



Women's Major Group input to:

Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of UNEA-4

Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly

“Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”

Vision: To develop partnerships towards sustainable and innovative societies and build upon the theme of pollution with focusing on innovative solutions to key environmental challenges, building on outcomes from previous sessions of the Environment Assembly.

The political message from the Ministers will be informed by the 6th Global Environment Outlook report on key environmental challenges as well as the report of the International Resource Panel on the global status of resource efficiency.

Main priority 1: Ensure the transparency, accountability and comparability of global environmental data and develop science-policy-[citizen](#)-business-[civil society](#) partnerships on innovative data technologies and digital solutions.

Comment:

This must include **civil society**. It is indicative of current pro-business ethos that business is included, but not civil society.

Civil society has enormous constituencies, who can spread and propel citizen science.

Also, many CSOs/NGOs have considerable research and scientific capacity.

It would be good to include a reference to **citizens** here:

- for consistency with bullet-point one underneath;
- for consistency with Agenda 21, and the basis for the creation of UNEA;
- because transparency and accountability is in relation to citizens/members of the public;
- because civic participation can help ensure the data is free from conflicts of interest, which may be present among some business stakeholders depending on their ownership/investment/customer base structure.

In general, innovative data technologies are the tool, not the solution (which would be reduction and increased efficiency). Digital tools themselves generate waste, toxic chemicals, oppressive labour practices for those producing electronic equipment, and waste issues such as e-waste.

- Establish comprehensive environmental monitoring systems (including citizen observations and satellite monitoring) to improve data collection and foster cross-border environmental monitoring data exchange, (for example in the form of pilot projects on establishing global real-time air [and water](#) quality and deforestation monitoring systems, [as well as brand audits and other analysis of waste collected during community clean-up activities](#)).
- Ensure everyone has a fair, [free, unrestricted](#) and where possible electronic access to environmental data and develop secure and accessible monitoring databases.
- Develop digital solutions [and ensure information disclosure](#) to gain better knowledge on global resource use and productivity, [as well as associated emissions and environmental and health impacts](#), including introducing global product information factsheets in order to make informed decisions.
- Engage regions, countries and municipalities to collect and analyze environmental data, and develop technologies and apps and make scientific discoveries through citizen science.
- Enhance integrated use and analysis of environmental data from various sources (smart devices, mobile applications, environmental monitoring and research).
- Develop global environmental data policy and common data standards.
- [Product transparency - labeling, advertising etc. E.g. color coded bar grading systems on sustainability, resource use, and environmental degradation.](#)
- [Accountability - Ensuring accountability for environmental impacts of products; with all subsidies removed for those with any adverse environmental or resource use impacts, and taxes etc. applied.](#)

Main priority 2: Foster sustainable and efficient resource management by promoting decarbonisation, detoxification and decoupling of resource use, to enhance ecosystem resilience and protection of the planet's natural systems.

- Accelerate the transition towards [toxic-free](#) circular economies and the application of life-cycle approaches for sustainable materials management, in a manner that [fits within ecological limits, prevents hazardous chemicals from entering the life-cycle, fosters economic growth, improves competitiveness, supports local communities and safeguards social benefits, improves livelihoods and creates jobs and protects nature and animals and safeguards social benefits.](#)

Comment:

Untrammled economic growth is unsustainable. It would be better to say e.g. supports local communities and safeguards social benefits, improves livelihoods and creates jobs, and protects nature and animals.

Subjecting necessary environmental measures to economic growth is problematic and should not be decided by UNEA.

- Foster innovative governance mechanisms that integrate circular economy principles and frameworks into national policies.
- Fully implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- Maximize the benefits of [sustainable production, waste prevention and](#) sound waste management with the special focus on food, plastics and marine litter, [prioritizing upstream measures in line with the waste hierarchy](#).

Comment:

As recognized by UNEA-3, the increase of primary plastic production and consumption in products and packaging is a major challenge to address. While improved waste management is a useful step in addressing plastics and marine litter pollution, it will not be sufficient to reduce plastic pollution unless the production is also reduced. Prevention and reduction shall be included in order to minimize the creation of waste in the first place.

- Promote sustainable land management to maintain soil health, ensure [humane and sustainable](#) food security and combat [deforestation and](#) desertification.
- Introduce global product sustainability criteria to stimulate the market for secondary [and toxic free](#) raw materials and sustainable products, [taking a highest and best use approach and conserving material's high quality](#).
- Accelerate and activate sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and ensure transparent funding of eco-innovative solutions.
- Develop a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) beyond 2020 to ensure non-toxic material cycles and healthier products.
- Commit to accelerate the implementation of the Aichi Targets and consider a new time frame going beyond 2020, to improve the health of the world's ecosystems.

Main priority 3: Support robust engagement of civil society, citizens and academia in promoting innovative approaches for meeting global environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.

- Allocate adequate resources to research and development to drive innovation for the environment [and to the meaningful participation of civil society in policy-making processes](#).
- Ensure access to basic and environmental education worldwide and promote sustainable lifestyles through a wider uptake of innovative approaches in education.
- Identify and promote the wider application of indigenous knowledge about environmentally friendly practices.
- Support the creation of new, innovative ~~business~~ opportunities to eradicate poverty and establish infrastructure for new greener economy.
- Engage ~~citizens~~ [people](#) in improving their local urban environment, green infrastructure and nature based solutions.
- Promote and raise awareness for sustainable tourism.