

Request from the President of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly

First Process of Consultations – Inputs from Chile

The Ministry of Environment of Chile has the pleasure to refer to the letter sent by H.E. Siim Kiisler, Minister of Environment of Estonia and President of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), requesting inputs and suggestions on possible outcomes of the next session of the Assembly to be held by 11 – 15 March 2019.

We extend our gratitude to the President of UNEA-4 for continuing the way of work on the construction of the theme of the Assembly through a collective process of reflection and sharing opinions by all the participants of this meeting.

The theme of the next Assembly will focus on “Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production”. We welcome the proposal as it is based on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable and consumption patterns. The selection of this subject represents an opportunity of discussing ideas and concrete initiatives related with the achievement of this goal, representing one of common interest at a multilateral level.

The Government of Chile is committed to follow concrete steps to encourage the development of sustainable consumption and production and waste management. Recently, the National Congress of Chile approved a bill banning the use of plastic bags in the commercial sector throughout our national territory. This initiative, which has broad and transversal support from citizens and politicians, follows the first principle of our Extended Producer Responsibility Law, seeking to reduce the generation of waste, which seriously damages the environment, especially our ocean¹.

In 2014, we established our national Inter-ministerial Committee on Sustainable Consumption and Production, led by this Ministry of Environment with multi stakeholder participation. Its objective is to coordinate and implement diverse initiatives in this area, as the basis to face the challenges set by the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YPP). Its main deliverables up to this date may be found in the National Programme of Sustainable Consumption and Production and the National Action Plan 2017 - 2022.

¹ For additional information: www.chaobolsasplasticas.cl

The Programme has the objective of serving as an instrument for sustainable development on its economic, social and environmental levels, by the modification of current consumption and production patterns, decoupling development and environmental degradation. The document presents an initial diagnosis on advances, gaps, needs and opportunities of the public and private sector, and the identification of relevant initiatives. The conclusions of this work allowed us to identify main and transversal lines of action, which represent the priorities of Chile on this area. Its implementation is being revised through the National Action Plan 2017 – 2022. Currently, 505 different initiatives at a national level have been considered, through a public-private work with different stakeholders².

On this framework, we would like to share some initial considerations on the elements proposed on the letter.

Key priority areas within the agreed theme where we should concentrate our collective interventions towards the next UN Environment Assembly;

We suggest the following potential areas for interventions during the Assembly. The following list is not ordered in a priority criterion:

1. **Sustainable construction** and the incorporation of sustainability considerations on the life cycle of buildings and infrastructures.
2. **Sustainable tourism**, integrating sustainability criteria for the tourism sector, including destinations and companies, encouraging biodiversity protection, natural resources and cultural heritage conservation, and sustainability labelling for tourism.
3. **Sustainable food systems**, reduction of environmental footprints and negative social impacts of production processes, sustainable fisheries and agriculture, and reduction of food waste.
4. **Sustainable industries** and the contribution of the industrial sector to the transition to a green economy, waste management, sustainability indicators and innovation.
5. **Consumer information** and its relation to the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns, implementation of international standards and certificates, and promotion of fair trade principles among producers.
6. **Sustainable cities** and its links to sustainable consumption patterns, sustainable transport and air pollution reduction and sustainable urban development and quality of life indicators.

² For additional information: <http://ccps.mma.gob.cl/>

7. **Sustainable lifestyles and education**, sustainable lifestyle indicators, promotion of knowledge on sustainable practices, social programmes and agreements, which are fundamental to produce behavioural changes.
8. **Sustainable small and medium enterprises**, whose contribution are relevant to achieve inclusive economic and green growth with social development.
9. **Waste management** and its reduction in all economic sectors, encouraging the development and design of recoverable products and services, market development with waste recovery considerations and behavioral changes promotion for an efficient waste management.
10. **Clean energy and energy efficiency**, renewable energy promotion, energy efficiency initiatives and sustainable energy standards and regulation and promoting the development of electromobility initiatives.
11. **Sustainable public procurement**, as an example of the efforts that the public sector can promote in order to encourage sustainable consumption patterns.
12. Integration of sustainable consumption and production considerations on **public sector decisions** such as policies, plans and strategies, sustainable public infrastructure, among others.
13. **Public - private sector initiatives and multi stakeholders' participation**, highlighting the relevance on cooperate with private companies, industries, civil society and academia in order to achieve these goals.
14. Social, environmental and economic **impact analysis** of sustainable consumption and production,
15. Environmental, social and economic statistical **information and indicators**, allowing for ex-post analysis of public policies related to the area, and reaffirming high transparency standards through access to information.

Possible elements and key messages that could be used as building blocks for the Ministerial Declaration;

1. In formal aspects, we consider that the formal proposition of the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA 3 was an interesting approach, as the language expressed through the document was conceived as one of easy access, pointing to reach the general public. It is relevant that this document emphasizes the positive impact of this subject on people's life. We would welcome a proposition that contains accessible language, discouraging the utilization of excessive formalities.
2. The importance of sustainable consumption and production, through concrete examples, should be highlighted, replicating what was made in the previous Ministerial Declaration, showing the relevance of the subject and its contribution to Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Environmental Principles recognized in international conventions and declarations, which are related to sustainable consumption and production, should be stressed, and future commitments related to them may be stated. Some principles of relevant interest may be capacity building and exchanges of scientific and technologic knowledge, polluter pays principle, prevention and precautionary approaches, access to information and participation, among others.
4. Expressing the need of decoupling economic growth and environmental degradation, and how a sustainable consumption and production approach is a concrete example of reaching this objective.
5. Underlining the relationship between climate change and sustainable consumption and production, and finding links that may achieve win – win solutions for challenges related to both areas, especially in sectors such as industry, energy efficiency and renewable energy, among others.
6. Encouraging synergies between Goal 12 and other SDG, and finding common ground for joint work between SDG such as Goal 6 (Clean Water), Goal 7 (Clean Energy), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and others.
7. Expressing the necessity of developing reliable information and indicators, eco-innovation standards and labelling.
8. Stating the relevance of education on the promotion of sustainable lifestyles aspiring to a behavioural change of the global population.

Possible elements for an Implementation Plan against pollution, building on the outcomes of the Third Session of the Environment Assembly;

The Implementation Plan against pollution, as it was established in point 14 of the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA 3, should take into consideration that moving towards a pollution-free planet is a long term endeavor, based on the outcomes reached during the Assembly.

Some of the agreements achieved are especially relevant and we consider that they should be taken into consideration in this implementation plan:

1. Prevention and reduction of air pollution, establishing air pollution monitoring systems, national air quality programmes, definition of the concept of ambitious air quality standards, short lived climate pollutants inclusion in air quality programmes, development of national and subnational emissions inventories, cooperation in international initiatives and campaigns, co-benefits of air pollution reduction in other areas such as transport, urbanization, climate change and agriculture.

2. Marine litter and microplastics, working on concrete efforts and actions for the elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans in order to avoid damage to marine ecosystems and human activities dependent on them, development of policies to avoid litter and microplastics from entering marine environment, encouraging contributions from the private sector and civil society.
3. Pollution and innovative solutions, encouraging measures and promoting investments in innovative environmental policy interventions and actions, strengthening environmentally sound technologies, sustainable use of natural capital and natural resources, encouraging partnerships between public and private sector, civil society and academia.
4. Environment, pollution prevention and health, recognizing the links between these elements and advancing in concrete areas such as chemicals and waste, climate, biodiversity, encouraging to advance in measures at a multilateral level through international conventions and working with relevant international organizations.
5. Pollution and biodiversity, promoting a sustainable use of biodiversity in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, energy and remediation of negative impacts related to these sectors on biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services.