communicate and raise awareness around the EMG’s work.
 - ECOSOC, HLPF, global and regional environmental forums and MEA COPs could serve as platforms for raising public awareness on EMG work, which should help identify developments and emerging challenges that have ramifications for environmental sustainability.
- Possible thematic areas suggested for future work of the EMG:
 - Contribute to the *Early Warning System* proposed by the Secretary-General.
 - Engage with the *Resilience and Sustainability Trust* of the IMF.
 - Support scale up of SDG 12 and the Global Strategy of the 10YFP in the UN system.
 - Bring in gender and youth in further deepening the work on human rights and the environment.

- Engage with issues of debt restructuring such as “debt for nature” swaps.
- Support a more cohesive and less fragmented “One Health” approach.
- Support a greater UN wide engagement in trade and environmental linkages, including trade of biodiversity-based products and services.
- Support the right to a healthy environment, as well as participation, access to information and access to justice.
- Support coordination of UN actions towards the renewable energy transition.
- Support coordination of UN actions in furthering the sustainable ocean economy.

b) *Enhancing the implementation of environmental SDGs and the environmental dimensions of SDGs through strengthened partnerships*

- The EMG should:
 - Align better with existing coordination platforms and data sharing on SDGs.
 - Bring agencies together to work on nexus issues such as food, energy and water to support UN system wide coherence to achieve the SDGs.
 - Use overlapping mandates of UNSDG and EMG on environmental issues and ensure coherence across coordination bodies.
 - Share the normative framing and knowledge on environmental issues with RCs and UNCTs via UNSDG/DCO.
 - Align with existing UN action plans (e.g. Human Rights Act plan, food coordination hub, UN data platforms).
 - Align with issue-based collation platforms in the region (e.g. through regional economic commissions).
 - Coordinate with the UN Economist Network (UNEN),
 - Streamline data of RCs, align with RCPs.
 - Go beyond usual UN partnerships: youth groups, civil societies, private sector, judiciary organizations, etc.
 - Facilitate stronger partnerships to support evidence-based environmental action that is inclusive, transparent, equitable, accountable and leaves no one behind.
- EMG work needs more visibility.
 - The UN needs to share more of its knowledge and analytical work.
 - The EMG should utilize opportunities to showcase its work.
 - It should support systematic data protocols and standards - global, regional and local - and make them available.
 - It should serve as a platform for dialogues around resource mobilization for the environment, especially as it brings together the Bretton Woods Institutions and other parts of the UN system.

c) *Enhancing UN leadership in sustainability management*

- The Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System (2020–2030) provides a unified vision for the UN to be a leader in integrating environmental and social sustainability considerations across its work in a systematic and coherent way.
- For effective sustainability management, partnerships with other UN system entities and sustainable engagement with Member States and with the private sector, where appropriate, are important, as demonstrated in the UN peace operations. Multi-year plans, underpinned by effective risk and performance monitoring systems and clear operational policies and guidance, have also proven important in this effort.
- Other agencies are also advancing sustainability management, including through the “Floating Office Concept” as well as procurement and incorporation of environmental and social safeguards in their programming.
- The International Labour Standards and other international instruments, including the ILO Just Transition Guidelines, and the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity, can provide potential entry points for fostering coherence in environmental and social safeguards to be applied in the UN system.
- Integrating environmental and social responsibility also requires combining different knowledge systems, including those of Indigenous communities, with technological innovation such digital networks and tools available to address environmental challenges.
- EMG may need to review how exceeding the 1.5°C threshold will impact the UN's operations over the next two decades.
- There is untapped potential in the EMG's role in ensuring that the UN seeks responsible partners, promotes accountability and sets a high standard for UN sustainability.

Other matters

6. The representatives of the UNFCCC and CBD briefed the meeting on the 27th meeting of the COP to UNFCCC and the 15th meeting of the COP to CBD, respectively, encouraging UN agencies' active participation and engagement of Member States.

Closure of the Meeting

7. The Chair thanked participants and stressed that the support of each agency is critical to the work of the EMG.

Annex: List of participants

	Name	Entity
	<i>Heads of UN entities and MEAs</i>	
1.	Ms. Inger Andersen, Chair of the Environment Management Group and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme	UNEP
2.	Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility	GEF
3.	Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support	DOS
4.	Ms. Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary of the UN Capital Development Fund	UNCDF
5.	Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction	UNDRR
6.	Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe	UNECE
7.	Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	UNESCWA
8.	Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime	UNODC
9.	Mr. Niklas Hedman, Acting Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs	UNOOSA
10.	Mr. Jens Wandel, Acting Executive Director of the UN Office for Project Services	UNOPS
11.	Ms. Zoritsa Urosevic, Executive Director of the World Tourism Organization	UNWTO
12.	Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination	DCO
13.	Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	BRS
14.	Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity	CBD
15.	Ms. Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	CITES
16.	Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	CMS
17.	Ms. Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands	Ramsar
18.	Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification	UNCCD



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG

<i>Heads of Observers Members</i>		
19.	Ms. SungAh Lee, Deputy Director General – Corporate Services	IUCN
20.	Mr. Marco Lambertini, Director General of the World Wildlife Fund	WWF
21.	Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth	Youth Envoy
<i>Deputy heads and Senior Officials of UN entities and MEAs</i>		
22.	Ms. Ligia Noronha, Secretary of the Environment Management Group and Head of the UNEP New York Office	UNEP
23.	Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General	FAO
24.	Ms. Usha Rao-Monari, Associate Administrator	UNDP
25.	Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination & Inter-Agency Affairs	DESA
26.	Ms. Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department	IFAD
27.	Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights	OHCHR
28.	Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences	UNESCO
29.	Ms. Vidhya Ganesh, Director DAPM and OiC for Deputy Executive Director	UNICEF
30.	Mr. Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division, OiC for Deputy Executive Director	UN-Habitat
31.	Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary	ESCAP
32.	Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary	UNFCCC
33.	Mr. Vic Van Vuuren, Director, Enterprises	ILO
34.	Mr. Robert Powell, Special Representative to the United Nations	IMF
35.	Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Director of the Marine Environment Division (MED)	IMO
36.	Mr. Joseph Wozniak, Head, Trade for Sustainable Development	ITC
37.	Ms. Vanessa Gray, Head, Environment & Emergency Telecommunication Division	ITU
38.	Ms. Sheilagh Henry, Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer	OCHA
39.	Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division	ECA
40.	Ms. Miho Shirotori, OiC, Division on International Trade and Commodities	UNCTAD
41.	Ms. Florence Descroix-Comanducci, Director of the IAEA Environmental Laboratories	IAEA
42.	Ms. Patricia Mbote, Director of the Law Division	UNEP
43.	Mr. Jose Luis Samaniego, Director of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements	ECLAC
44.	Mr. Andrew Saberton, Director of the Division of Management Services	UNFPA

45.	Mr. Hans Baritt, Controller and Director, Division of Financial and Administrative Management	UNHCR
46.	Mr. Stephan Sicars, Director, Division of Circular Economy and Environmental Protection	UNIDO
47.	Ms. Edeltraud Guenther, Director, UN University Institute for Integrated Management Material Fluxes and of Resources	UNU
48.	Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Director of the Coordination Division	UN Women
49.	Ms. Susan Alexander, Programme Manager	UPU
50.	Ms. Maria Neira, Director of the Environment, Climate Change and Health Department	WHO
51.	Ms. Dalila Hamou, Director, External Relations Division	WIPO
52.	Mr. Christian Peter, Global Environment Manager	World Bank
53.	Mr. Aik Hoe Lim, Trade and Environment Division Director	WTO
54.	Ms. Jane Hupe, Deputy Director, Environment, Air Transport Bureau	ICAO
55.	Ms. Kristin Dadey, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Director General for Management and Reform	IOM
56.	Mr. Andrew Cole, Climate Neutral Officer	WFP
57.	Ms. Claudia ten Have, Senior Policy and Coordination Officer	Minamata