



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



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

### Report of the Technical Segment

1. The Technical Segment of 28th meeting of the Senior Officials (SOM28) of the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) was held as a web conference on 13 October 2022. The meeting was opened at 15:00 CEST with introductory remarks by the Chair, Ms. Ligia Noronha, Assistant Secretary-General, and Secretary of the EMG. Following the adoption of the [agenda](#), the Technical Segment discussed and reviewed [suggested actions](#) for ongoing and new EMG processes to define the [EMG's 2022-2023 work plan](#), proposing these actions for consideration by the Senior Officials during the SOM28 Senior Segment on 3 November 2022. See [Annex I](#) for the list of participants to the Technical Segment.
  - I. Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda***
  2. The Chair opened the Technical Segment by welcoming all participants. She noted the progress towards more inclusive and networked environmental multilateralism, and highlighted several important resolutions adopted at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) concerning chemical waste and pollution, nature and biodiversity, green recovery and circular economy and plastic pollution. In addition, she recalled that UNEP had marked its fiftieth year in 2022 and had put forth a call for stronger implementation of international environmental law and governance. Important events, such as the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP15) and Stockholm +50 also took place. Ongoing intergovernmental processes present an opportunity for the EMG to better position itself and become more future-ready.
  - II. Adoption of the agenda***
  3. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

### **III. Consideration of ongoing work including recommendations to the Senior Officials**

4. The Chair invited participants to present overviews and updates on the different workstreams of the EMG.

#### **Issue Management Group on Biodiversity**

5. UNDP presented the progress made by the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity. EMG officials endorsed the IMG at SOM27. Since then, the focus of the IMG has been on facilitating a streamlined approach to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity as well as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. In line with this, the IMG has established three working groups co-chaired by UNDP, UNEP and UNESCO that promote:
  - Awareness raising and knowledge sharing on the Common Approach: an inventory of biodiversity-related technical guidance, knowledge products and training materials was created.
  - Accountability and monitoring within the UN system on the Common Approach: a draft monitoring and reporting framework for the implementation of the Common Approach was developed.
  - The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: in collaboration with FAO.
6. The EMG has several forward-looking activities planned around the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), including a UN pavilion space and a roundtable for UN Heads of Agencies.
7. The CBD Secretariat shared information related to the IMG and COP15. Concerning the EMG's planned roundtable at COP15, the importance of organizing it in proximity to the COP's high-level segment was stressed. CBD COP15 and the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27) were highlighted as opportunities to gain the political attention and commitment necessary to adopt the post-2020 GBF at COP15.

#### **Suggested Actions: Issue Management Group on Biodiversity**

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.

#### **Consultative Process for a Pollution-Free Planet**

8. UNICEF then presented the progress made by the Core Working Group on Plastic Pollution. The objective of having a common approach towards achieving a pollution-free planet was reiterated. A set of joint key messages on plastic pollution was ready to

be delivered to the office of the Secretary-General, including knowledge challenges, proprieties and solutions on which UN entities are working.

9. As a second deliverable, the Core Working Group is now preparing an overview of how the UN system supports Member States in addressing plastic pollution. In particular, the information provided for the EMG mapping on marine litter relating to plastics is being inputted to the ongoing mapping exercise on plastic pollution, which will feed into the "common offer" by the UN system in supporting Member States address the challenges of plastic pollution.
10. UNEP presented updates on the preparations for the first meeting of the intergovernmental negotiation committee (INC) to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. This was underlined given that plastic pollution is set to triple by 2060 and the interconnection between plastics, health and the environment is clearer than ever. The new instrument is expected to target sustainable production and consumption of plastics, including product design, environmentally sound waste management, resource efficiency and circular economy approaches.

**Suggested Actions: Consultative Process for a Pollution-Free Planet**

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.

**Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure**

11. UNEP presented the progress of the Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure, whose main output has been the release of the second edition of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure, as recognized in the UNEA 5 resolution on sustainable and resilient infrastructure. In relation to this, UNU Flores conducted a barrier analysis in collaboration with UNEP and Chile's Ministry of Public Works to better understand implementation challenges and opportunities on sustainable infrastructure and to explore the ten principles and the specific country context in depth.
12. An EMG Nexus Dialogue on investing in natural infrastructure was held in June 2022.

**Suggested Actions: Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure**

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.

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

13. OHCHR presented an update on the IMG on Human Rights and the Environment. The importance of the General Assembly resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights were underlined. The IMG will keep collaborating with the IMG on Biodiversity on the implementation of the post-2020 GBF once adopted.
14. The IMG on Human Rights and the Environment has three major workstreams:
  - Integrating human rights and environmental action and advancing rights-based environmental action at the country level. A common narrative on the human right to a healthy environment is nearing completion.
  - Developing information materials in the context of Stockholm+50, UNCCD COP15, UNFCCC COP27, and CBD COP15; organizing side events and designing strategies for integrating rights in these processes.
  - Building capacity within the UN system to support human rights-based environmental action in the context of the triple planetary crisis (pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss).

### **Suggested Actions: Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment**

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 CBD
  - iii) The strategy for engagement with the UNCCD
  - iv) The public briefing note on "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.

## **Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN**

15. FAO presented an update on the Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN, which mainly focused on the UN Sustainability Strategy. The dedicated sustainability strategy task team agreed that the governance structure should include a network of technical focal points, a body to reach the network and to report, and a secretariat to support network activities. The task team also created a working group on the monitoring and reporting framework for the strategy.

### **Suggested Actions: Consultations on Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN**

The Senior Officials:

- a) Endorse the proposed governance structure described in document EMG.SOM28\_INF\_2.
- b) Agree that the EMG Secretariat and Sustainable United Nations (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.

## **Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management**

16. The SUN Facility presented the update on the work of the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management. The work done on the Sustainability Strategy Phases I and II was highlighted, and it was noted that the inventory results of the 2022 Greening the Blue report had been distributed. The IMG has also finalized and circulated the Inventory Management Plan.
17. There have been efforts with the UNFCCC and the Gulf Organization for research and development to finalize and launch the Green Events tool for the calculation of the environmental impact of virtual events. Other agencies focused on the Sustainability Strategy Phase II, concerning the analysis of how to calculate emissions from programmes and Scope 3 emissions.

18. With regards to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, for the first time this year, the report of the Secretary-General also includes data and information on environmental footprint reduction efforts.

**Suggested Actions: Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management**

The Senior Officials:

- a) Commit to accelerating the implementation of the UN Sustainability Strategy in UN management and facilities and increase internal capacity and resources for full implementation in the context of organizational strategies or mandates.
- b) In the context of their mandates, commit to accelerating 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
  - iii. For necessary in-person meeting and events, implementing the Greening events of the UN Sustainability Strategy, taking advantage of existing green events tools already endorsed by the EMG
- c) Decide that the IMG becomes a working group under the Network of Technical Focal Points of the Sustainability Strategy and be renamed as 'Working group on environmental sustainability in the area of management'.

**UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment**

19. On the UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS) on the Environment, the EMG Secretariat reminded participants about the mandate of the SWFS with regards to reporting on the integration and implementation of the environmental aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the UN system, and the two reports prepared so far in 2017 and 2021, respectively. The third SWFS report is currently being prepared.

**Suggested Actions: UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment**

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.

## Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues

20. The EMG Secretariat provided an overview of the EMG Nexus Dialogues held in 2022, including those organized to prepare EMG contributions for Stockholm+50.

### **Suggested Actions: Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues**

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.

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

21. Regarding the EMG Task Team on a UN System Contribution to Stockholm+50, the EMG Secretariat referred to the two EMG reports prepared by the Task Teams and the EMG Round Table of Heads of UN Agencies organized in the margins of the Conference. The recommendations from the round table and the two reports were considered in preparation of the Agenda and Strategic Note of SOM28 and the EMG Strategic Narrative 2023-2030.

### **Suggested Actions: Task Team on a UN System Contribution to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting**

The 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.

## **IV. Addressing new issues proposed by the EMG members**

22. The EMG Secretariat recalled that, at the medium-term meeting of the EMG held on the 18 May 2022, UNEP made three proposals for consideration:
- Environmental data and statistics for the SDGs: address this issue under the current EMG process on SWFS.
  - Strengthening UN system-wide support to Resident Coordinator Offices and the UN Country Teams to address the triple planetary crisis: address this jointly with the UNSDG Secretariat and share updates and information with EMG members.

- Environmental aspects of minerals and metals: organize a Nexus Dialogue to identify whether there is a need for the UN system to prepare a common approach.
23. In addition, UNEP presented an overview on SDG 12, which addresses sustainable consumption and production (SCP), and suggested the following four themes:
- Focus on enhancing coordination and coherence of the UN-wide offering on SCP.
  - Unlock opportunities for strengthening cooperation and for sharing and mobilizing knowledge as well as technology and financial resources.
  - Better support UN resident coordinators in mainstreaming SCP into common country analyses and cooperation frameworks.
  - Pave the way for a UN alliance on SCP and SDG 12 with a Nexus Dialogue.

**Suggested Actions: Potential new topics for future work of the EMG**

The 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.

**V. *Overview of the Senior Segment of the Senior Officials Meeting***

24. The Chair presented an overview of the Senior Segment of SOM28, taking place on 3 November 2022. The agenda and other relevant documents have been shared and are available on the [EMG website](#). The Chair of the Technical Segment will deliver a summary of the outcomes of the present meeting to the Senior Officials, who will approve the suggested actions proposed today.
25. Key decisions proposed for the Senior Officials' endorsement include approval of the strategic plan for the EMG for the period 2023-2030. Three questions will guide the strategic discussion:
- How can the EMG become more future-ready to address the emerging global trends that will impact international environmental governance? What are the opportunities and challenges?
  - How can the EMG strengthen partnerships to enhance the implementation of environmental SDGs and environmental dimensions of the SDGs?
  - How can the UN continue to build on its gains and be a leading example in integrating environmental and social sustainability considerations across its work? What are the opportunities and challenges?

**VI. Any other business**

26. The EMG Secretariat provided a brief overview of the Heads of Agencies Dialogue planned for CBD COP15 in Montreal. They specified that a concept note from the IMG on Biodiversity has been prepared, suggesting the individual contributions that the agencies might give. The theme of the Dialogue, scheduled for 15 December 2022, from 15:30-17:00 local time, is *Pledging Commitments to Implement the Common Approach on Biodiversity and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*. The EMG will also facilitate member agencies' participation within the UN Pavilion space at *Place Quebec* during COP15.

**VII. Closure**

27. The Chair stressed the importance of a greater engagement of the EMG in addressing the interconnected challenges of the triple planetary crisis and other crises such as health, inequality, human rights, conflict and war. She added that the EMG should strive for more visibility and, in this regard, CBD COP15 and UNFCCC COP27 represent important opportunities. She also highlighted the necessity of enhancing not only the normative work of the EMG but also supporting its implementation through cooperation with the Development Cooperation Office (DCO) and stronger engagement with the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM).
28. The meeting was closed at 17:00 CEST.

## Annex I. List of participants

1. Adriana Zacarias Farah (UNEP)
2. Agnes Lostis (WIPO)
3. Aida Arino Fernandez (UNEP)
4. Amira Kheir (EMG)
5. Ana-Maria Lebada (UNICEF)
6. Andrea Rizzo (UNEP)
7. Andrew Rudd (UN-Habitat)
8. Angela Kariuki (UNEP)
9. Anne Fernqvist (UNDP)
10. Asa Elisabeth Tynell (UNEP)
11. Baogen Gu (FAO)
12. Benjamin Schachter (OHCHR)
13. Bernard Combes (UNESCO)
14. Brennan Van Dyke (UNEP)
15. Carina Forster (UNIDO)
16. Carla Calistri (UNEP)
17. Carol Chouchani Cherfane (ESCWA)
18. Catalina Santamaria (UNEP)
19. Cecilia Lopez y Royo (UNEP)
20. Christianne Zakour (Youth Envoy)
21. Claudia ten Have (Minamata)
22. Cristina Romanelli (WHO)
23. Curt Carrigan (ESCAP)
24. Daniel Ramos (WTO)
25. David Jose Vivas Eugui (UNCTAD)
26. Desiree Raquel Narvaez (UNICEF)
27. Duo Yu (UNEP)
28. Edeltraud Guenther (UNU)
29. Eduardo Escobedo (EMG)
30. Elaine Angeles (DOS)
31. Elena Santer (ECE)
32. Ernesto Sanchez-Triana (WB)
33. Esha Mitra (Youth Envoy)
34. Eva Guirria (UNDP)
35. Fatin Atif Tawfig (UNFCCC)
36. Federica Pesce (UNEP)
37. Federica Pietracci (CEB)
38. Florence Descroix-Comanducci (IAEA)
39. Gautam Narasimhan (UNICEF)
40. Giada Congiu (UNEP)
41. Gita Parihar (EMG)
42. Giulia Cavo (FAO)
43. Hannah Jaritz (UNIDO)
44. Helene Marie Jeanne Le Brun (UNESCO)
45. Hermelinda Plata (WFP)
46. Hossein Fadaei (EMG)
47. Hyun Sung (EMG)
48. Imogen Anne Randal Brierley (IFAD)
49. Isabel McRitchie (EMG)
50. Isabella Marras (UNEP)
51. James Hale (UPU)
52. Jan Cherlet (EMG)
53. Jannica Pitkanen (EMG)
54. Jean Marie Garelli (UNHCR)
55. Jin Tanaka (Youth Envoy)
56. Jorge Laguna Celis (UNEP)
57. Joseph Price (UNEP)
58. Juliane Dziumla (UNU)
59. Juwang Zhu (DESA)
60. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp (UNEP)
61. Kristin Meyer (UNDRR)
62. Laura Cerasi (CMS)
63. Lev Neretin (FAO)
64. Ligia Noronha (EMG)
65. Lorenzo Gavilli (ICAO)
66. Luca Chinotti (WWF)
67. Luiz Fernando Krieger Merico (ECLAC)
68. Mara Angelica Murillo Correa (UNEP)
69. Maria Cardenas Fischer (BRS)
70. Maria Cristina Zucca (UNEP)
71. Maria Rivera (Ramsar)
72. Maria Vittoria Berardi (EMG)
73. Marina Maiero (WHO)
74. Martin Guard (UNOPS)
75. Maximilian Muenster (UNEP)
76. Megha Rathi (WHO)
77. Mel Amancio (UNFPA)
78. Melissa Denecke (IAEA)
79. Melissa Villarroel Orellana (ECLAC)
80. Meriem Bouamrane (UNESCO)
81. Miriam Medel (UNFCCC)
82. Miriam Tereick (UNESCO)
83. Mito Tsukamoto (ILO)
84. Nadine Azzu (IFAD)
85. Nadja Bleiber (WB)
86. Nahomi Nishio (UNIDO)
87. Neil Pratt (CBD)
88. Nigel Thomas Crawhall (UNESCO)
89. Nives Costa (UNOPS)
90. Patrycja Enet (EMG)
91. Philippe Wealer (UNHCR)
92. Poorti Sapatnekar (DCO)
93. Priya Alvarez (UN Women)
94. Richard Smith (UNOPS)
95. Rie Tsutsumi (UNEP)
96. Robert Hamwey (UNCTAD)
97. Sarah Gondy (ILO)
98. Shannon Lisa (Youth Envoy)
99. Sheilagh Louise Henry (OCHA)
100. Sinead Brophy (UNODC)
101. Smail Alhilali (UNIDO)
102. Sofia Gutierrez (UNWTO)
103. Stephanie Egger Hay Smith (UNEP)
104. Stephanie van der Poel (UNEP)
105. Sulan Chen (UNDP)
106. Sunaina Dhadialla (UNEP)
107. Suzzane Muraya (UNEP)
108. Tetsuya Tanaka (ICAO)
109. Theofanis Karayannis (IMO)
110. Thierry Tremblay (DOS)
111. Tim Kasten (UNEP)
112. Tim Scott (UNDP)
113. Tina Mittendorf (FAO)
114. Vanessa Gray (ITU)
115. Victor Owade (WIPO)
116. Waleska Guerrero (UNEP)
117. Xiaofang Zhou (UNDP)
118. Yasuhiko Kamakura (ILO)
119. Yugratna Srivastava (Youth Group)
120. Yuki Shiga (GEF)
121. Yume Araki (UNIDO)