

EU/MS Preliminary suggestions concerning the UNEA-3 Outcome

EU/MS would support **UNEA-3 outcomes to consist of:**

1. an **Outcome document**, preferably a **Ministerial Declaration, including a concise Global Framework for Action** that can be supplemented by pledged actions from both states and non-state actors or multi-stakeholder partnerships,
2. a **limited number of resolutions** related to the theme that facilitate implementation of the outcome document (and that may include flagship initiatives).

Given the special nature of UNEA3 and the limited time available, MS may wish to consider to focus discussions on the theme and the abovementioned outcomes, while noting the progress made following previous UNEA resolutions in 1 overarching resolution.

1. Outcome document

As indicated earlier, EU/MS support a concise outcome document, preferably in the form of a ministerial declaration. The outcome document:

- Should be concise, comprehensive and general in nature;
- should focus on UNEA's theme, and highlight UNEA's added-value as a cross-cutting and coordinating body for the environment within the UN system;
- should affirm the need to address pollution, and its relevance to SDGs;
- identify areas of common concern where global action is needed;
- highlight innovative and demonstrated effective solutions and prevention and contain international commitments to take concrete action, including multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral action at the global, regional and national level;
- It should thus have a global, cross-cutting approach to pollution.

EU/MS suggest the outcome document would include 2 parts, that together could be considered as the Global Pollution Action Plan to which EU/MS have already expressed support:

a) *Part 1 - general messages related to pollution, e.g.:*

- acknowledging the transboundary nature of pollution and the urgency to act, following the assessment of the extent and stakes of pollution at the global level, including its impact on environment and human health;
- specific messages on the importance and potential of addressing pollution for SDGs that will be reviewed by the HLPF in 2018 (SDG 6 on water, 7 on energy, 11 on cities, 12 on sustainable consumption and production and 15 on terrestrial biodiversity) while assuming that SDG 3.9 on health and pollution that is under review in 2017 will also be addressed;
- highlight cross-sectoral, high-level principles for addressing pollution (e.g. importance of a multi-sectoral and multi-actor approach; the priority of prevention or the hierarchy "prevention, reduction, restoration"; ecosystem-based solutions; circular economy approach, extended producer responsibility).

- b) *Part 2 - concise Global Framework for Action*, to prevent, reduce or clean up pollution at both the global, regional and national level, recognizing its cross-cutting nature, consisting of 8-12 actions, e.g.
- a (political) commitment to keep pollution on the international agenda;
 - a commitment from the international community that their development and cooperation policies avoid or reduce pollution;
 - a commitment to take action on specific areas in need for global response;
 - a call on the UN system to develop a coherent and coordinated approach towards reducing pollution;
 - specific messages from UNEA for the collaboration between UN-agencies (such as UNEP, WHO, WMO, FAO, UNDP, ILO) relevant to address pollution, including the collaboration between UNEP, WHO and WMO recently initiated by the Marrakech declaration on health, environment and climate;
 - call on MS, international organizations, scientific institutes, civil society, industry and other relevant stakeholders to pledge action to reduce/avoid pollution within a certain timeframe;
 - etc

Scope of the Global Pollution Action Plan:

EU/MS have expressed support to the proposal to adopt a Global Pollution Action Plan, although its form and articulation with resolutions and the outcome document must be carefully thought out as there exist a range of different possibilities to address this.

Possibilities range from a combination of key messages and a concise global framework for action as part of the outcome document (in line with the approach suggested above); a compilation of pledged actions annexed to the outcome document; or an overall package consisting of the outcome document and a few thematic resolutions which are complementary to existing actions and initiatives addressing pollution.

Ideally, a Global Pollution Action Plan would substitute separate resolutions on most of the pollution related topics to be addressed in the plan, and thus contribute to the communicability and action-oriented nature of the UNEA-3 outcome.

MS may wish to consider whether the approach should focus on describing the framework (i.e. principles, governance, monitoring etc.) and to what extent concrete actions would be taken up, related to the pollution areas to be covered. Would there be scope for countries, international organizations, relevant stakeholders and/or (multi-stakeholder) partnerships to include concrete pledged actions? What criteria would be necessary in order for actions to be taken up in the plan to ensure their added value/impact? And how can stakeholders/states be invited to pledge their actions?

On the outline note distributed by the UNEP Secretariat: The outline note contains many elements that would fit neatly in both parts of such an outcome. Especially elements from sections 3 and 4 would be a good basis for the work on the outcome. In order to ensure added value and impact, UNEP should be mandated to provide recommendations where further action (by the international community) on pollution areas is required, taking into account relevant scientific information and data. Another element to be taken into account is the input from UN MS, to ensure feasibility of the actions.

EU/MS therefore re-emphasizes the importance that the Background documents on **the 2017 UNEA theme** to be prepared by the UNEP Secretariat describe the international framework to tackle pollution as well as recommendations where further action (by the international 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 IRP reports) as well as the forthcoming report of the Global Commission on Pollution, Health and Development.

2. Resolutions/flagship initiatives

EU/MS are open to address a limited number of flagship initiatives related to the UNEA-3 theme through resolutions. They could focus on specific pollution types where UNEA can provide useful guidance to UNEP (e.g. filling specific knowledge gaps, share best practices, etc) or where concrete steps could be taken in the multilateral arena. Flagship initiatives could also be used to invite countries, international organizations, relevant stakeholders and/or (multi-stakeholder) partnerships to pledge voluntary action/commitment.

In selecting the topics/flagship initiatives to be addressed by resolution, UN MS may wish to take into account the ability to organize the discussions and cluster specific issues, by taking a broader scope of the pollution topic, e.g. micro plastics could be addressed as part of marine litter, or waste in general;

Priority areas of pollution to be addressed at UNEA3

- In order to determine the priority areas of pollution to be addressed at UNEA3, EU/MS would like to re-emphasize, that it is important to ensure a global, cross-cutting approach to pollution, while at the same time ensuring to enable a focused discussion and meaningful outcomes of UNEA.
- The choice for pollution areas to be addressed in the outcomes of UNEA should be following UNEPs suggestions, taking into account suggestions from UN Member States as well as the criteria we have previously highlighted:
 - Global relevance and a link with the UNEA-3 theme (though actions may be at the local or regional level) ;
 - Possibility to come to an appealing and meaningful result at UNEA-3;
 - Added value of the Environment Assembly and UN Environment Programme;
 - Feasibility to result in meaningful and tangible action, partnership or initiatives or useful directions to UNEP.
 - Link with SDGs to be reviewed in 2018 and SDG 3.9 on health and pollution
- [Following these criteria EU/MS support to focus UNEA outcomes on actions and solutions to address air pollution, marine litter, chemicals/waste and/or other topics – to be decided.]

EU/MS are open to further exchange views on the articulation of the UNEA outcomes. Including on questions on the appropriate abstraction level of the outcome document and on how to strike a balance between a comprehensive yet communicable outcome document, what initiatives/issues to address by resolutions and if it would be useful/possible to agree informally criteria to be used to assess [the added value of] resolutions and actions.