

2018



**BACKGROUND DOCUMENT ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF OUTCOMES OF THE  
THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY**

## **A. Introduction**

The third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly took place in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017, under the theme “Towards a Pollution Free Planet. It adopted 11 resolutions, three decisions and a Ministerial Declaration. In line with the guidance provided to Member States, most resolutions are linked to the theme. Areas covered include: mitigating pollution in areas affected by conflict and through mainstreaming biodiversity; addressing soil, air and water pollution; environment and health; exposure to lead paint and sound management of waste lead acid batteries; marine litter and microplastics. They also address cross cutting issues, such as investing in innovative environmental solutions. Resolutions on the follow-up of the implementation of paragraph 88a-h of, “The Future we want” and the UN Environment Assembly’s contributions to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development address governance or management issues. Procedural decisions were taken on the delivery date for sixth Global Environment Outlook and the management of Trust Funds. (See Annex 1 for the full list of outcomes).

This background document outlines the actions that the Executive Director was requested to take under each outcome and presents a summary of the implementation plan. It then highlights initial progress, partners, links to the Sustainable Development Goals and challenges.

UN Environment Programme operates under seven thematic priorities: climate change; resilience to disasters and conflicts; healthy and productive ecosystems; environmental governance; chemicals, waste and air quality; resource efficiency and sustainable production and consumption; and environment under review. The document complements information provided in quarterly reports, presentations on the programme performance and briefings to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the implementation of resolutions under these areas.

Requests made of the Executive Director were generally subjected to: availability of resources; conformity with the mandate of UN Environment Programme; request or invitation from the respective country in the case of support to and activities in countries. The Executive Director is also requested to report on the implementation of the outcomes at the fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 3/7, on Marine litter and Micro plastics request the Executive Director to also report on the implementation of its resolutions 1/6 and 2/11. Resolution 3/9 on Eliminating Exposure to Lead Paint requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of this resolution as part of the report on the implementation resolutions on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

## **B. Resolutions**

<b>UNEP/EA.3/RES.1      Pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism</b>
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In **resolution 3/1 Pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Keep undertaking field visits to affected areas, as appropriate.
- Dispatch urgent assistance missions to affected areas, as appropriate, in order to undertake field-based and post-crisis environmental assessment and recovery with a view to assisting affected States in controlling pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism and;
- Continue the Programme's interaction with the International Law Commission, including by providing relevant information to the Commission at its request in support of its work pertaining to pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism.

### **Implementation plan**

UN Environment Programme will:

- Support Member States, upon request, to take appropriate measures to minimize and control pollution in situations of armed conflict or terrorism;
- Cooperate closely in preventing, minimizing and mitigating the negative impacts of armed conflict or terrorism on the environment as well as encourage all stakeholders at the national level to participate in the preparation of national plans and strategies aimed at setting the priorities for environmental assessment and remediation projects, and;
- Ensure that the data necessary for identifying health outcomes is collected and integrated into health registries and risk education programmes.

Standing capacity exists to deploy expertise, upon request, through the mechanism provided by the Joint Environment Unit of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UN Environment Programme.

### **Partners**

Member states, International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, OCHA, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Funds and Programmes, International Law Commission.

### **Progress**

UN Environment Programme has been active in supporting certain countries in responding to conflict-related pollution in areas directly affected by conflict like Iraq or countries that are experiencing the spillover effects of conflict-related displacement (e.g. Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon). For example, in Iraq, we have been working with UN partners' programmes to deal with the enormous volumes of debris generated by the ISIL conflict, with a focus on the city of Mosul. So far, UN agencies have been supporting debris removal efforts with the rubble dumped in an uncontrolled manner creating long-term environmental problems. Drawing on our debris management assessments and modelling scenarios,

UNDP's Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are now initiating debris recycling projects in Mosul. UN Environment Programme is accompanying both UNDP and IOM by providing technical guidance in designing and implementing debris recycling projects in collaboration with Mosul local authorities. These debris recycling initiatives will support UNDP's and IOM's efforts in creating cash-for-work activities for local communities and returnees, while ensuring that they are carried out in an environmentally sound and safe manner.

In Turkey and Lebanon, UN Environment Programme is supporting capacity building to address the environmental dimensions of the massive human displacement caused by the conflict in Syria.

Since the Environment Assembly, technical assistance has been provided to address environmental issues associated with conflict in Bangladesh, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq with a view to assisting affected States in controlling pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism. In Iraq, this technical assistance was directly related to *in situ* conflict pollution.

In addition, UN Environment Programme contributed to a pioneering Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace developed by the SDG Academy in New York. Other partners included the Environmental Law Institute, the Environmental Peacebuilding Association, and the Universities of Columbia, Duke and California at Irvine. The course was held for eight weeks from March to May 2018 and had 9,895 participants from 170 countries enroll. A total of 30,564 unique visitors from 198 countries also viewed the MOOC web page demonstrating a global reach in marketing efforts. The MOOC attracted a diverse group of participants from all of the main stakeholder groups including NGOs (19%), Private sector (18%), Government (13%), International Organizations (10%), Academic (9%) and others. It also included an excellent gender distribution, with 53% women and 47% men. Over 90% of the participants surveyed found the course to be relevant, valuable and high quality. The next offering of the MOOC will be held in February 2019.

UN Environment Programme has created a dedicated Nairobi-based Environment and Security Unit to help coordinate and lead all of our work on environment and security, including the work on conflict pollution. The new head of this unit began work in August 2018.

UN Environment Programme continues to discuss ways to improve coordination on issues of conflict pollution across the UN system. For example, UN Environment Programme is currently discussing a possible Joint Environment Team with the UNHCR as a way of pooling the two organizations' capacity and expertise.

Collaboration with the International Law Commission is on-going as they develop and promulgate draft principles on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict:

[http://legal.un.org/ilc/guide/8\\_7.shtml](http://legal.un.org/ilc/guide/8_7.shtml)

### **Financial Implications/Challenges**

Given the unplannable nature of these events, response missions tend to be reactive and difficult to adequately fund. Providing timely, sufficient response is an on-going challenge for which a greater allocation of unearmarked and rapidly deployable funding would be extremely beneficial.

In **resolution 3/2, Pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Promote close coordination, collaboration and synergies related to mainstreaming biodiversity among the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral environmental agreements and, as appropriate, other organizations and international initiatives and processes.
- Cooperate closely with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as appropriate on the implementation of and follow-up to the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting, especially on aspects related to pollution mitigation through mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors and;
- Prepare a note on upcoming milestones on biodiversity and present it to member States for their consideration no later than the 141st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme and the first meeting of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly in 2018.

The Resolution also invites member States to undertake, taking into account their differing national circumstances, a range of measures in the sphere of biodiversity that contribute to addressing pollution, including in the areas of: mainstreaming conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity within and across certain sectors; strengthening institutional, legislative and regulatory frameworks; supporting sustainable production and consumption, including through reforming incentive systems; promoting the creation of standards and good practice guidelines; encouraging sustainable practices and raising awareness of the multiple values of biodiversity that contribute to preventing pollution; encouraging investments in biodiversity.

Member States were also invited to consider including biodiversity as one of the issues to be considered by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session.

### **Implementation plan**

UN Environment Programme will:

- Continue to promote synergies among biodiversity-related MEAs and other entities, through the project 'Environmental Treaties Programme – realizing synergies for biodiversity' but also through other projects implemented by the Ecosystems and Law Divisions.
- Cooperate closely with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on various aspects of biodiversity, both in the international and national implementation context.
- Work with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on engagement with the private sector at the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including the organization of a Leaders' breakfast in the margins of the Business and Biodiversity forum;
- Prepare and submit the note requested for consideration at the 141<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the first meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly bureau; and is ready to continue support the CPR and the United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau in their consideration of biodiversity.

UN Environment Programme has a broad Global Environment Facility funded portfolio on biodiversity, and other projects on the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the sustainable development goals, including in the area of biodiversity, and initiatives addresses the causes of the negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, the sustainable use of biodiversity as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, which to some extent can support member states in undertaking some of these measures. These initiatives occur under various sub-programmes, mostly Healthy and Productive Ecosystems, and Environmental Governance.

Addressing the intersection between biodiversity and pollution also responds to the SDGs, in particular to the interconnected goals 3, 12, 14 or 15 among others.

UN Environment Programme will continue to support member states in the context of existing initiatives and through new or expanded initiatives if resources become available.

### **Partners**

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Secretariats to other multilateral environmental agreements; other UN agencies, the Global Environment Facility and national implementing partners; UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

### **Progress**

In line with the implementation plan, UN Environment Programme continues to support selected countries through its project to promote synergies among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental and other entities, through its GEF portfolio and through other projects in the sphere of the Sustainable Development Goals and multilateral environmental agreement implementation.

A new framework project titled 'Landscapes, Wildlife and People' has been developed to address the core issue of the degradation of natural landscapes of importance to both wildlife conservation and human livelihoods. The initiative's focus on the key drivers and actors responsible for the loss, degradation and fragmentation of natural landscapes is expected to provide timely and tangible contributions that will galvanize the Healthy and Productive Ecosystems Sub-Programme's efforts to mainstream sustainable, integrated land management approaches across priority terrestrial ecosystems on a global scale. The core problem makes the case that the main reason for the ongoing loss of natural landscapes is that intensifying human development drivers and incentives (such as increased demand for agricultural production) are currently predisposed towards land-use and development choices that are incompatible with the maintenance of wildlife populations, habitats and corridors. As part of this initiative, UN Environment Programme will work closely with Member States to identify, analyze and ultimately address these human development drivers and incentives.

Within the framework of ongoing Oil for Development (OfD) programme, UN Environment Programme is working to enhance national capacities for improved environmental management in Oil for Development Programme supported countries with an emerging oil and gas sector. As a part of this programme, UN Environment Programme together with its biodiversity specialist centre (UNEP-WCMC), and the International Petroleum Industry Environment Conservation Association (IPIECA) conducted a special training on planning for and managing oil and gas operations in and near protected

and ecologically sensitive areas for Government officials in the Ministries of Petroleum, Environment, Planning, Transport, and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies involved in managing the environmental impacts of the oil industry. It enhanced understanding of the need to mitigate impacts on protected, conserved and ecologically sensitive areas from oil and gas operations, and the management approaches that support a positive relationship between oil and gas development and social and environmental objectives in and around these areas.

UN Environment Programme is supporting member States in the coherent implementation of agenda 2030, and in this context, promotes an integrated approach to various environmental issues including pollution and biodiversity. It continues to work to promote synergies among different Multilateral Environmental Agreement clusters, United Nations Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and others at national level and to enhance capacities of national institutions to implement these agreements.

On wildlife, UN Environment Programme is working with Members States to identify and harness the opportunities tourism provides to secure conservation-compatible investment and provide a mechanism to expand best practice globally. This will include an advocacy agenda to support investment and a shift in conservation-development debate to step up efforts to work with member states to achieve the twin objectives of conservation and community development.

UN Environment Programme continues to oversee the implementation of a great number of Global Environment Facility projects on various aspects of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in its role as implementing agency, and to executive some of them focusing especially on biosafety and access and benefit sharing. It also continues to work with countries to generate additional funding. These presents opportunities to address some of the aspects of the resolution, to the extent that they are relevant to country priorities and needs.

UN Environment Programme continues to cooperate closely with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and efforts are underway in the run up to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to promote engagement with the private sector including through the organization of a Leaders' breakfast in the margins of the Business and Biodiversity forum.

UN Environment Programme has already prepared and submitted the note requested for consideration at the 141<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the first meeting of the UN Environment Assembly bureau; and is ready to continue support the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the UNEA Bureau in their consideration of biodiversity.

### **Financial Implications/Challenges**

The breadth and type of measures that the resolution invites member states to undertake entail very significant changes at national level across all economic sectors and the engagement of a broad array of stakeholders. Costs associated with supporting these efforts have not been quantified.

UN Environment Programme stands ready to support member states within available resources, but an enhanced resource base is needed to address biodiversity challenges and to more specifically address the nexus between biodiversity and pollution.

<b>UNEP/EA.3/RES.3 Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development</b>
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**In resolution 3/3, Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**, the Environment Assembly decided to:

- Include a standing agenda item on contributions of the UN Environment Programme to the meetings of the High Level Political Forum;
- Provide timely substantive inputs to the annual meetings of the High-Level Political Forum;
- Request the Executive Director and recommend the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to work closely with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to enhance consideration of the annual contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the work of the High Level Political Forum, and to report thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives with a view to providing feedback to the United Nations Environment Assembly;
- Request the Executive Director to ensure that the regional offices of the UN Environment Programme work closely with member States and the regional economic commissions to provide timely inputs in preparing for the annual meetings of the regional forums on sustainable development.

### **Implementation plan**

UN Environment Programme will:

- Prepare draft inputs to the High-Level Political Forum using the template provided by the Economic and Social Council for consideration by the UN Environment Assembly President and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in time for submission to the Economic and Social Council by the deadline of 27 April 2018.
- Help secure a speaking slot for the president of the United Nations Environment Assembly during the High-Level Political Forum with political support from Member States,
- Assist the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly reach out to key Member States, including those on the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council to ensure that the messages from the Environment Assembly are well integrated into the High-Level Political Forum deliberations.

The Executive Director will:

Continue to engage with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, including through bilateral meetings to enhance consideration of the annual contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the work of the High-Level Political Forum.

Invite the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to attend and deliver remarks at the high-level segment of the United Nations Environment Assembly sessions, with a view to enhancing interactions between the two bodies. The secretariat will also support the United Nations Environment Assembly President in following up on this matter.

### **Partners**

Member States, President of the General Assembly, President of the Economic and Social Council, and the Regional Economic and Social Commissions.

### **Progress**

The United Nations Environment Assembly inputs, which highlighted the critical importance of environment in achieving the SDGs, were submitted to the Economic and Social Council in time for incorporation into a "Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies," which formed part of the official documentation for the High-Level Political Forum.

The draft inputs were first reviewed by the United Nations Environment Assembly President who provided substantive comments. The revised version was then shared with the Committee of Permanent Representatives for discussion at its subcommittee meeting on 15 March 2018. The Secretariat further revised the inputs in accordance with the comments and observations made by Member States at this meeting. Member States discussed the second revised version at a subcommittee meeting held on 24 April 2018. Based on the additional feedback, the inputs were finalized. These written inputs informed the development of the statement delivered by the United Nations Environment Assembly President at the High Level Political Forum.

The United Nations Environment Assembly President, H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler, Minister of the Environment of Estonia, was given the floor to convey the main messages of the Environment Assembly on the first day of the high-level segment on 16 July 2018, immediately after reports by the Chairs of the respective Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. He was the only head of the governing body of a UN system organization to be given a separate speaking slot

A representative of the United Nations Environment Assembly President met with the President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardova, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN in New York, and discussed enhancing the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum at the Economic and Social Council preparatory meeting "Towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies through participation of all" organized by the President of the Economic and Social Council in Prague from 26-27 March 2018.

In Asia Pacific, UN Environment Programme co-led the convening of the roundtable on SDG 15 life on land as part of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, which took place in Bangkok in March 2018. UN Environment Programme provided substantive inputs into the organization of roundtables on the other SDGs under in-depth review at the 2018 High Level Political Forum, whose summaries were submitted as part of the regional forum outcome.

In Europe, UN Environment Programme organized three roundtables at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held in Geneva in March 2018 - two related to SDG 12 responsible

consumption and production and one on SDG 15 life on land. For the roundtable on SDG 15, UN Environment Programme worked with the Convention on Biological Diversity to highlight how ecosystems and biodiversity underpin sustainable development.

In West Asia, UN Environment Programme co-led the organization of the annual Arab Forum for Sustainable Development with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the League of Arab States in Beirut in April 2018. This was preceded by providing technical support to the regional forum's preparatory meeting on environmental and national resources held in Cairo in early April 2018. The West Asia Office is also working with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the development of the second edition of the Arab Sustainable Development Report, which will be published in 2019, following the publication of the first edition in 2015.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development took place in Santiago de Chile in April 2018 with substantive contributions from UN Environment Programme, including as speakers of various side events. The outcome document of the forum specifically recognized the importance of the environment as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development and acknowledged the special contributions of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in following up on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN Environment Programme also organized a side event "Beat Plastic Pollution: Innovative solutions for plastic free lifestyles," which helped to showcase the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly."

#### **Financial Implications/Challenges**

United Nations Environment Assembly decision 3/2 on "Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the UNEA" does not include the agenda item on United Nations Environment Assembly contributions to the High-level Political Forum as requested by this resolution.

<b>UNEP/EA.3/RES.4      Environment and health</b>
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In **resolution 3/4, Environment and health**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Present a report on the environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways of minimizing them, given the lack of data, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations by the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
- Work in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health and all other relevant organizations, academia, the private sector and civil society to support efforts by Member States to identify and characterize the human and animal health risk, based on the One Health approach and in line with the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as the risk to biodiversity and ecosystems arising from anthropogenic antimicrobial resistance in the environment.

- Prepare by the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, a report on the environmental impacts of antimicrobial resistance and the causes for the development and spread of resistance in the environment, including the gaps in understanding of those impacts and causes, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance,
- Continue ongoing efforts to support countries, in developing integrated environment and health policies and measures and to develop methods, tools and guidelines to promote integrated environmental and health risk assessments, building from existing work, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, relevant United Nations entities and stakeholders, including the private sector.
- Regularly report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the ongoing consultations between the World Health Organization, the UN Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on joint activities on climate change, environment and health, including on the preparation of a joint plan.
- Assess the health co-benefits of its current climate-change related projects, notably for vulnerable groups.
- Include human health factors in its projects on ecosystem valuation and accounting and, subject to the availability of resources, to assess the health co-benefits of its current biodiversity related projects.
- Include a cross-cutting monitored indicator on health and well-being impacts in the Indicators of Success Framework for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns; Identify opportunities for and promote sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption and production patterns that would benefit the environment and human health. through, inter alia, the promotion of public health campaigns, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities.

### **Implementation plan**

The main mandates provided by the Environment and Health resolution are delivered through the approved project 5.VI.1 "Environment, health and pollution", contributing to the delivery of Programme of Work outputs 5a5 and 5a7. SDG 3.9, 12.4 and 17.9 are particularly targeted.

- Activities related to antimicrobial resistance and pesticides and fertilizers, in particular also contribute to the delivery of PoW outputs 5a2 under the approved project 5.II "Generating and sharing knowledge for influencing decision-making on sound management of chemicals and waste". SDG 3.13, 12.4 and 17.6 are particularly targeted.
- Mandates of the resolution related to the delivery of the One Planet network and sustainable consumption and production are delivered under the Resource Efficiency subprogramme

To deliver on the resolution, UN Environment Programme will in particular :

- Work with relevant agencies and relevant stakeholders to develop the two main reports due by fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and related activities on respectively 1) the environment and health impacts of pesticides, and 2) antimicrobial resistance.

- Strengthen relationship with WHO in particular, and with other relevant UN Agencies and stakeholders active on environment and health, including multilateral environmental agreements
- Institutional strengthening and integrated methodology/tool development: Support the development and delivery of integrated environment and health methodologies and tools together with partners and related capacity building and institutional strengthening activities, and develop methodologies to evaluate the health impact of biodiversity and climate change projects.
- Product information, awareness-raising and communication: Further strengthen its work on Chemicals in products and roll-out the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information, as well as upscale the outreach of the joint WHO-UN Environment Programme - Climate and Clean Air Coalition *BreatheLife* campaign and in other UN Environment Programme or partner led campaigns, emphasize the environment and human health linkages and co-benefits of action.

### **Partners**

WHO, WMO, FAO, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), UN Foundation, Wellcome Trust, GEF and Africa Institute, as well as PAN UK and Pure Earth, Clean Air Asia, Pacer, Mobike. The resolution calls on action from UN Environment Programme, but also from Member States, private sector and civil society stakeholders as well as UN Agencies and MEAs.

### **Progress**

- Science/Policy: With regards to the development of the two reports to be developed by the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, respectively on the environment and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers, and antimicrobial resistance:
  - A first consultative meeting convening panel member and observers of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticides Management (JMPM) and other relevant experts, organizations, governments, and representatives from non-governmental organizations and private sector will take place on 12 October 2018 in Rome at FAO Headquarters back to back with the annual meeting of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management.
  - UN Environment Programme has appointed a representative to take part in the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and has participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IACG which gathered in Divonne-les-Bains on 30-31 May 2018, as well as in subsequent calls. Ongoing discussions with various stakeholders active on antimicrobial resistance are also being initiated, including with the UN Foundation and the Wellcome Trust, to prepare the shaping of the report, and define the best way for UN Environment Programme to address the expectations of Member States, and partners from the IACG. UN Environment Programme together with FAO, WHO and OIE is exploring options on how to formalize UN Environment Programme participation in the already existing tripartite mechanism. UN Environment Programme is now present in the Stewardship framework under development, and in the consultative meeting convened by WHO on 1-2 October 2018 in Geneva.
- A new Memorandum of Understanding between UN Environment Programme and WHO was signed by the two heads of organizations in Nairobi on 10 January 2018 to further strengthen cooperation in a number of areas including air, water chemicals and waste, biodiversity, antimicrobial resistance,

climate change and food and nutrition. Initial priority for enhanced joint efforts was placed on air quality. As a result, a Joint Implementation Plan on Air Pollution between the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition was launched in the margins of the World Health Assembly during a side event chaired by the Director General of the World Health Organization, the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization and the Executive Director of UN Environment Programme.

- Institutional Strengthening and Integrated Methodology/Tool Development:
  - A prototype of national integrated health and environment observatory, including a core set of indicators that will enable data aggregation at national, regional and global levels, to provide timely and evidence-based information to predict, prevent and reduce chemicals risks to human health and the environment is currently under development under the GEF-funded US\$10,5 million ChemObs project. The project, that entered its full phase in 2018 and which is to be rolled out until 2022, plans for the development of an integrated health and environment Observatory (ChemObs) for sound management of chemicals in nine African countries (Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe) by 2022. The ChemObs Scientific and Technical Committee meeting was held in Dakar Senegal on 27- 29 March 2018 on the development of an integrated set of tools to address the full policy decision making chain – and, in particular to:
    - Review the existing and national capacity in each of the nine countries in the field of data and information sources and management system as well as institutional capacities and health, environment and economic expertise to be potentially mobilized to ensure national implementation of the project.
    - Develop and agree on the term of reference for the constitution of task forces and recruitment of technical experts to lead and contribute to the development of the work packages
    - Develop and agree on the workplan for the completion of the component of the project
  - In the Indicators of success of the 10YFP-OnePlanet Network, one of the 3 categories of impact is ‘human well-being’, which includes health, decent work and gender (in alignment with key categories in the Human development index). The full methodology and reporting process of the Indicators of success is available here:  
[http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/10yfp\\_indicators\\_of\\_success\\_2017\\_pdf.pdf](http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/10yfp_indicators_of_success_2017_pdf.pdf)
- Product information, awareness-raising and communication:
  - The Chemicals in Product Steering Committee, chaired by Sweden and with multistakeholder participation, is meeting 15-16 October 2018 in Sweden Stockholm and will discuss among others the engagement strategy and the role of the programme for the beyond 2020 process on the Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste beyond 2020. A Global Environment Facility project has been endorsed in August 2018; its component on chemicals in products will work in the building, electronic and toys sector.
  - The Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information have been road tested by over 25 private sector organisations from all world regions involved comparing the content and provenance of a selected claim with the steps and guidance prescribed in the Guidelines, in a simple template online. Through this practical application of the Guidelines, the road testing

helps to strengthen good practices in the field, build a library of case studies, collect feedback and identify gaps, and ultimately build an international community of practice. The Guidelines summary is available in all UN languages, and UN Environment Programme is looking for partners to translate them into as many languages as possible. Public webinars and in country workshops are being organized.

The BreatheLife campaign, which is a joint campaign of WHO-UN Environment Programme and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition focuses on raising awareness of local authorities and governments to raise awareness and take action to address air pollution. It also includes actions to mobilize citizens, such as the BreatheLife Challenge in May 2018 organized in partnership with partners including Clean Air Asia, Pacer, Mobike, inviting citizens to reduce their contribution to air pollution by walking, biking or taking public transport for the equivalent of half a marathon during the month. The target was 1 million kilometres for 7 million lives. At the end of the challenge 55,708 people walked/run 2,339,736 kilometres for clean air.

### **Funding Implications/Challenges**

The Environment and Health resolution is a comprehensive yet ambitious resolution which touches upon many key environmental topics (climate change, chemicals, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, antimicrobial resistance), in addition to promoting integrated environment and health approaches. New mandates are provided to UN Environment Programme in particular in the area of antimicrobial resistance.

Fundraising is ongoing to support delivery on the resolution.

<p><b>UNEP/EA.3/RES.5 Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.</b></p>
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In resolution 3/5, **Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Facilitate the strengthening of international cooperation by supporting countries in the promotion of innovative environmental solutions and their efforts to develop policies and measures to that end, in collaboration with other United Nations entities, development partners and the international community.

### **Implementation plan**

UN Environment Programme will:

- Continue to strengthen its cooperation with the industrial and other private sector organizations for the promotion of the **Ozone2Climate** alternative technologies for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. This will support the implementation of the SDG Goals 6 and 13.

- Promote a cutting-edge, integrated approach to bring poverty, environment and climate objectives into the heart of national and subnational plans, policies, budgets and public and private finance to strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources for poverty alleviation, through the **Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals (2018-2022)** initiative.
- Continue to work on **innovative climate finance** by facilitating national level development of legislation and regulation. These activities include identifying new and innovative options for increasing investments into climate change, but also sustainable development.
- Scale up private finance and investment for deforestation-free, sustainable landscape management that benefits rural smallholders and the local/national economy through the **Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility**. BNP Paribas has committed to structure USD 1 billion in notes aimed at sustainable land use.
- Continue to work with Rabobank, IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative) and FMO (Dutch development bank) to develop a new **Finance Facility for Sustainable Land Use** to unlock private capital for sustainable land use. Rabobank has pledged to issue loans of up to USD 1 billion from its balance sheet - provided the public funding to de-risk private capital is available. The focus is on deforestation-free commodity production (including rubber, sugar cane, soy, beef, rubber, beef, etc.) with a geographic focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia. The initiative aims to support member states by stimulating sustainable foreign and domestic investment in sustainable land use that stimulate member states to achieve the SDGs.
- Continue working with UN Statistics Division on **SEEA Experimental Ecosystems Accounting** specifically on initial efforts to define a measurement framework for integrating biophysical data, tracking changes in ecosystems and linking those changes to economic and other human activity. Critical global policy demands to advance environmental-economic accounting is expressed in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 under this strategic goal “commits government to integrate, by 2020, biodiversity values into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes, and to incorporate them into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.”
- Continue to **promote the regional seas scale cross-sectoral Ocean governance and policies**, especially cooperative policy development and governance frameworks between regional seas programmes and regional fisheries bodies, working with the other UN Bodies, like Food and Agriculture Organization.
- Work to establish a **global wastewater facility** to catalyse private sector investment in innovative wastewater technologies. The aim of the Facility will be, on the one hand, to ensure that the investments support and contribute to the circular economy and achievement of the SDGs, and on the other hand, to build demand for these innovative technologies and ensure there are viable projects for investment. This project will serve as a proof of concept initiative for horizon scanning and implementing innovative technologies.
- Continue work to establish **innovations at policy and operational levels to bridge gaps and ensure environment and climate action (SDG 13 and 15) unlocks socioeconomic priorities of countries** – especially food security (SDG 2), creation of income and job opportunities (SDG 1, 8) and expansion of macro-economic growth.

## Partners

**Ozone2Climate:** Government of India, ISHRAE (Indian Society for Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning Engineers), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (FECO/MEE), China Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Association (CRAA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs:** UN Environment, UN Development Programme, Austria, Norway, Sweden, European Union, Bangladesh, Laos, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda and Tanzania

**Innovative Climate Finance:** Kings College of the University of London, the Asian Development Bank and the Green Climate Fund

**Tropical Landscape Finance Facility:** BNP Paribas, various agribusinesses interested/involved

**Finance Facility for Sustainable Land Use:** Rabobank, FMO (The Netherlands Development Finance Company), IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative)

**&GreenFund:** IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative), Government of Norway, Unilever, UN Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility

**SEEA Experimental Ecosystems Accounting:** UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics and Environmental Miniseries in Brazil, China, India, South Africa and Mexico

**Promoting Cross-Sectoral Ocean Governance and Policies:** Regional seas programmes, regional fisheries bodies, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, European Union (under the Global Public Goods and Challenges project), Sweden, Norway and Germany (under the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance)

**Global Wastewater Facility:** The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), UN Environment Science Division, UN HABITAT, SuSanA (Sustainable Sanitation Alliance).

## **Progress**

**Ozone2Climate** organized the Ozone2Climate Alternative Technologies Roadshow and Industry Roundtable during the ACREX 2018 held in Bangalore; the Ozone2Climate Alternative Technologies Industry Roundtable in Islamabad, Pakistan on 5 April 2018 as part of 25<sup>th</sup> Pakistan HVACR International Expo & Conference 2018; and the Ozone2Climate Alternative Technologies Roadshow and Industry Roundtable jointly with Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China

**The Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs** initiative was launched jointly launched by UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme in 2018 as the successor to the Poverty-Environment Initiative. It addresses major poverty-environment challenges reflected in the 2030 Agenda, arising from depleted natural capital, climate vulnerability, gender inequality, rural-urban

migration and rising resource demands—all of which disproportionately affect the livelihoods and well-being of the poor. It operates along three complementary and novel lines:

- Aligning public and private finance and investments with poverty, environment and climate actions to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by shifting them towards environmental sustainability for poverty eradication.
- Deepening country mainstreaming efforts to integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems.
- Broadening South-South cooperation, partnerships and the sharing of knowledge on the application of integrated tools for sustainable development to selected countries.

**Innovative Climate Finance:** Innovative financing mechanisms such as: Equity funds, Layered risk funds, Green bonds, Blue bonds, Debt for Nature swaps were identified. The financing generally targets any area of climate change and sustainable development, but most common examples are renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmentally friendly technology uptake and deployment.

Preliminary findings on the state of legal preparedness for these options in different countries present a mixed picture. Some Asian countries generally have more sophisticated financial markets with attendant rules and regulations, backed by necessary legislation. It looks likely that such innovative options will take root more rapidly in these countries. Latin America, the Caribbean, and, particularly Africa have much more work to do. UN Environment Programme is working with Parliaments and Central Banks to develop guidelines that regulatory bodies at national level can use to further enhance the uptake of innovative means of finance for sustainable development.

**Tropical Landscape Finance Facility:** UN Environment Programme continues to support the Government of Indonesia - through the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility - with sustainable economic development.

A high-level event was organized at both the World Economic Forum in Davos (Jan 2018) and at the UN General Assembly (Sept 2018) to explain the objective of the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF)

**Finance Facility for Sustainable Land Use:** Announcement of the partnership in October 2017, Announcement of a new fund anticipated for October 2018, Operationalization (including sourcing projects) from October 2018)

**&GreenFund:** UN Environment Programme received approval from the Global Environment Facility for a USD 2 million 'non-grant' contribution to a new 'de-risking' facility called &Green Fund, a new legal not-for-profit entity established in July 2017. This new fund initially focuses on projects in Liberia, Indonesia and Brazil. A pipeline of projects is maturing, and the aim is to close first deals in the last quarter of 2018 or first quarter of 2019.

**SEEA Experimental Ecosystems Accounting:** Accounts being developed under the system of Environmental Economics Accounting (SEEA) Experimental Ecosystem Accounts for Brazil, China, India, South Africa and Mexico.

**Promoting Cross-Sectoral Ocean Governance and Policies:** The technical report on "Ocean Policies and Institutional Arrangements for Cross-sectoral Cooperation" and its summary for policy makers was published. There are pilots on going for Western Indian Ocean, the Gulf and the Caribbean.

**Global Wastewater Facility:** Project planning and design underway.

**Linking environment and climate action to socioeconomic priorities:**

**Policy innovations operationalized:** With the support of UN Environment Programme, Inter Agency Policy coherence taskforces were established in African countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Benin and Uganda. Policy implementation programmes across ministries, like agriculture, energy, environment, finance, are being implemented to help decentralize clean energy across Africa, which is a significant environment action in most Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of African countries. The programmes can help to: cut postharvest losses; enhance resource efficiency and food security and; create more income opportunities along the entire agro-value chain. In Nigeria, the Task Force, hosted under the Ministry of Budgets and Planning is building on implementation of the cassava bread policy, the Nigeria Feed-in Tariffs to sustainably industrialize the country's cassava value chain. The result is incentivized clean energy (SDG 7), food security enhanced (SDG 2) and livelihood opportunities created (SDG 1).

**Integrated clean energy and sustainable agriculture as foundation for enterprises that enhance environment and climate action:** In Nairobi, the restoration of the degraded Nairobi Dam riparian reserve for resilience is accompanied with clean energy based alternative livelihoods opportunities to help prevent future encroachment. A UN Environment Programme supported project demarcated recreation areas around the reserve where communities, that previously encroached the reserve, now run food businesses powered by biogas cook-stoves. A total of 120 families from the nearby slum that was the source of encroachment are directly engaged. The recreation area is equipped with eco-toilets and sanitary facilities, which harvest waste that is converted to free-biogas for the food enterprises. 2000 bamboo trees have been planted to rehabilitate the riparian reserve, stabilize the soils and enhance ground recharge rates. This is contributing to Kenya's NDC adaptation action from a market opportunities perspective and to ensure longer term sustainability of climate actions (SDG 13).

**Technological innovations established:** UN Environment Programme is supporting countries to optimize the application of existing climate modelling in Africa to help them optimize the implementation of their climate policy trajectories, by better understanding the benefits of implementing their Paris Agreement commitments. Country capacities are being strengthened on more integrated climate for development policy decision-making tools, that allow them to forecast both socioeconomic impacts (food security, jobs, percentage Gross Domestic Product increases, cost savings) and climate benefits of alternative investment pathways. This will encourage the informed planning and implementation of NDCs as part of the countries' climate and sustainable development priorities.

**Financial implications/ Challenges**

**Finance Facility for Sustainable Land Use:** Aim is to help unlock public/private capital of USD 1 billion towards deforestation-free commodity production that includes rural smallholders in global agricultural value chains)

**Innovative Climate Finance:** More work is needed with the regulatory bodies in African countries to help increase their uptake of innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development such as: Equity funds, Layered risk funds, Green bonds, Blue bonds and Debt for Nature swaps.

**SEEA Experimental Ecosystems Accounting:** The SEEA-EEA is by definition 'experimental' and thus National Statistical Offices need to be convinced that their application should be undertaken and then approved by the Chief Statistician. The project to continue until 2020.

<b>UNEP/EA.3/RES.6      Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development</b>
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In resolution 3/6, **Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested UN Environment Programme to:

- Provide, upon request and in collaboration with other United Nations entities and stakeholders, support to Governments' efforts to strengthen and, as appropriate, coordinate national and regional policies and legislation to curb soil pollution.
- In collaboration with other United Nations entities and relevant global and regional initiatives with expertise related to soil and soil pollution, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Soil Partnership, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Health Organization, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the International Committee on Contaminated Land, to cooperate as appropriate in efforts geared at preventing, reducing and managing soil pollution.
- In consultation with Member States, to invite, within their respective mandates and available resources, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant United Nations entities, in collaboration with partners, including academia, research and scientific institutions, to work with the UN Environment Programme:
  - (a) To promote research and development that contributes to controlling and managing soil pollution;
  - (b) To strengthen the science-policy interface to inform policymaking on soil pollution, as appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels;
  - (c) To raise awareness and improve the dissemination of knowledge on soil pollution;
  - (d) To promote a coordinated approach for combating soil pollution, including the promotion of coherent and coordinated data collection and management, and information-sharing on soil pollution

It requested the Executive Director, within available resources, by the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, to invite, within their respective mandates, relevant United Nations organizations, including the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Soil Partnership and its Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

- (a) To prepare a report based on available scientific information and data on:
  - (i) The extent and future trends of soil pollution, considering both point source contamination and diffuse pollution;
  - (ii) The risks and impacts of soil pollution on health, the environment and food security, including land degradation and the burden of disease resulting from exposure to contaminated soil;
- (b) To elaborate technical guidelines for the prevention and minimization of soil contamination as a contribution to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, including nature-based solutions.

### **Implementation plan**

A draft implementation plan and budget has been prepared and shared with the division for resources mobilization. The key envisaged elements include (i) establish an experts panel to guide the process, (ii) procure consultancy services for report development, (iii) research and develop draft report, (iv) convene consultations to review and finalize report, (v) develop suite of communications products and disseminate findings, (vi) convene launch event and associated webinars for to facilitate dissemination to global audience.

### **Partners**

World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, Global Soil Partnership and its Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (under FAO), Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm Convention Secretariat, Convention to Combat Desertification, Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (under UNEP/GPA).

### **Progress**

The Global Symposium on Soils Pollution jointly co-organized with FAO, and WHO was held in Rome at FAO HQ in May 2018. A side event on the third session United Nations Environment Assembly soils pollution resolution was convened by UN Environment Programme within symposium to present agenda which suggested way forward. The FAO's ITPS launched the report titled "*Soil Pollution: a hidden reality*" which is comprehensive and will be a significant input to the resolution. There are some areas that are not addressed in the FAO report that will require development. FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils has agreed to remain engaged in the process and it is the view that they maintain the core of driving the technical contributions, whereas UN Environment Programme makes the bridge to the policy mainstreaming with governments and collaborating agencies.

A consultation workshop was held in Paris in June 2018 with various stakeholder groups, as well as with Member states through CPR subcommittee and committee meetings, and a multi-stakeholder meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholder input and engagement to shape the Implementation Plan and identify and prioritize solutions. The Environment and Health resolution being led by the Economy Division has overlap with the soil pollution resolution. The anticipated report under the Environment and Health resolution addresses the impacts of pesticides and fertilizers. In this regard, a planning meeting is scheduled for 12 October 2018 in collaboration with the FAO, that will bring together experts on the subject and will provide clarity on joining the work between the two resolutions.

### **Financial Implications/Challenges**

No earmarked funding. Some budget from the Global Programme of Action (under the nutrients pollution programme) and the Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit was used to support the special event convened at the Soils Symposium in May 2018.

<b>UNEP/EA.3/RES.7     Marine litter and microplastics</b>
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In **resolution 3/7, Marine litter and microplastics**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Strengthen the capacity and activity of the UN Environment Programme on marine litter and microplastics, including by:
  - a) Strengthening the contribution of the UN Environment Programme to the Global Partnership on Marine Litter;
  - b) Providing advice on the prioritizing of activities upon request based on best available scientific knowledge, and the most environmentally sound and cost-effective measures to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics, according to resolutions 1/6 and 2/11 and the present resolution;
  - c) Facilitating the establishment and implementation of regional and national action plans to prevent and reduce litter and microplastics in the marine environment, as requested by Member States;
  - d) Supporting countries, in collaboration with other international organizations and relevant stakeholders, in closing data gaps and improving the availability of accessible data on the sources and extent of marine litter and microplastics in the environment;
  - e) Closely liaising with other United Nations agencies to encourage them to support programmes to reduce marine litter and microplastics;
- Compile voluntary commitments, as applicable, targeting marine litter and microplastics; to provide an overview of their scope in support of the work of the United Nations Environment Assembly on that issue; to better understand progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 14.1, in cooperation with other relevant bodies and international initiatives; and to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the matter.
- To convene, meetings of an open-ended ad hoc expert group to further examine the barriers to and options for combating marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, especially land-based sources, and provide the Secretariat for that work. The resolutions outlines modalities for the composition and operation of the working group, including and work programme

### **Implementation plan**

UN Environment Programme will:

- Continue implementation of project 323.1: Global Partnership on Marine Litter – out of sight, out of mind – changing the state of marine litter globally and support to the development of indicators

on marine litter under SDG 14.1.1 on floating litter and beach litter. Promotion of the information provided in Marine Debris and Microplastics (UNEP 2016).

- Development of regional action plans on marine litter.

### **Partners**

Steering Committee and Members of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, World Resources Institute, Ocean Recovery, and University of Wollongong.

### **Progress**

A compilation of policies and measures (market-based) was done of all member states actions in relation to 1) Plastic bags 2) Single use items including bottles and 3) Plastics in Cosmetics and Personal Care Products. Harmonization of monitoring methodologies was prepared and has undergone peer review. Six new regional action plans are under development with support from UN Environment Programme and are moving through review and/or approval process.

The First Meeting of the Experts Group was convened 29-31 May 2018, a meeting report was prepared (<https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/k1801471.pdf>), and invitations have gone out for the Second Meeting to be held 3-7 December 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Work is ongoing for the Executive Director's report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the implementation of its resolutions 1/6,2/11 and 3/7. An invitation will be extended to all member states, major groups and stakeholders and UN agencies to provide voluntary input on the resolution implementation through an online platform which will be available by latest November 2018. The compilation and analysis of voluntary resolutions relevant to marine litter and microplastics (as per request in operative paragraph 9) is also underway.

### **Financial implications/Challenges**

Support provided specifically for resolution implementation: the Government of Norway (USD 640,000), Sweden (2 million SEK), the Nordic Council (800,000 DKK) and Switzerland (100,000 CHF) for the marine litter meeting.

<b>UNEP/EA.3/RES.8      Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally</b>
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In **resolution 3/8, Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally** the Assembly requests the Executive Director to:

- Deliver information to stakeholders on the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants and assist in the implementation, as appropriate, of the Global Strategy to Introduce Low-Sulphur Fuels and Cleaner Diesel Vehicles;
- Assist in the implementation of the Road Map for Clean Fuel and Vehicle Standards in Southern and Western Africa and the Africa Sustainable Transport Forum Action Plan;
- Support the enhancement of regional cooperation to address air pollution, including transboundary air pollution for interested Member States, in the areas of science, technology, policy, measures and best practices, in close cooperation with relevant initiatives, including the

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership, and to organize regional communities of practice for air quality management through the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme;

- Provide a platform for cooperation and information sharing between interested Member States and relevant organizations working to reduce air pollution, such as the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and other organizations, and to house capacity-building resources and online tools that enable Member States to use existing air quality data to support policy making and decision-making;
- Continue to support countries, in particular developing countries, in putting in place affordable air quality networks that will raise awareness among citizens about pollution levels and their impact on human health and the environment, and to produce regional assessments of capacity needs based on input from communities of practice;
- Strengthen technical support provided by global and regional networks, as appropriate, and to enhance institutional capacity to develop air pollution action plans, particularly within the environment and health sectors, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, and for specific issues, including in particular indoor air pollution;
- Support Member States in identifying, prioritizing and addressing key sources of air pollution;
- Support developing countries in expanding the use of cleaner fuels for cooking to prevent and reduce indoor air pollution by cooperating with partners to promote sustainable finance, investment mechanisms, innovative and technological solutions, and education and public awareness to assess gaps in, and opportunities for, mitigation and cooperation with a view to advancing a shared response to addressing air pollution globally;
- Undertake an assessment of progress being made by Member States to adopt and implement key actions that can significantly improve air quality in time for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and thereafter, synchronized with the Global Environment Outlook cycle.

### **Implementation plan**

UN Environment will continue its support to Member States through different projects and initiatives such as:

- Support to develop air quality management strategies based on air pollution source apportionment and policy measures in five cities in Africa (i.e. Addis Ababa, Abidjan, Kigali, Ouagadougou and Nairobi) and two in Asia and the Pacific (i.e. Agra and Phnom Penh);
- Integrated Assessment of Air Quality and Health (e.g. in Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- Raising awareness and outreach on the importance of air quality and its negative health impacts through the BreatheLife Campaign led by CCAC, UN Environment and WHO;
- The Memorandum of Understanding between UN Environment and WHO which identified air pollution as the first deliverable and a joint action has hence been defined;
- Activities carried out under the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, the Global Fuel Efficiency Initiative, the new Electric Mobility Programme and the Share the Road project;
- Sharing of knowledge and promotion of regional cooperation through the EANET (East Asia Acid Deposition monitoring network), Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership Forum, UNECE Air Convention, ECOWAS and Regional Forum of Ministers in the LAC region;

Support to Member States will also continue through the 12 initiatives of the CCAC especially with the objective of developing national strategies on short-lived climate pollutants.

### **Partners**

World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organisation, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, Global Fuel Efficiency Initiative, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Acid Deposition Monitoring Network (EANET)

### **Progress**

Support was provided to Member States through:

- Acid Deposition Monitoring Network (EANET) which promoted actions to improve air quality monitoring and assessments through the implementation of EANET regular monitoring of acid deposition and analysis in thirteen EANET participating countries in East and Southeast Asian Countries in 2018 (i.e. Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia Mongolia Myanmar Philippines R. of Korea, Russia Thailand and Vietnam).
- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC): a Science Policy Dialogue was organized in April 2018 focusing on methodologies and scientific underpinnings for countries to embark on a multiple benefits pathway that achieves near term climate and development benefits, including on air quality and health.
- The National Planning initiative of the CCAC is also supporting 12 countries to develop national strategies on short-lived climate pollutants, identify the main sources, gaps in policies and how to mainstream them better in existing plans (Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, the Maldives, Mexico, Nigeria, Morocco, Peru, the Philippines and Togo).
- Technical missions undertaken or planned by UN Environment to carry out Integrated Assessment of Air Quality and Health (e.g. in Bosnia and Herzegovina).
- Support provided to five cities in Africa (Addis Ababa, Abidjan, Kigali, Ouagadougou and Nairobi) and two in Asia and the Pacific (Agra and Phnom Penh) to develop urban air quality management strategies based on air pollution source apportionment and policy measures.
- On-going assessment on air pollution and health impacts in six countries in Asia (Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Thailand), and Africa (Benin, Botswana and Ethiopia).
- The development of a Solutions Report for Asia and the Pacific led by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to be released in October 2018. It prioritizes measures to improve air quality and demonstrates significant co-benefits of those measures to also improving climate.
- Five new cities joined BreatheLife, the global air quality campaign since January 2018: i.e. Santo Domingo, (Dominican Republic), Caldas (Colombia), Accra, (Ghana), Santa Rosa, (Philippines), and Mount Barker (South Australia).
- The 2nd Global Methane Forum, organized with the Global Methane Initiative of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, took place in April 2018 in Toronto, led by Canada and Mexico. and resulted in a global 'methane challenge' to be launched later in the year.
- Support to regional fora such as the Clean Air Partnership, the North East Asia Air Quality Forum, and the Kenya Air Quality Network.
- Contributions were provided to the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention).

- UN Environment and Climate and Clean Air Coalition supported the Economic Community of West African States to organize a technical workshop to review the implementation of the 2009 Abidjan Better Air Quality Agreement and define the roadmap over the next 4 years.
- UN Environment Programme is supporting the World Health Organization in organizing the First Global Conference on Health and Air Pollution to be held from 29 October to 1 November 2018.
- A report was prepared on Low Cost Sensor Technology (WMO-UNEP).
- UN Environment Programme supported the organization of a Low Sulphur Fuels Workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2018. It also organized an Africa Clean Mobility Week (workshop bringing together 42 African countries) held on 12-16 March 2018.
- UN Environment Programme promoted automotive fuel efficiency in various African countries (such as Ghana, Mozambique and Togo) and continued supporting the countries of the Economic Community of West African States to develop harmonized fuel and vehicle emission standards
- Asia Pacific Clean Air Week and Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership Joint Forum were held in March 2018 including capacity building programme for national air quality managers.
- BreatheLife Asia workshop with World Health Organization regional offices, and BreatheLife regional partners including Clean Air Asia and ICLEI East Asia. A Breathe Life Africa workshop was held in Dar-e- Salaam through a tripartite effort between World Health Organization, UN Environment Programme and UN-Habitat.
- Climate and Clean Air Coalition: The Latin America and Caribbean regional assessment on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants was officially launched.
- Western Balkans Air Initiative: Promoting a new initiative on air pollution and human health in the Western Balkans. The main aim of this UN Environment Programme initiative, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, is to develop the first ever evidence-based analysis of air pollution and investigate and assess its effects to human health and environment in the Western Balkan countries.

### **Financial Implications/Challenges**

While some support was provided to UN Environment Programme to support countries and cities in promoting air quality management, the implementation of the Resolution is pending availability of resources.

**UNEP/EA.3/RES.9      Eliminating Exposure to Lead Paint and Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-Acid Batteries**

**In Resolution 3/9, Eliminating Exposure to Lead Paint and Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-Acid Batteries**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Continue to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to strengthen and enhance the national, sub regional and regional implementation of environmentally sound management of waste, including by providing further

capacity-building with respect to waste lead-acid batteries to implement regulatory frameworks and programmes for recycling, and better track and trace shipments, in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

- Assist countries in eliminating the use of lead paint, under the leadership of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and the World Health Organization, in particular providing tools and capacity-building for developing national legislation and regulations, and to work regionally, where appropriate.

### **Implementation plan**

UN Environment Programme will:

- Execute the SAICM GEF FSP lead in paint project; Conduct the project inception workshop, regional capacity building workshops in selected countries as well as lead consultation with Ministries of Environment in NCPC countries and liaise with project partners.
- Participate at national multi stakeholder workshops to promote awareness and legislation/lead paint limits.
- Review BAT/BEP technical guidelines for lead free paint manufacturing, awareness materials, draft legislation/lead paint limits.
- Convene monthly Chair (USEPA) and Secretariat (UN Environment Programme and WHO) meeting to select and invite partners to the Lead Paint Alliance.
- Enhance advocacy and awareness through the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.
- Intensify dissemination of the “Model Law and Guidance in Regulating Lead Paint” and the “Toolkit for Establishing Lead Paint Laws” through global and regional meetings and events, website and webinars.
- Review global inventory of waste lead acid batteries.
- Update LAB supply, demand, trade/market analysis in Africa (Asia and LAC studies available)
- Consolidate survey results and trade study and provide feedback through SAICM regional and national focal points.
- Work with Basel Convention secretariat in updating the “Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-acid Batteries”.
- Draft joint BRS-UN Environment Programme project concept aimed at capacity building activities in four selected countries on the environmentally sound management (collection of waste lead acid batteries and address the issue of remediation of contaminated sites) and fund raising to support pilot process.
- Continue to support the Global Partnership on Waste Management by engaging relevant Partners in the pilot projects on the ESM of waste lead acid batteries.
- Prepare report on the implementation of the above activities at UNEA 4.

### **Partners**

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint or Lead Paint Alliance (LPA) Partners, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, International Lead Association, Pure Earth.

## Progress

- Improved and maintained visibility of the lead (paint and batteries) in the new UNenvironment.org website including migrating documents and ensuring functionality.
- Enhanced communications and outreach through newsletters, SAICM broadcasts, at global/regional meetings and events by drafting flyers, translation and dissemination of the ‘Model Law and Guidance in Regulating Lead Paint’.
- Convened biannual meetings/conference calls (April and September 2018) with Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council (USEPA, IPEN, IPPIC), Moldova, Kenya, Thailand, Colombia) to track progress in relation to LPA action plan as well as LPA face-to-face meeting back-to-back with SAICM OEWG.
- Conducted awareness activities during the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action on 22-27 October 2018.
- Convened pre-inception workshop planning meeting with executing partners for the SAICM GEF project lead in paint component.
- Conducted survey of lead acid batteries (LAB) national legislation, releases and emissions, waste management practices through the SAICM national focal points.
- Updated lead acid batteries market analysis in Africa (studies for AP and LAC already available)
- Finalized project proposal for the UN Environment Programme-BRS pilot project on capacity building for the environmentally sound management of waste LAB

## Financial Implications/Challenges

The USEPA has provided USD 65,000 for the work on lead paint as part of the UNEP- USEPA cooperative agreement. Most of the funding support will be coming from the SAICM GEF project lead in paint component. Additional funding required for consultants, workshop and regional consultations.

<b>UNEP/EA.3/RES.10 Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems</b>
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In resolution 3/10, Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Build upon, as needed, the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Trust Fund to assist developing countries, in water quality monitoring, including by setting up monitoring stations, capacity-building and data management;
- Assist developing countries, by strengthening their capacity to reach the target of halving by 2030 the amount of untreated wastewater reaching water bodies, taking into account gender perspectives, and including the development of wastewater treatment options in collaboration with national governments, local authorities and, as appropriate, the private sector;
- Continue to develop tools to support countries, in their efforts to address water pollution and ecosystem health, implement integrated water resources management approaches and address water-related impacts of disasters;

- Work with relevant international organizations, including through UN-Water, to address issues related to water pollution and build upon the 2016 report A Snapshot of the World's Water Quality and taking into account, where appropriate, the recommendations made by the analytical brief "Towards a Worldwide Assessment of Freshwater Quality", including assessments of invasive species, pharmaceutical contaminants, emerging pollutants and severe levels of pathogens in water bodies, and proposed solutions, policies and technologies;
- Cooperate with other relevant organizations, including through UN-Water, to develop a world water quality assessment for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session;
- Compile and share information on the analytical and technical requirements for water quality testing for contaminants (including new and emerging pollutants) that may impact human and environmental health;
- Support countries in data collection, analysis and sharing, which would support the implementation of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals, potentially drawing on Earth observations and global data;
- Provide the necessary technical support to facilitate monitoring and reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation;
- Support Member States, as appropriate, in developing programmes that invest in the management of land and ecosystems to prevent pollution of water sources to ensure the availability of quality water in a sustainable manner for all uses;
- Work with Governments and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, in creating an enabling environment for addressing water pollution, including sustainable wastewater management, which encompasses supportive policies, legislation and regulations, tailored technologies and innovative financial mechanisms;
- Assist developing countries in cleaning and recovering polluted water bodies.

### **Implementation plan**

UN Environment Programme will:

- Establish partnerships for river restoration and monitoring
- Developing guidelines and standards for improving water quality monitoring
- Develop business models for water quality data collection and wastewater management
- Test the decision-making tools on wastewater technology in selected countries
- Engage the private sector on innovative financing and emerging issues
- Undertake capacity development in all areas of water quality including water quality testing, monitoring and sustainable wastewater
- Replicate interventions such as the Ecosystems health score cards in selected countries
- Develop online training tools in sustainable wastewater management, including in other languages where possible
- Develop WWQA including holding an inception meeting and fundraising
- Develop methodology to assess SDG's that are linked to the target SDG 6.3

### **Partners**

UN-Water Members and Partners, GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre (CDC) at the University College Cork (UCC Ireland), GEMS/Water Data Centre (DC) at the International Centre for Water

Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC, UNESCO Centre), hosted by Federal Institute of Hydrology (FIH, Germany), GEMS/Water Regional Hub for Latin America, Caribbean and Portuguese Speaking countries at the National Water Agency (ANA) Brazil, Members of the Global Wastewater Initiative, UNEP-DHI, WCMC, GEF, IWMI, ESA, NASA, Google and other private sector including Rotary Foundation, African Development Bank; GRID-Arendal, GEMS/Water has approved UN-Water Members for collaboration on the World Water Quality Assessment, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), World Health Organization, UN-Water Members and Technical Advisory Unit, GPA work programme-Global Wastewater Initiative, Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA), Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, Mato Grosso University, Brazil National Institute for Space Research. IOC-UNESCO, SACEP, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR)

### **Progress**

UN Environment Programme has established a partnership with Google Earth Engine for tracking changes to water-related ecosystems and aims to expand that work with additional work and global data sets for analysis. It is also holding discussions on improving water quality monitoring networks, with private sector entities like Huawei Technologies. Private sector and business entities are encouraged to invest in and upscale business models for water quality data collection, analysis and sharing and wastewater management tapping into innovative financing mechanisms. This would also include work on developing guidelines and standards for decentralized wastewater treatment systems. UN Environment Programme is also working on establishing a partnership for river restoration and protection with Rotary International.

UN Environment Programme has conducted scoping workshops at the most important freshwater lakes in Ethiopia and Kenya to implement the Framework for Freshwater Ecosystem Management (FFEM). Through the GPA nutrient cycle project, it will support countries to replicate an ecosystem health report card which has already been used in India and the Philippines to help assess and manage threats to water bodies in alignment with the Framework and with the water-related SDGs for which UN Environment Programme takes a global lead. This will ensure that they achieve national and international goals related to aquatic ecosystems, including the monitoring and reporting on water-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators under UN Environment Programme's mandate SDG: 6.3.2 (ambient water quality), 6.6.1 (freshwater ecosystem health), and 6.5.1 (integrated water resources management).

Officials from the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR) have volunteered to translate the four volumes of the Framework into Chinese to they can reach a wider audience. Currently the volumes are in English with the executive summary available in other UN languages.

Under the framework of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (GEMI), UN Environment Programme supported countries in indicator 6.3.2, 6.6.1 and 6.5.1 reporting during the previous data drive. Technical support was made available for all member states through helpdesks, country visits, webinars in all UN languages, relevant workshops and capacity development events.

Collaboration between UN Environment Programme, ESA, NASA GEMS/Water supports countries in water quality monitoring. GEMS/Water Programme has conducted regional training workshops for its

national focal points in Africa (12/2017 in English; 07/2018 in French) and it is currently in the process of organizing a scoping workshop for Eastern European countries.

The GEMS/Water programme has developed a draft strategy document, including a fundraising strategy, which guides the operations and workplan development of the Programme up to 2024. It describes key elements of how GEMS/Water will deliver on its expanding mandate outlined in decisions and resolutions adopted by UN Environment Programme's governing bodies. The GEMS/Water programme continues to provide capacity development on all areas of water quality monitoring, including water quality testing, monitoring network design and data management and available resources. within its current work plan up to 2020 (Project 716.1) and available resources. New innovative approaches to water quality monitoring are being explored and potential pilots are under discussion.

UN Environment Programme has developed a draft workplan for the full World Water Quality Assessment (WWQA) and is currently calling for expressions of interest from all UN-Water members and other relevant organizations on their possible contribution to the assessment. Partnerships for the assessment are being formalized as necessary and inception phase activities will begin at an inception meeting from 28 to 29 November 2018. Additional fundraising is being undertaken (Project 7.13.2b). The GEMS/Water trust fund is in place and active and can be used as an instrument by potential development partners.

The GEMS/Water programme has been collaborating with World Health Organization and UN Education Scientific and Cultural Organization, in the past to produce two editions of the "Water Quality Assessment Guide", which provides comprehensive advice on the designing and setting up of monitoring programmes to provide valid data for water quality assessments in all types of freshwater bodies. This widely used guide needs to be updated and options to produce a third edition are being explored.

The Global Programme of Action provides tools for capacity building with regards to tackling land-based pollution. The wastewater portfolio (323.2) under the it has developed an electronic decision-making tool, "Wastewater technology tool," which can assist countries in selected the appropriate treatment technology. It plans to test this decision-making support tool in selected countries, upon their request and adjust it based on lessons learnt. It also plans to translate the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on wastewater and nutrient management in other UN languages. Under the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW<sup>2</sup>I), a multi-stakeholder partnership, a series of webinars to build capacity in sustainable wastewater management are running.

The Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture (SUWA), a capacity building initiative, was jointly developed with partners (FAO, WHO, UNU-INWEH, UNU-FLORES, UNW-DPC, IWMI and UN Environment Programme) and submitted to donors for possible funding

For UN Environment Programme, Global Programme of Action is leading on collaboration with IOC-UNESCO and experts on the development of the methodologies for assessment of the SDG14.1 target on marine pollution from nutrient loading and plastics as linked to SDG target 6.3. Other areas included cooperation with the South Asia Cooperative Programme (SACEP) on addressing water pollution and coral reef conservation in eastern Sri Lanka to promote improved practices for reduced nutrients and wastewater flows to the marine environment and completion of a demonstration methodology in the

Pantanal wetlands in Brazil on evaluation of nutrient loading and cost-benefit analysis of environmental outcomes.

Under the Global Wastewater Initiative, the Global Programme of Action intends to produce two additional assessments on the issue of pharmaceuticals contaminants, proposed solutions and policies. Furthermore, a series of communication tools (Story Map, Simple Show) were developed to shed light of the status of wastewater and sanitation in Africa. UN Environment Programme and the Global Programme of Action are working on the issue of technology readiness and financing instruments for sustainable wastewater management. A guideline document on decentralized wastewater treatment systems in Tanzania has been developed and has potential for replication.

### **Financial Implications/Challenges**

A specific Action Plan and fundraising strategy for this Resolution has been prepared and will be discussed on the side lines of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sub-Committee Meeting (22-26 October 2018). A specific fundraising plan and strategy for the GEMS/Water programme has been developed.

**UNEP/EA.3/RES.11: Implementation of paragraph 88(a) – (h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 “The Future We Want”**

In resolution 3/11: Implementation of paragraph 88(a) – (h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 “The Future We Want”, the United Nations Environment Assembly recalls its strong commitment to the full implementation of paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a) to (h); reiterates the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the UN Environment Programme and; reaffirms its commitment to the effective consolidation of headquarters functions in Nairobi and the strengthening of its regional presence. It requests the Executive Director to provide regular briefings to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on progress in implementation of this resolution.

### **Implementation plan (including link to Programme of work and SDGs)**

- Prepare a draft outline of the progress report on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", for consideration by Member States at a subcommittee meeting in May 2018;
- Prepare the draft report for consideration by Member States at two subcommittee meetings in November and December 2018 (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).
- Finalize the report of the Executive Director for submission to the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to be held in March 2019 in accordance with the documentation requirements.

### **Partners**

Member States

**Progress**

The draft outline of the report was prepared and submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for discussion at its subcommittee meeting on 24 May 2018. Based on the draft outline and considering comments received from Member States at the meeting, the draft report has been prepared. The draft report will be submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in October 2018 for additional consideration by Member States.

## C. Decisions

<b>3/1 Extension of the delivery date for the sixth Global Environment Outlook report</b>
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In **Decision 3/1: Extension of the delivery date for the sixth Global Environment Outlook report**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Issue the sixth Global Environment Outlook report at least three months before the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
- Schedule the negotiations on the summary for policymakers at least six weeks in advance of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and to present the sixth Global Environment Outlook report and its accompanying summary for policymakers for consideration and possible endorsement by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session.

### **Implementation plan (including link to Programme of work and SDGs)**

- Fully laid out version of the sixth Global Environment Outlook for the week of 5 December 2018.
- Preparations for negotiations on the summary for policymakers planned for the week of 21- 24 January 2019, 6 weeks before fourth UN Environment Programme Assembly.

### **Partners**

UN Office at Nairobi conference and publication services, authors of the GEO-6 chapters to provide review and quality control

### **Progress**

All chapters have undergone intergovernmental review and are now being finalized by the author teams.

Preparations for the negotiations on the summary for policy makers are in progress. Conference venues have been booked. The information note and invitation letters are in progress. Simultaneous interpretation and document translation are scheduled.

### **Financial implications/Challenges**

USD 35,000 for layout and production through the UN Office at Nairobi Print Shop. Procurement contract is in preparation to have the sixth Global Environment Outlook published by a science press. Cost not yet established.

Currently USD 172,000 is required for conference services, interpretation, editing and document translation. Additional costs are likely to ensure the smooth running of the meeting.

The 5 December 2018 deadline is critical to allow Member States to read through the report and decide on whether they will endorse it at the fourth UN Environment Assembly

This will be the first negotiation of a Summary for Policy Makers with all Environment Assembly Member States present and involved. The opportunities for outreach and reputation building are significant.

### **Mandate**

In **Decision 3/3: Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions** the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director in consultation with the relevant parties and/or donors, as appropriate and in accordance with the terms of the respective agreements/funds, to reassign the balances in inactive trust funds when the activities for which they had been established ended, with a view to supporting the implementation of appropriate activities of the programme of work before the end of 2019.

### **Progress**

United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with Divisions, Regional offices and Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements commenced to implement this decision in January 2018. All the trust funds were thoroughly reviewed, and 26 trust funds were identified as inactive. After completing the reconciliations, adjustments, where applicable, were made to reallocate the balances for approximately 80% of inactive Trust Funds. Closure actions are expected to be completed before the preparation of the financial accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018.

Since the third session of United Nations Environment Assembly, UN Environment Programme has established the following new Trust Funds;

- GPS - Trust Fund for the activities of the Secretariat functions and organization of meetings and consultations for the Global Pact for the Environment Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 72/277;
- GPP - Trust Fund for the assistance of delegates from the developing countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States on attending the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 72/277;
- BML – Trust Fund for the core contributions to the programme of work for Bamako Conventions pursuant to UNEA resolution 1/16;
- BWL - Trust Fund for the voluntary contributions to the programme of work for Bamako Conventions pursuant to UNEA resolution 1/16;
- CBL - Trust Fund for the capacity building initiatives of the Global Environment Facility.

### **Challenges**

The challenges experienced in the closure of the inactive trust funds and related projects include;

- In cases where many projects and activities are financed by the same Trust Fund, individual projects had to be analyzed and closed before closure of the Trust Fund;
- Access to Information and records of the old trust funds;
- Delays in obtaining decisions of the relevant donors;
- Given the time that has lapsed since the creation of the inactive trust funds, changes in accounting systems and movements in staff made tracking of historical transactions more complex;
- Increased transactional costs of reconciliation and determination of residual balances.

## D. Ministerial Declaration

<b>UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1: Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its Third Session: “Towards a Pollution Free Planet”</b>
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In its Ministerial Declaration, the United Nations Environment Assembly, requested the Executive Director to:

- Prepare an implementation plan on the long-term endeavour of moving towards a pollution free planet, building on the outcomes of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, for submission to and consideration by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session.

### Progress

- UN Environment Programme has been consulting with the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi since March 2018 on the main elements of the plan, refining and building based on feedback received. The Secretariat organized a multi-stakeholder brainstorming workshop on 13-14 June 2018 in Paris to provide an opportunity for a wider stakeholder engagement in shaping the Implementation Plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”. About fifty participants from regional groups of Member States, UN Agencies, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, development and finance institutions and think tanks participated to discuss and prioritize solutions to step-up action to prevent and address pollution.
- The consultation process runs until mid- December 2018. Costa Rica and Germany have been nominated by the Committee as co-facilitators. The Implementation Plan will be finalized by 15 December 2018 and submitted for discussion at 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. A draft annotated Outline for the Implementation Plan prepared by the Secretariat, as well as a background note on the possible role of Voluntary Commitments in the context of the development of the Implementation Plan, are available on the following weblink: <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/subcommittee-meetings/committee-permanent-representatives-subcommittee-meeting-15>

## **E. Conclusions/Recommendations**

### **Financing of Resolutions**

Most of the outcomes except for decisions on matters like the Global Environmental Outlook, and the Ministerial Declaration, require the Executive Director to take action within existing or available resources. Implementation therefore depends on work already financed as part of the work programme or on fund raising. The question of inadequate resources has been raised a general challenge. In some cases, there was an initial attempt to cost some of the activities in the implementation plans for resolutions that require additional resources. However, the Secretariat intends to undertake a comprehensive costing exercise.

Member states might wish to provide guidance on how the United Nations Environment Assembly wishes to handle financial implications for future resolutions.

### **Implementation of Assembly Outcomes by Member States**

While this report covers requests made of the Executive Director, many of the resolutions and decisions cover actions to be taken by member states and other entities. The Secretariat would benefit from guidance from Member States on how they would like the Secretariat to handle reporting on these requests.

**ANNEX ONE: LIST OF FINAL OUTCOMES: THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY**

	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>1</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.1	Pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism
<b>2</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.2	Pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors
<b>3</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.3	Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
<b>4</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.4	Environment and health
<b>5</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.5	Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
<b>6</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.6	Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development
<b>7</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.7	Marine litter and microplastics
<b>8</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.8	Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally
<b>9</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.9	Eliminating Exposure to Lead Paint and Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-Acid Batteries
<b>10</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.10	Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems
<b>11</b>	UNEP/EA.3/RES.11	Implementation of paragraph 88(a) – (h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 “The Future We Want”
<b>Decisions</b>		
<b>12</b>	3/1	Extension of the delivery date for the sixth Global Environment Outlook report
<b>13</b>	3/2	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
<b>14</b>	3/3	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
<b>Ministerial Declaration</b>		
<b>15</b>	UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1	Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session “Towards a pollution free planet”