Overview of Side Events during 6th Annual Subcommittee meeting

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Side Event 1: Towards a UN Roadmap for Sustainable Nitrogen Management, 2020-2022

7 October 2019 13:00 - 14:30, Conference Room 9

Purpose

This side event to the CPR meeting proposed for 7 or 8 October will report key follow-up to the Resolution on Sustainable Nitrogen Management agreed at UNEA4 (Res.14). Key activities include the hosting at UN Environment HQ the fourth session of the International Nitrogen Management System (INMS-4) including a high-level segment on 29-30 April 2019, leading to the development of a proposed Roadmap for Sustainable Nitrogen Management, 2020-2022.

The event will include presentation of the draft roadmap, together with perspectives from leading interested parties including from South Asia, which took the lead in developing the UNEA-4 Nitrogen Resolution. In particular, the event will discuss emerging options for establishment of a Working Group under CPR to prepare the Terms of Reference for establishment of a potential Inter-Convention Nitrogen Co-ordination Mechanism (INCOM).

The event will update members of the CPR and others on current progress to develop and launch a UN campaign on Sustainable Nitrogen Management, which will take place under the leadership of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka on 23-24 October 2019. Elements of the proposed Colombo Declaration to be agreed by participating countries will be shared to inform CPR of the progress and developing ideas, which will ultimately feed into proposals for UNEA-5.

Programme

(Chair: Monika MacDevette or Habib El-Habr, GPA - tbc)

- [TBC] Inger Andersen / Joyce Msuya Opening remarks: Vision for Sustainable Nitrogen Management as a contribution to pollution and circular economy goals.
- Mark Sutton (CEH) Science and evidence from the International Nitrogen Management System
- Mr Saurabh (Second Secretary, Indian High Commission, tbc) India's vision for sustainable nitrogen management following up the UNEA-4 resolution.
- H.E. Mr Sunil de Silva (High Commissioner of Sri Lanka) Championing the nitrogen challenge preparations for launching the UN nitrogen campaign
- Sebastian Gil (Permanent representative to UN Environment Programme, European Commission)

 Outcome of the workshop on integrated, sustainable nitrogen management, jointly organised by the European Commission and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen under the UNECE Air Convention (<u>30 Sept 1 October 2019</u>)
- Mahesh Pradhan (UN Environment Programme) Development of the proposed Roadmap for Sustainable Nitrogen Management

Q&A and interactive discussions

Participants:

Member states, CPR members, UN Environment Programme staff

Side Event 2: Consultation on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)

7 October 2019 17:30 - 19:00, Conference Room 9

Purpose

Since the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have conducted a series of consultations. The first one took place at the Committee of Permanent Representatives meeting in Nairobi on 7 May, followed by two consultations at the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) and UNFCCC in Bonn on 23-24 June and one during FAO's Council on 1 July. Most recent consultations were held at the margin of the CBD OEWG in Nairobi on 28 August, UNCCD COP14 in Delhi on 10th September, Nature's for Climate Hub on 22nd September and the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) on 28th September in New York.

This is not happening in a vacuum. Awareness of climate change and other environmental challenges have reached a new high in many countries. Scientific studies that highlight the potential of restoration in fighting global warming have mobilized audiences through mainstream media.

The consultation comes at a critical juncture – after first insights have been gathered and as a collaborative strategy is taking shape. By hosting this consultation, the partners behind the Decade would like to seek guidance and input.

Background

On 1st March 2019, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, following the invitation to the General Assembly by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourteenth meeting, in its decision 14/30.

The Decade's goal is to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation - for all terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The UNGA invited UNEP and FAO to lead the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio conventions and other relevant initiatives.

Provisional agenda

Inger Andersen - Opening remarks: kickstart the session with short inputs, reflecting on the origin of the Decade tbc

Country Representative of the Friends of the Decade to share his/her country ongoing restoration initiatives tbc

FAO country representative tbc

Moderator: Tim Christophersen, Coordinator of Freshwater, Land and Climate Branch, will summarize emerging feedback and ideas

The focus of the session lies on participant's own questions, reflections and inputs.

Participants: Member States, CPR members, UN Environment Programme staff

Side Event 3: How Global Environment Outlook 6 Can Help Achieve Transformational Change

8 October 2019 13:00 - 14:30, Conference Room 9

Purpose

Currently many of the worlds' governments are struggling with the stark environmental messages that are presented in the recent collection of environmental assessment reports coming from various bodies. Although the Sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook is calling for 'transformational change', many Member States are struggling with very difficult political contexts in which even incremental change is difficult to achieve. The side event will present a positive picture of how this transformational change can be achieved and the overarching benefits to society and economies that these changes can bring. Such an opportunity will fit UN Environment's and Science Division's mandate to help strengthen the science-policy interface. Lastly, the event will provide an opportunity to engage with Member States in defining how future Global Environment Outlook processes could be designed, as requested in UNEA four resolution 23, where Member States requested the development of the options paper and broad consultations on this question.

Background

The sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO), UN Environment's flagship on integrated environmental assessment was published in March 2019 during the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly. The key messages stemming from the report stress that addressing the scale of the environmental challenges we face requires true transformational change rather than simply incremental policies and business as usual. Given that the outcomes of the Global Environment Outlook process focus on how the publication can influence environmental policy within countries, a side event during the 6th Annual Subcommittee Meeting provides an opportunity to speak to Member States and their representatives about how they can achieve transformational change in their respective countries.

Programme

Welcome Remarks from Science Division Director, Jian Liu
Session 1: (20 minutes) Overview of the findings of the sixth Global Environment Outlook
Presented by Eddah Kaguthi
Session 2: (30 minutes): UN Environment Programme's work as it relates to the GEO
Presented by Jillian Campbell, Hartwig Kremer, Maarten Kappelle
Session 3: (15 minutes) Future of GEO
Presented by Eddah Kaguthi/ Franklin Odhiambo
Question and Answer Session (30 minutes):

Participants:

- Member States representatives
- Experts
- Stakeholders
- UN Environment Programme Staff

Side Event 4: Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" Update on Implementation of Resolution 4/21

9 October 2019 13:00 - 14:30, Conference Room 9

Purpose

The side event will provide an opportunity to receive a more in depths update on UN Environment Programme's plans and progress in implementing UNEA Resolution 4/21: Implementation Plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet".

It will also be an opportunity for discussing challenges and profiling action that is being undertaken by member states and other participants to address the five capacity gaps identified in the plan: knowledge, implementation, infrastructure, awareness and leadership.

Background

The World Health Organization estimates that 23 per cent of all deaths worldwide – amounting to 12.6 million people in 2012 – are due to environmental risks. Low-income and middle-income countries bear the brunt of pollution-related illnesses, with a disproportionate impact on children, women and the most vulnerable.

Addressing pollution reduces the burden of disease, helps the environment, improves quality of lives, especially of women and children, reduces the impacts on human health and human capital and avoids income and productivity losses. Acting to prevent, better manage and reduce pollution at the regional, national and local levels is a key contribution to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moving towards a pollution-free planet requires a system wide transformation and strengthened capacities. Together with Member States other actors must be engaged in addressing pollution, including United Nations agencies and development partners, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and research community, local authorities and communities.

UNEA call for action

The Ministers of Environment gathered at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted a Ministerial Declaration Towards a pollution-free planet¹. As requested by the Declaration, UN Environment Programme prepared an Implementation Plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet"² which aims to accelerate and scale up action to reduce pollution and to support countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs.

At its fourth session, The Assembly welcomed the Implementation Plan "Towards a Pollution-free Planet" has recognizing it as the vehicle for prompt implementation of the objectives of the Ministerial declaration, relevant resolutions of the Environment Assembly and voluntary commitments (Resolution $4/21^3$). The Assembly has entrusted UN Environment Programme with the coordination and monitoring of the delivery of the Plan, and requested that UN Environment Programme fully leverage its regional and subregional

¹ <u>https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/k1800398.english.pdf</u>

² https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/k1804190.pdf

³http://wedocs.UN Environment

Programme.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28484/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

capacity and its partnerships with other relevant United Nations bodies and partners in contributing to the delivery of the plan.

The Assembly also encouraged governments and stakeholders to contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan, and invited Member States and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary financial resources to support the implementation of resolution 4/21.

About the Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan cuts across pollution areas and helps inform synergistic thinking on chemicals, wastes and pollutants. Through this cross-cutting perspective, the Plan takes a holistic approach to pollution, recognizing that capacities are needed in the areas of (a) knowledge about pollution and its sources, fate, pathways and impacts; (b) the regulatory, financial and institutional means to implement and enforce; (c) infrastructure for managing and preventing pollution; (d) awareness of the impacts of pollution on health, productivity and the environment, as well as of the production and consumption choices that cause pollution; and (e) leadership to direct and act on pollution solutions.

Summary of the Implementation Plan (Table 1, Implementation Plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet")

Vision Objectives	 Towards a pollution-free planet To facilitate the implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions addressing pollution To increase the linkages with pollution-related forums and global efforts such as the SDGs, multilateral environmental agreements and strategic approaches, including
	 the SDOS, muthateral chynomicnial agreements and strategic approaches, metuding the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Global Programme of Action To accelerate and scale up action to address pollution To help countries at different levels of development to leapfrog by learning from each other on successful experiences in dealing with pollution To sustain and increase global awareness of pollution and its consequences on
	ecosystems and human health and well-being To monitor and report on progress towards a cleaner planet
Scope	$\hfill\square$ Air, water, land/soil, marine and coastal pollution and the crosscutting issues of chemicals and waste
Audience	 Ministers, officials, policymakers and other stakeholders who can influence decisions and action towards a pollution-free planet Business, industrial sectors, civil society, communities and citizens, who can set voluntary pollution reduction targets and take accelerated, measurable actions. People whose lives and livelihoods are affected by pollution
Action areas	 Knowledge: science for evidence-based policy and action Implementation: Strengthening of implementation, design of incentives, integrated policy assessments, regulatory innovations, enhanced capacity-building and enforcement and financing Infrastructure: Technologies, innovation and circularity (sustainable consumption and production/resource efficiency) Awareness: Outreach, communication, education and consumer information

	□ Leadership: Mobilization of stakeholders, leaders and partners to address different forms of pollution
Main expected outcomes	 UN Environment Programme partners with leaders from national and local governments, business and financial sectors, international and local communities and non-governmental organizations act to make pollution prevention and management a priority Stakeholders demonstrate greater knowledge on pollution, environment and health linkages and solutions to address those linkages Countries strengthen regulatory and policy frameworks and access to financing to prevent and control pollution, with capacity-building support Countries share good practices, technologies and innovative solutions to avoid pollution and reduce the impact of pollution where it occurs Countries have effectively implemented the international conventions, frameworks and approaches they have agreed to be part of, or similar measures for the achievement of the sound management of chemicals and wastes A cleaner world over time
Time frame	The horizon of the implementation plan is 2030; however, activities are initially articulated for a three-year period (2019–2021), in line with the UN Environment Programme medium-term strategy for 2018–2021 and the UN Environment Programme's programme of work, to allow for concrete results and adjustments based on new Environment Assembly resolutions
Contact:	

Ms. Cristina Zucca

Head, Pollution, Health and Environment Unit Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division United Nations Environment Programme <u>Cristina.zucca@un.org</u>

Side Event 5: Why Paying Your Fair Share Matters - the Future of UNEP's Funding

10 October 2019 13:00 - 14:30, Conference Room 9

Purpose

To discuss the status and future of UNEP's funding with the Member States. More specifically, to better understand how the Member States and the UNEP Secretariat can work together to:

- Improve the ratio between core and earmarked funding and increase Environment Fund income;
- Broaden the donor base: increase the number of Member States that contribute
- Encourage Member States to reduce restrictions on earmarked funding; make softly earmarked funding a more compelling option.

This is a critical discussion at a time that the demands on UNEP's delivery on its large mandate have increased, while at the same time the organisation continues to be dependent on voluntary contributions for 95% of its income.

Background

Challenge 1: Decrease in core funding, and imbalanced ratio between core funding and earmarked funding

UN system

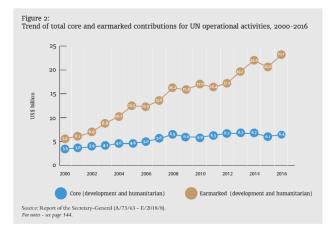
In 2016, more than half of the total revenue for the whole UN system's operational activities for development was earmarked contributions (54 percent). The more flexible core contributions, both *assessed* and *voluntary*, represented 28 percent and 10 percent respectively (the rest, 8 percent, was other income).

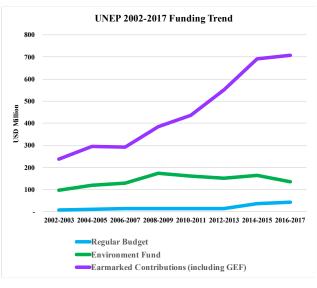
Whilst the earmarked contributions followed a steady upward trend, core contributions had no growth in nominal terms.

UNEP

Growth in earmarked funding continues to outpace that in core funding also at UNEP. In 2018, the ratio of core funding vs. earmarked funding at UNEP was 21/79. Furthermore, in the last years, the Environment Fund income has only been about 50 percent of the budget approved by the Member States.

The Environment Fund, being UNEP's main source of core funding, is not tied to specific projects. It allows the organisation to direct funds to the core business, as represented by the Programme of Work, and to where they are needed the most for efficient and effective delivery of results. It funds the seven sub-programmes, strategic direction, oversight, management and programme support etc.



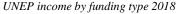


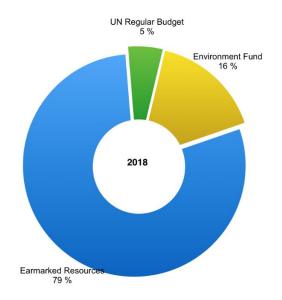
These negative trends for core funding speak a different language than the decisions made. The General Assembly Resolution 71/243 from 2017 urges donor countries to **maintain and substantially increase their core contributions** to the UN development system, in particular its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and to contribute on a multi-year basis, in a sustained and predictable manner. It also urges the entities of the UN development system, through their governing bodies, to take **concrete steps to address** on a continuous basis **the decline of core contributions and the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources**.

More specifically related to UNEP, already in 2012, following the Rio+20 UN Conference, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that reaffirmed and strengthened the governance and the role of UNEP in the UN system. UNEP went from having a Governing Council of 58 Member States to an Environment Assembly with universal membership encompassing all 193 UN Member States. To enable the organization to deliver on its strengthened mandate, the world leaders also committed to ensure secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to UNEP (paragraph 88b in the *The Future We Want* outcome document).

The UN Environment Assembly decisions have also called on the Member States to increase their contributions to UNEP. For example, the latest decision UNEP/EA.4/2 urged Member States and others in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to UNEP, notably the Environment Fund, taking into account the universal membership of the Environment Assembly.

The total and relative increase in earmarked resources, largely for specific projects, heralds a situation where UNEP has reduced overall ability to direct resources towards the priorities mandated by the Member States in the Programme of Work. Earmarked contributions principally reflect donor preferences rather than institutional priorities or internationally agreed goals and targets.





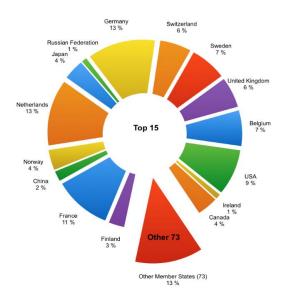
Challenge 2: Uneven burden sharing among Member States of UNEP funding

The overall burden sharing of funding the wider UN is uneven. The top 12 countries account for 57 percent of the overall funding for UN Operational Activities for Development, and about 60 percent of core and 56 percent of earmarked contributions (in 2016).

In UNEP, 15 Member States, or less than 10 percent of the 193 Member States, provide 90 percent of the income to the Environment Fund.

This is despite the fact that all 193 Member States have approved the Programme of Work and Budget, and despite the establishment the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC) in 2002 by the Member States, which was meant to help broaden the base of contributions and to enhance predictability of funding to the Environment Fund.

The VISC-level is, simply put, a percentage figure that is applied to the Environment Fund budget to determine each Member State's **fair share** of the budget. It is based on the UN Scale of Assessments, but it also considers other factors, such as previous high-levels of contributions. 88 Member States contributed to UNEP's Environment Fund in 2018:



Funding in accordance to the VISC should have yielded contributions of USD 271 million in 2016–2017, but only half the target was realized. At the same time, donors are shifting their funding towards earmarked contributions, sometimes exceeding their pledge to the Environment Fund.

The number of Member States that contribute to the Environment Fund has decreased from an all-time high in 2003, when 125 Member States contributed. In 2018, only 88 of the 193 Member States contributed to UNEP and the Environment Fund. Of these, only 45 Member States contributed 100 percent (or more) of their fair share/VISC. Around 49 Member States of the 88 also provided earmarked funding which is 26% of the total earmarked supported provided.

Challenge 3: Most earmarked funding is strictly tied to specific programmes or projects

Across the UN, the shifting balance between core and earmarked resources has given rise to a variety of efforts to improve the quality of non-core funding by favouring less-tightly earmarked resources, such as earmarking at the outcome or thematic level.

The General Assembly Resolution 71/243 urges Member States and other contributors providing non-core contributions, to the extent possible, to make them more flexible and aligned with the UN Development Assistant Frameworks, or equivalent planning framework, as well as the strategic plans of UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

The UN Secretary General's report on repositioning the UN Development System includes specific proposals for **a doubling of more flexible non-core resources**, either those provided at the level of the UN development system as inter-agency pooled funds, or at the level of an individual UN entity – as entity specific thematic funds.

A few UNEP Member States (Sweden and Norway) have championed the move towards flexible funding and provided "corporate funds" that are softly earmarked to sub-programmes or larger programmes under them. Most of the other earmarked funding at UNEP is for specific programmes and projects in line with the priorities of the Member States.

Programme

<u>Short presentation</u>: the status of funding (illustrated by statistics and visuals); key arguments for the importance of core funding and better balance between core and earmarked funding; current challenges; and future opportunities. (15 minutes)

Panel debate moderated by the Secretariat (45 minutes), building on these questions:

- What is needed to get Member States to increase funding to the Environment Fund? Why is it that the importance and necessity for core funding is well recognised but funding patterns do not follow?
- How can Member States and UNEP Secretariat work together to widen the donor base and encourage all Member States to step up the funding game in line with the Universal Membership? Why do so many Member States contribute less than their fair share, or not at all, and how can this can be addressed? What tools could help? Is the VISC, as representing the "fair share", helpful?
- How can Member States be encouraged to reduce their restrictions when earmarking? What would make the soft earmarking, rather than tight project level financial support, a more interesting option for Member States? Is there an interest for supporting thematic funds?

 $\underline{Q\&A}$ at the end (20 minutes).

Participants

In the panel:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP (tbc)

Member State representatives - current and potential funding partners (tbc)

Moderator: Ms. Sonja Leighton-Kone, Director, Corporate Services Division, UNEP

Side Event 6: Role of Technology in Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Increased Global Action on Adaptation and Resilience

10 October 2019; 17:30 - 19:00, Conference Room 9

Purpose

The side event will describe how the CTCN leverages technologies to help countries achieve their climate and sustainable development goals. It would also outline the impacts of CTCN operations over the last five years since its inception and the future plans and challenges. An update will also be provided on the CTCN activities towards strengthening linkage between the technology and the finance mechanism under the climate convention. This event would raise the visibility of the CTCN services to the CPR members and other observers and help countries utilize the services provided by the CTCN as per their national plans and priorities

Background

Technologies are fundamental to combating global warming and building climate-resilient societies all over the world. While technological innovation is an important factor, there are already thousands of technologies available which have proven capacity to substantially contribute to adaptation and mitigation goals.

The key challenge is getting the right technologies deployed where they are most needed. This requires supportive policy and regulatory infrastructures, as well as workforce capacity to manage and adapt them, and necessary financing. Technology transfer is therefore a multifaceted challenge which requires bringing together the right actors and technologies.

The Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN) is the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The CTCN provides climate technology solutions, capacity building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries.

Moderator: Dr. Rose Mwebaza, CTCN Director

Speakers		
Advisory Board Member to	Mr. Omedi Moses Jura	
CTCN/UNFCCC Technology Mechanism	Wi. Official Woses Jula	
Green Climate Fund Board Member	Mr Karma Tshering	
Zimbabwe	Mr Elisha N Mayo, National Designated Entity	
Korea	Ms Rywon Yang	

Participants

Member states, CPR members, UNEP staff

About the CTCN:

<u>The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)</u> promotes the accelerated development and transfer of climate technologies at the request of developing countries for energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient development. It provides technology solutions, capacity building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries. CTCN is the operational arm of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Technology Mechanism and is hosted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment (UNEP).

Side Event 7: First Meeting of the OEWG on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework"----Role of the EMG and next steps

11 October 2019 13:00 - 14:30, Conference Room 9

Background

The current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which includes the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is due to expire in 2020. Therefore, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15), which will be held in 2020 in China, is expected to adopt a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework accompanied by an inspirational and motivating 2030 mission as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision "Living in harmony with nature".

The First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and hosted by UN Environment Programme from 27-30 August 2019 – Nairobi, Kenya, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Basile van Havre (Canada). Building on submission of views and outcomes of the regional and global consultations including with the conventions and indigenous and local peoples, youth and women among others, the Working Group:

- reflected on the potential elements of the structure and scope of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and
- considered its future programme of work and allocation of tasks to other intersessional bodies and processes.

Prior to the meeting of the Working Group, an Informal Meeting of the EMG on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was also held on 26 August to explore how the UN system might contribute to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In addition, two consultation workshops were held in parallel on 25 August 2019 on: (i) access and benefit-sharing and the Nagoya Protocol; and (ii) biosafety and the Cartagena Protocol, with a view to discussing on how to integrate these elements in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In November 2018, Senior Management Team of UN Environment Programme adopted a strategy to guide engagement and support of the UN Environment Programme to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and preparations for its subsequent implementation. As a result, a "UN Environment Programme post-2020 biodiversity working group was established with representation across regional offices and divisions in the UN Environment Programme, to advance implementation of the strategy and develop an action plan to support its delivery in support of member States' development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Building on the key areas identified in the strategy, identifies specific activities that are at the core of UN Environment's contribution to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The side event will present to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) the outcomes of the global consultations of the First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of UN Environment Programme and the EMG in support of the process. It is anticipated that the side event would be opened by the Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen and introductory comments provided by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt in capacity of Egypt as the CBD COP 14 Presidency. A presentation will then be provided on the outcomes of the OEWG-1 meeting held in August, and the role and contribution of UN Environment Programme and the EMG in supporting the development and subsequent implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as requested by Member States at the OWEG-1.