

<b>30<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group</b>  15 October 2024 (14:00 - 15:30 CET) Online	<b>EMGSOM.30</b>  Distribution: EMG Members
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## Summary Report

30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group (EMG)

### Introduction

1. The 30th meeting of the Senior Officials (SOM30) of the Environment Management Group (EMG) was held virtually on 15 October 2024. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Inger Andersen, UN Under Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director, and attended by 53 EMG members, including 2 observing members. The list of participants is provided in Annex 1. SOM30 was preceded by a Technical Segment on 1 October 2024.
2. In her opening remarks, the Chair referred to the recently adopted Pact for the Future that emphasizes that a sustainable future requires a healthy environment and active cooperation among Member States to conserve ecosystems and natural resources for future generations. She emphasized the strong connection between peace, security, health, development, and environmental issues, highlighting the need for the UN to enhance its environmental agenda across sectors. The integration of economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development is critical and has gained renewed focus. The challenges of land degradation, biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change are deeply interlinked, and they demand coordinated solutions that cut across the mandates of the Rio Conventions and related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
3. The Chair stressed that the EMG plays a vital role in supporting this integration, emphasizing collaborative thinking and action and promoting coordinated action across MEAs to leverage synergies in environmental efforts.

### Approval of the EMG workplan 2024-2025

4. The chair invited the Senior Officials to approve seven recommended action points proposed by the Technical Segment (provided in Annex II) for the future work of the EMG,

which will form the EMG workplan 2024-2025. The action points propose system-wide collaboration in the following inter-agency areas:

- i. Issue Management Group on Biodiversity
  - ii. Issue Management Group on Pollution
  - iii. Issue Management Group on Human Rights and Environment
  - iv. UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS) for the Environment
  - v. Strengthening EMG effectiveness
  - vi. EMG Contribution to the Climate Action Agenda
  - vii. UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030
5. With regard to action point VII on the UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030, in light of the Strategy's broad and comprehensive coverage of environmental and social across all functions of the UN system, the Chair stressed that coordination of the Strategy goes beyond the EMG's mandate specially its social dimensions. In that regard the Chair suggested to initiate a discussion with DESA as a first step in the process of identifying a suitable host entity. Other EMG members were also invited to support identifying a suitable host for the Strategy.

#### **Strategic discussion on strengthening system-wide coordination and collaboration.**

6. In introducing the strategic discussion, the Chair recalled action 10 of the Pact for the Future, where significant focus is placed on strengthening international cooperation and ensuring compliance with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). As the world prepares for three Rio COPs and other upcoming conferences, the Chair emphasized the importance of supporting Member States in a coordinated manner, pointing to the role of the EMG in fostering this coordination.
7. In light of this, the Chair invited the Senior Officials to provide their perspectives in response to the following questions to guide the future work of the EMG:
- a) ***What emerging or critical issues on the sustainable development agenda will demand coordinated approaches by the UN system? In that regard, what could the role of the EMG be in ensuring a strategic and relevant positioning for the UN system?***
8. The World Bank emphasized the need for the EMG to streamline its operations and develop a clear "menu of offerings" to help EMG members focus on their unique strengths, avoiding confusion and overlap within the UN system. Collective efforts could be strengthened in areas including fostering green economies and reducing the role of international intermediaries by leveraging local expertise in environmental ministries.

9. The IAEA highlighted the interconnectedness of the triple environmental crises and called for a collaborative approach. It suggested that the EMG could play a key role in consolidating data to improve collaboration, avoid duplication, and identify areas for complementary efforts.
10. UN Habitat stressed the importance of addressing urbanization and called for more focus on urban planning, housing, and informal settlements, which are crucial for tackling climate change. An Issue Management Group on urbanization and environment was suggested.
11. UNECA suggested the establishment of an Issue Management Group on Sustainable Finance, emphasizing on the need for a more coordinated approach to climate finance, particularly in collaboration with Multilateral Development Banks.
12. DOS stressed that the UN must deal with its own internal performance in order to have credibility with the interlocutors.
13. UNU saw potential in the EMG addressing the role of education and capacity building, proposing three actions: 1) a stock-taking of agencies' work on education for EMG topics; 2) include education elements in all EMG activities; and 3) actively promote EMG outputs to educational institutions, decision-makers, and the private sector.
14. OHCHR called for greater coherence and joint action on key issues such as just transition and human rights, highlighting ongoing discussions across various forums and the EMG's role in coordinating efforts and ensuring unified messaging.
15. UNIDO called for stronger synergy between the EMG and UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) to connect the global and national levels.
16. WFP called for an agile and authoritative EMG to effectively coordinate the UN's response to environmental crises, emphasizing that the UN should lead by example not only the UN's internal operations but also its relationships with suppliers and partners.
17. UNESCO underlined the importance of local solutions in conservation and stressed the need for more support for research and capacity building, noting that while investments in technology and infrastructure are prioritized, the essential knowledge and science for their effective use are often overlooked.
18. UN Women underlined the importance of integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into climate change, environmental, and disaster risk reduction policies, and emphasized the need for a coordinated, gender-responsive approach to addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis.
19. UNHCR stated that collaboration must move beyond headquarters to the field to address environmental degradation and its impact on vulnerable areas.

20. UNCTAD suggested collaboration on capturing synergies between climate related policies and SDGs, as well as cooperation in the areas of financing and technology.
  21. FAO draw attention to the need to better leverage climate and environment funds to drive transformation. Focus should be on fostering collaboration to turn ambitious goals into action. Promoting just transitions, especially in agrifood systems and the bioeconomy, is interesting in the EMG context.
  22. ITU emphasized the importance of leveraging digital technologies to address global environmental challenges. By integrating digital tools, such as AI and open data platforms, the UN can promote data-driven solutions, enhance international cooperation, and increase public awareness.
  23. IUCN suggested the EMG work to enhance coordination across UN agencies in support of a strong plastics treaty and proposed the engagement of the EMG in the implementation of the new system-wide strategy on water and sanitation.
- b) *How can the UN system strengthen its coherent and coordinated contribution to the implementation of global environmental goals and targets including those of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and UNCCD's Goal on land degradation neutrality ? In that regard, how can the UN Common Approaches to Biodiversity and Pollution reinforce collective UN action, in particular at the national level?***
24. The CBD emphasized the importance of leveraging synergies across different conventions, more integrated finance, and aligning reporting and planning processes across UN systems to help countries implement solutions effectively. Additionally, the need to prioritize common drivers of the triple planetary crises and consider the role of artificial intelligence in supporting these efforts was highlighted.
  25. The UNFCCC emphasized the importance of EMG's coordinating role in avoiding duplication, breaking down silos and identifying synergies among the three Rio conventions, focusing on policy tools like NDCs and NBSAPs and integrating the nature agenda into these policy frameworks.
  26. The BRS highlighted the importance of coordination and collaboration between international conventions, aligning efforts to achieve global goals. A key next step involves strengthening cooperation between UN regional- and country offices to ensure effective implementation on the ground, listening to the needs of individual countries.
  27. WMO emphasized the need for simplified strategies to support Member States effectively, particularly at the local level where implementation occurs, and called for greater collaboration and data harmonization within the UN system.

28. UNDP highlighted the need for integrated support to countries, enabling ministries to work on implementation of environmental initiatives effectively, and called for better coordination within the UN system to assist countries with the integration of financial strategies with national frameworks to support sustainable finance.
29. GEF stressed the importance of aligning public and private investments with UN agreements. Noting an increased tendency to mobilize development assistance through bilateral mechanisms, it was highlighted that directing funds through multilateral mechanisms like the GEF and GCF promotes policy coherence and more effective climate action.
30. DESA called for the development of coherent messaging frameworks and common approaches to achieve synergy and, noting that insufficient funding creates bottlenecks for many entities, suggested that the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development could serve as an opportunity to secure new resources from diverse sources.
31. UNICEF called for increased awareness of child-specific vulnerabilities to the environmental crisis and highlighted the importance of shared data and evidence, welcoming partners to maximize efforts across various agendas.
32. The CMS Secretariat suggested looking at ways to multiply collective impact and stressed the importance of the principle "do no harm," urging careful consideration of how actions in one area can negatively affect other priorities.
33. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands suggest that the EMG leverage the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to strengthen collective efforts in addressing the triple planetary crisis.
34. OCHA pointed out that humanitarian actors work in communities most vulnerable to climate change, calling for leveraging humanitarian expertise, including partnerships and data analysis, to ensure these vulnerable communities are not left behind in global efforts to tackle these crises.
35. WHO advocated for strategic alignment, simplifying processes and leveraging collective knowledge to create powerful, impactful solutions in tackling the planetary crisis.
36. WWF stressed the importance of elevating nature to the highest political levels and addressing cross-cutting issues like human consumption.
37. OHCHR emphasized the importance of aligning human rights with sustainable solutions as a critical framework for achieving positive change, urging continued support for the development of practical tools and guidance in this regard through the EMG.

### Other matters

38. No other matters were discussed.

### Closure of the Meeting

39. The Chair thanked participants for their commitment to ensuring the UN's agenda remains coordinated and impactful, stressing the need for a unified approach to tackling environmental challenges.

## Annex I: List of participants 2024

#	Name	Entity
<b>Heads/Deputies of UN entities and MEAs</b> (Listed by the last name in alphabetic order)		
1.	Ms. Inger ANDERSEN, Chair of the Environment Management Group and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme	UNEP/EMG Chair
2.	Ms. Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	OHCHR
3.	Ms. Lidia BRITO, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences and Applications UNESCO	UNESCO
4.	Dr. Chantal Line CARPENTIER, Head of Trade Environment Climate and Sustainable Development	UNCTAD
5.	Mr. Oscar FERNANDEZ-TARANCO, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination	DCO
6.	Ms. Amy FRAENKEL, Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	CMS
7.	Mr. Andrew HARPER, Special Advisor on Climate Action UNHCR	UNHCR
8.	Ms. Valerie HICKEY, Global Director for Environment and the Ocean	World Bank
9.	Ms. Ivonne HIGUERO, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	CITES
10.	Ms. Diene KEITA, Assistant Secretary-General Deputy Executive Director	UNFPA
11.	Mr. Atul KHARE, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support	DOS
12.	Mr. Junhua LI, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs	DESA
13.	Ms. Najat MOKHTAR, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear	IAEA
14.	Mr. Jorge MOREIRA DA SILVA, Executive Director United Nations Office for Project Services	UNOPS
15.	Ms. Hanan MORSY, Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist at the UN Economic Commission for Africa	UNECA
16.	Dr. Musonda MUMBA, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands	RAMSAR
17.	Mr. Marcos NETO, Assistant Administrator and Director for Bureau for Policy and Programme Support	UNDP
18.	Ms. Ligia NORONHA, Secretary of the Environment Management Group and UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York Office	UNEP
19.	Mr. Rolph PAYET, Executive Secretary of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	BRS

20.	Mr. Carlos Manuel RODRÍGUEZ ECHANDI, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson Global Environment Facility	GEF
21.	Ms. Anacláudia ROSSBACH, Executive Director of UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
22.	Ms. Celeste SAULO, Secretary-General World Meteorological Organization	WMO
23.	Ms. Astrid SCHOMAKER, Executive Secretary Convention on Biological Diversity	CBD
24.	Ms. Monika STANKIEWICZ, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury	Minamata
25.	Mr. Simon STIELL, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	UNFCCC
26.	Mr. Hirohito TODA, Deputy Executive Secretary for Partnerships and Coordination	ESCAP
<b>Senior Representatives</b> (Listed by the last name in alphabetic order)		
27.	Ms. Rania AHMED SHAFIK ABDELAZIM SHARSHR, Director of the Department of Peace and Development Cooperation	IOM
28.	Mr. Yoo BEOM-SIK, Senior Advisor for Asia/Oceania at Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	RAMSAR
29.	Ms. Madhushree CHATTERJEE, the Secretary of UN-Water and Chief of Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch Division for Sustainable Goals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs	DESA
30.	Ms. Hanny CUEVA-BETETA, Head of UNODC Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment	UNODC
31.	Ms. Florence DESCROIX-COMANDUCCI, Director of the IAEA Environment Laboratories	IAEA
32.	Ms. Zeynep ERSAHIN ASIK, Head of Risk Management Unit	UN-OCHA
33.	Mr. Ebrahim GORA, Director, a.i. of the Policy and Programme Division	UNEP
34.	Ms. Vanessa GRAY, Head of the Environment and Emergency Telecommunications Division	ITU
35.	Dr. Edeltraud GUENTHER, Director of UNU-FLORES	UN-FLORES
36.	Mr. Moustapha Kamal GUEYE, Global Coordinator Green Jobs Programme	ILO
37.	Mr. Fredrik HAAG, Head of the Office for the London Convention/Protocol and Ocean Affairs	IMO
38.	Ms. Dalila HAMOU, Director of External Relations Division	WIPO
39.	Ms. Shoko ISHIKAWA, Deputy Director of Policy Programme and Intergovernmental Division	UN Women
40.	Ms. Lin LI, Senior Director Global Policy and Advocacy	WWF Observer



41.	Mr. Aik Hoe LIM, Director of the Trade and Environment	WTO
42.	Mr. Santiago LORENZO, Head of Unit Climate Change Economics	ECLAC
43.	Mr. Angus MACKAY, Director of the Division for Planet UNITAR	UNITAR
44.	Mr. Juan Carlos MENDOZA CASADIEGOS, Director of Environment Climate Gender and Social inclusion	IFAD
45.	Mr. Greg PULEY, Head of OCHA Climate Team	OCHA
46.	Ms. Nicole QUIJANO-EVANS, Deputy Head of the Crimes that Affect the Environment	UNODC
47.	Ms. Soomi RO, Director of Administration of ESCAP	ESCAP
48.	Dr. Sofie SANDSTROM JAFFE, Permanent Observer of IUCN to the UN	IUCN
49.	Ms. Jen STEPHENS, Senior Advisor Climate Change Environment Energy and DRR	UNICEF
50.	Mr. Tetsuya TANAKA, Chief Climate Change of ICAO Secretariat	ICAO
51.	Mr. Hans THULSTRUP, Chief of Section for MAB Networking Biosphere Reserves and Capacity Building	UNESCO
52.	Mr. Raf TUTS, Director of the Global Solutions Division of UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
53.	Mr. Kaveh ZAHEDI, Director Office of Climate Change Biodiversity and Environment	FAO
<b>Accompanying Staff</b> (Listed by the last name in alphabetic order)		
54.	Mr. Smail ALHILALI	UNIDO
55.	Ms. Sandra AVÉROUS-MONNERY	WTO
56.	Ms. Ana Patricia BATALHONE	ITC
57.	Mr. Luca CHINOTTI	WWF <i>Observer</i>
58.	Mr. Andy COLE	WFP
59.	Ms. Nives COSTA	UNOPS
60.	Ms. Juliane DZIUMLA	UN-FLORES
61.	Ms. Helene GANDOIS	UNEP
62.	Mr. James HALE	UPU
63.	Mr. Marco KEINER	UNECE
64.	Mr. Brian KIMWATAN	UNEP
65.	Ms. Claudia LISBOA	UN-WTO
66.	Ms. Marina MAIERO	WHO
67.	Ms. Isabella MARRAS	UNEP

68.	Dr. Desiree MONTECILLO-NARVAEZ	UNICEF
69.	Mr. Joel NADJAM	OCHA
70.	Ms. Maria Purificacion NEIRA	WHO
71.	Ms. Oyinkan ODEINDE	WFP
72.	Ms. Federica PIETRACCI	CEB
73.	Mr. Neil PRATT	CBD
74.	Mr. Andrea RIZZO	UNEP
75.	Mr. Samuel ROUSSEAU-MASCOLO	ICAO
76.	Mr. Andrew RUDD	UN-HABITAT
77.	Mr. Frelek RYSZARD	WIPO
78.	Ms. Poorti SAPATNEKAR	DCO
79.	Ms. Xenya SCANLON	UNCCD
80.	Mr. Benjamin SCHACHTER	OHCHR
81.	Mr. Norwin SCHAFFERER	IASC
82.	Mr. Tim SCOTT	UNDP
83.	Mr. Thierry TREMBLAY	DOS
84.	Mr. Sheng ZHAO	UNECA
<b>EMG Secretariat</b>		
85.	Mr. Hossein FADAEI, Head of Secretariat	UNEP
86.	Ms. Jannica PITKANEN, Programme Management Officer	UNEP
87.	Mr. Yannis DERBALI, Programme Management Officer	UNEP
88.	Ms. Fatema JOHARA, Programme Management Assistant	UNEP

## Annex II: Action Points

### **30<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group**

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Senior Segment, 15 October 2024  
14.00 – 15.30 CEST  
Online

Distribution: EMG  
members

## Summary of Action Points

### I. Issue Management Group on Biodiversity

The Senior Officials:

- a) In anticipation of the release of the Mid-term Report of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity in 2025, acknowledge the final Monitoring and Reporting Framework, established to measure the progress towards the implementation of the Common Approach in support of the GBF
- b) Agree to extend the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity to continue facilitating a coordinated approach to uptake of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity, including through awareness raising, information sharing and piloting the Common Approach at regional and country levels in collaboration with relevant UN actors and groups to enhance the implementation of the GBF

## II. Issue Management Group on Pollution

The Senior Officials:

- a) Acknowledge the implementation plan of the IMG on Pollution, outlining efforts to promote the UN Common Approach to Pollution across the UN system and beyond
- b) Agree to extend the mandate of the Issue Management Group on Pollution to ensure a coordinated approach to implementing the UN Common Approach to Pollution. This includes mainstreaming pollution prevention and reduction efforts throughout the UN system at all levels

## III. Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to extend the Issue Management Group to continue implementing its workplan 2023-2025 to ensure a coherent and rights-based approach to environmental action in the UN system

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

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to submit a summary report on the SWFS to the 7th session of the UN Environment Assembly in 2025 in response to UNEA Resolution 1/11
- b) Request the EMG Secretariat to complete the development of the SWFS dashboard

## **V. Strengthening EMG Effectiveness**

The Senior Officials:

- a) Decide to establish a drafting group consisting of interested EMG member entities with the objective to prepare revised Terms of Reference for the EMG, building on the outcome of the Technical Focal Points retreat and the senior level consultation
- b) Request the EMG Secretariat to facilitate the work of the drafting group and submit the revised TOR for approval of the Senior Officials

## **VI. EMG Contribution to the Climate Action Agenda**

The Senior Officials:

- a) Agree to establish a consultative process to consider a possible contribution of the EMG to support and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Action

## **VII. UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030**

The Senior Officials:

- a) Request EMG members to help identify a host entity (or entities) for the coordination of the implementation of the Strategy for sustainability management in the United Nations system, 2020-2030 - Phase II: Towards leadership in environmental and social sustainability - ("Sustainability Strategy") at UN system level and provide an update to the Senior Officials at their 31<sup>st</sup> meeting in 2025