



Consideration of Suggested Themes for UNEA3

Sustainable Environmental Development Watch (SUSWATCH) welcomes the opportunity to present its view on the suggested themes for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA3) to be held in 2017.

While we recognise the impact pollution has on the health of humans, animals and the entire community of ecosystems, unless this first theme will continue from where UNEA2's Environment and Health left off, it may not achieve significant outcomes as it is a broad topic. It may be useful to reflect on the consideration of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 10th Focal Point Forum of the Nairobi Work Programme's (NWP) on Health and Adaption held at the recent twenty second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22).

The second theme seems too broad to be able to achieve meaningful and concrete action in one session.

While the third theme resonates with its positive framing, it is however limiting in its intended stakeholders for engagement: landowners, youth, ecologists and private sector and the forestry, energy and water sector. The message being conveyed is that other non-state actors such as civil society have no role.

That said SUSWATCH supports having a theme around #NatureForAll: how to create harmony for people and the planet, despite preference by Member States for themes one and two.