

EU+MS Statement on

**Contributions to the meeting of the High-level Political Forum
on sustainable development**

(OECDPR-4 Agenda item 6 and UNEA-4 Agenda item 8)

- EU+MS thank the secretariat and the UNEA president for the paper containing the draft UNEA inputs to the 2019 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC.
- We would have liked to receive the document a bit earlier, but welcome the fact that these inputs take into account the need to align with the overall HLPF theme of “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, the SDGs under in-depth review this year, as well as the need to respond to the specific questions raised in the questionnaire.
- Overall, EU+MS welcome that the report acknowledges the role of innovative solutions and technologies in combatting further environmental deterioration and addressing emerging challenges. However, we are surprised that unsustainable consumption and production patterns are described as an emerging challenge: The need to transition to more sustainable consumption and production patterns has been recognized for a long time already, especially since the Rio+20 Summit in 2012, when the 10 Year Framework Programme on SCP was agreed and subsequently developed. We therefore propose to adjust the language and to refer to unsustainable production and consumption patterns as a pressing challenge to be addressed without delay.
- On the identification of progress, gaps and areas requiring urgent attention (part a):
 - o EU+MS agree with the focus on SDG 13 (also in view of the SG Climate Summit later this year and given the valuable findings contained in the 2018 UNEP Emissions Gap Report); on the gender-environment nexus (given the importance of the interlinkages between the SDGs and empowerment of women); and the need for further work on SDG indicators.
- On valuable experiences and lessons learned (part b):

- EU+MS welcomes the focus on the role of financial and fiscal policies in supporting the delivery of several SDGs (also against the background of EUs own experience with sustainable finance).
 - On emerging issues (part c),
 - with regards to issue of geo-engineering, in our view the document is prejudging the outcome of UNEA, and we would like to strongly request to align the document with the outcome of the discussions this week.
 - As to the principle of “ensuring that no-one is left behind” (part d),
 - We agree to keep underlining from the experience of UNEP and UNEA, that often the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and children, are impacted the most by environmental and associated health risks.
 - As to areas for political guidance by the HLPF (part e),
 - We would like to caution in calling for “creative approaches” to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns” without duly reflecting on solutions that may exist already.
 - As to policy recommendations (part f):
 - EU and its MS agree that “urgent attention is needed to address the fact that implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations fall short of what is required to address environmental challenges”
 - On the suggestion to recognize the human right to a clean, safe and healthy environment in a global instrument, we believe this recommendation is pre-empting discussions that are taking place elsewhere.
 - Finally, EU+MS would like to emphasize that the Summary of inputs should reflect the body of the text. In this regard, we would like to seek clarification on the idea contained in the Summary of inputs of “the need to work towards a transformative governance mechanism that would bridge the alarming gap between proliferating environmental norms and policies on the one hand and continuing trajectory towards environmental degradation and pollution on the other hand.”
-