

Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of UNEA-4
Comments by Brazil (Nairobi, 4 September 2018)

General Comments

The draft outline requires a more balanced approach of the agreed theme “Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production”. There is only one subtopic related to SCP (main priority 2, subtopic 3) in the whole document. The three main priorities proposed have not been examined as such by Member States and many of the proposed subtopics have not been reviewed in a CPR or UNEA setting.

The draft should be inspired by the conceptual framework and agreements achieved by the international community, in particular Agenda 2030 and the outcomes of previous UNEAs. It should build bridges and point to the future.

In this line, consideration should be given to the document “Concept note on the theme of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly” prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with Member States and to the efforts made within the CPR to reach a common understanding between the two dimensions of the agreed theme. For instance, the focus areas considered for the preparation of the background documents and leadership dialogues could be taken into account.

Brazil recognizes the importance of the 6th Global Environment Outlook report as well as the findings of the International Resource Panel. However, the ministerial outcome should provide a strong political message focused on the topics discussed by UNEA-4 and on the negotiations leading to it. The inclusion of a vast array of different topics might weaken the political message we are hoping to convey thus making implementation more difficult.

Brazil would favor a complete revision of the document and a future draft outline that reflects the debate that led to the selection of the UNEA-4 theme.

Main Priority 1

Neither the CPR nor previous sessions of UNEA have considered many of the concepts and proposed priorities reflected in the document such as the subject of “global environmental data policy and systems and common data standards”. Such complex targets could only be examined after careful prior deliberations on their policy and practical implications.

Main Priority 2

“Resource Efficiency” is a narrow interpretation of the challenges posed by sustainable consumption and production. The conceptual framework should be based on the

outcome of Rio+20 and the 2030 Agenda. The concept of “circular economy”, to which there is no internationally agreed definition, also does not fully encompass all the aspects of SCP. Furthermore, some of the subtopics proposed have very little relation to the agreed theme of the Conference. Lastly, the two last subtopics would represent a duplication of mandate of SAICM and of the Convention of Biological Diversity and should not be deliberated upon by UNEP before these fora possibly address the issues.

Main Priority 3

This proposed priority also mentions a multitude of subtopics, omitting crucial ones, such as public-private partnerships. The concepts of “green economy” or “green infrastructure” lack precision in the manner they were presented. Both issues should be considered in the context of sustainable development framework.