

Synthesis of inputs received from Member States on the scope and title of the theme of Pollution for the 2017 Environment Assembly (Revised 30th January)

Proposed wording for the theme¹:

1. *"It's time to clean our planet: reversing the curve on pollution"*
2. *"Delivering a pollution free planet"*
3. *"Pollution free planet serving the Sustainable Development Goals"*
4. *"Transboundary Environment Pollutions, threatening the Sustainable Development Goals"*
5. *"Global Partnership Avoiding Long-range Transboundary Pollution"*
6. *"People, Planet, Prosperity: A Cleaner Planet for Healthy, Prosperous Lives"*
7. *"Healthy environment for all (subtitle: finding solutions to tackle pollution)"*
8. *"Towards a clean planet" (subtitle: finding solutions to tackle pollution)"*
9. *"Pollution free world/planet"*
10. *"Global Action Plan on Pollution"*
11. *"Pollution free planet: delivering a deal to clean the world".*
12. *"A Clean Environment for All".*

Priority areas highlighted in the national submissions:

- **Air pollution**, including indoor and outdoor air quality, short-lived climate pollutants and sand and dust storms; it could also build in actions taken under the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition;
- **Water pollution**, including, wastewater and nutrient pollution; in addition it could include further work on the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management;
- **Land pollution**, including contamination of soils, land degradation and desertification as applicable and impact on soils from the extractive sectors;
- **Marine pollution**, including measures and commitments to stop marine plastics at its source by reducing plastic pollution and marine debris. This includes the phasing out of microplastics in relevant products and other actions that could build on the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities;
- **Sound management of chemicals and waste**, including lead paint, mercury and waste reduction, including for food waste and E-waste through innovative solutions for waste prevention and partnerships with industry for designing and implementing control measures for certain pollutants;
- **Other issues (enablers)**, such as legal and policy frameworks; impacts of pollution in human health and in ecosystems; the economic cost from pollution (in terms of cost of inaction); the role of partnerships with the private sector, educational institutions, local authorities, civil society and citizens; aspects linked to sustainable consumption and production; technology and access to financing.

Inputs on how to approach the theme of pollution and potential outcomes:

The report on the 2017 Environment Assembly theme to be prepared by the Secretariat should describe the international framework to tackle pollution as well as recommendations where further action (by the international

¹ The list reflects title proposals for the theme from the following members: African Group; Brazil; Costa Rica; European Union and its Member States; Islamic Republic of Iran; Japan; Norway; Singapore; and United States of America.

community) on these areas is required, taking into account relevant scientific information and data (such as the Global Report on Health and Pollution, the Global Chemicals Outlook report, the regional GEO-6 reports and relevant International Resources Panel reports). The report can include recommended targets/commitments for the reduction of pollution in every main category or priority area. It should also include recommended targets related to resource mobilization, access to technology and technical and financial assistance for the less developed and developing countries.

-The approach to the theme should be evidence-based, grounded on the latest scientific evidence and promote access to data and information. The effects of pollution should be addressed from a broader perspective of integrality and interrelation. Impacts of pollution on human health and in ecosystems have to be equally highlighted. In the case of ecosystems, attention should be also given to the availability of natural resources, the biological process and ecosystem services.

-More specifically, there is a need to consider the implementation of the outcomes of the 13th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the mainstreaming of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This should take into account ecosystems-based and ecosystem-service approach related to air, land and sea-based pollutants.

-Solutions to the challenges and adverse effects of transboundary forms of pollution should be at the core of addressing the theme of the Assembly and should build on goals that are already set in global strategies with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and others. With regard to marine pollution, such approach should also build on work undertaken by the Seventy-first UN General Assembly on marine debris, as well as IUCN Resolution 049 on promoting regional approach to tackle marine debris.

-The theme on pollution should serve as an input for consideration at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018, in particular where the Sustainable Development Goal 12, on Sustainable Consumption and Production, will be reviewed.

-The approach should take into account the theme of the 2017 Conference of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions: “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”, while providing timely input and momentum to the intersessional process for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

-The approach to the theme of pollution could enhance and build on many of UN Environment’s existing partnerships, programs, and activities and its cooperation with Member States, stakeholders and International Organizations.

- Data and availability of information is key in addressing pollution. The Assembly could support quantifying human exposure to pollutants and building integrated datasets. These datasets could be linked regionally.

-The approach should highlight the improvement of national and international legislation and support the implementation of the best practices and minimum standards.

-The consideration of pollution by the Assembly should lead to concrete, actionable outcomes as well as clear political messages that are both communicable to the broader public and relevant for policy-makers. The outcomes

should consolidate the authority of the Environment Assembly in persistent and emerging environmental challenges and contribute to maintaining political commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

-There should be a concise outcome document, preferably in the form of a ministerial declaration, affirming the need to address pollution, its relevance to Sustainable Development Goals and innovative and demonstrated effective solutions and prevention and containing international commitments and cooperation to take concrete action, including multi-sector and cross-sector action at the global, regional and national levels.

-Design a global scenario Action Plan as an outcome of the 2017 Assembly. Its form and articulation with resolutions and the outcome document must be carefully thought out. Possibilities range from a compilation of pledged actions annexed to the outcome document to an overall package consisting of the outcome document and a few thematic resolutions which are complementary to existing actions. The Action Plan should be comprehensive, addressing different environmental challenges for the coming decades and allow for near-term proactive policies.

-Flagship voluntary initiatives/pledges of action on specific environmental challenges should be considered as part of the outcomes of the Assembly.