

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
Thursday 14 September 2017
5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.,
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Executive Office Boardroom
Agenda item 3.b

The Secretariat is pleased to present a note in support of discussions under agenda item 3.b, collection of voluntary commitments, as follow up to the Second Joint Bureaux Retreat held in Costa Rica in June. The Voluntary Commitment page has been activated for governments, civil society and business on the official website of the UN Environment Assembly and can be accessed at the following link:
<http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/beat-pollution>

Member States and Major Group and Stakeholders are kindly urged to submit their commitments. Commitments can be either submitted directly online or at the generic email address (voluntarycommitments@unep.org). Kindly note that commitments can be submitted in six official UN languages and an internal verification process will be carried out before their uploading on the website. A guidance note on voluntary commitments for a pollution-free planet is available at the following page as an annex to this note, for your further information.

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A guidance note on voluntary commitments for a pollution-free planet

BACKGROUND

The UN Environment Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, will gather in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4-6 December 2017 under the overarching theme of pollution. On this occasion, UN Environment invites stakeholders to make voluntary commitments towards a pollution-free planet. These commitments are initiatives undertaken voluntarily by Governments, intergovernmental organisations, international financial institutions, multilateral agreements, businesses, private sector entities and associations, civil society organisations, academia and research institutions, foundations, philanthropic entities and other stakeholders to tackle pollution in all its forms.

Commitments help build momentum and mobilise concerned stakeholders to take an active part in transformative change towards a pollution-free planet. Commitments may inform relevant UN Environment Assembly resolutions and support the Ministerial declaration.

Commitments can also be a way to better understand priorities and needs for the future in term of shaping and focusing on strengthening programmes and defining action plans.

HOW?

The [Environment Assembly website](#) provides a platform for stakeholders to register their voluntary commitments. Voluntary commitments:

- Relate to any or all of the following pollution areas: air, water, land, coastal and marine, and cross-cutting chemicals and waste.
- Consist of concrete targets or actions to avoid, reduce, mitigate, measure, monitor, report, and/or manage pollution

- Include implementation period and timeframe
- Encourage wide participation by stakeholders
- Are new

Stakeholders may use the form to record their commitment. This form is available in all UN languages.

Stakeholders may also download the word version and complete this offline. Should you opt to do so, please send your completed form to voluntarycommitments@unep.org.

ANALYSIS

UN Environment endeavors to make the analysis of actionable commitments by 30 September and 30 November 2017. These will be shared at the UN Environment Assembly. The analysis will be done according to the following six criteria:

- 1) links to Sustainable Development Goals and target(s) and international agreements,
- 2) types of policy measures,
- 3) geographical scope,
- 4) type of actions/enablers,
- 5) stakeholder interventions and participation,
- 6) resources required and mobilized.

The analysis will include commitments made under other international processes and conferences on areas of pollution such as those made under the Oceans Conference on marine litter, micro plastics, etc.

Voluntary commitments may also be directly announced during the UN Environment Assembly.