



## **UNEA-3 outcome and title**

### **Submission on behalf of the EU and its MS**

*20 January 2017*

#### **UNEA-3 outcome**

- EU/MS are of the view that UNEA-3 should focus on concrete and communicable outcomes and solutions, for the challenges and goals are already set in global strategies with the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, Urban Agenda, and others. UNEA-3 outcomes should build on the relevant outcomes of previous UNEAs, as well as results and ongoing work in other MEAs.
- EU/MS welcome the choice of pollution as theme for the 2017 Environment Assembly, as it is tangible and has a high global relevance. EU/MS support a concise **outcome document**, preferably in the form of a ministerial declaration, affirming the need to address pollution, its relevance to SDGs, innovative and demonstrated effective solutions and prevention and containing international commitments to take concrete action, including multi-sector and cross-sector action at the global, regional and national level. The outcome document should focus on UNEA's theme, and highlight UNEA's added-value as a cross-cutting and coordinating body for the environment within the UN system. It should thus have a global, cross-cutting approach to pollution.
- EU/MS support the proposal to adopt a Pollution Action Plan. Its form and articulation with resolutions and the outcome document must be carefully thought out. Possibilities range from a

compilation of pledged actions annexed to the outcome document to an overall package consisting of the outcome document and few thematic resolutions which are complementary to existing actions and initiatives addressing pollution. The Pollution Action Plan could set out a framework for action to prevent, reduce or clean up pollution at both the global, regional and national level, recognizing its cross-cutting nature. EU/MS will look forward to discussing more details on the Pollution Action Plan at a later stage.

- In addition, **possible flagship initiatives** related to the UNEA-3 theme could be considered to be addressed as part of the documents adopted by UNEA or be presented during side events at UNEA-3.
- In order to determine the actual **content** of the outcomes adopted by UNEA-3, informal criteria could be applied as a reference. These criteria could be similar to those applied to select the theme for UNEA-3, i.e.:
  - Global relevance and a link with the UNEA-3 theme (though actions may be at the local or regional level) ;
  - Possibility to come to an appealing and meaningful result at UNEA-3;
  - Added value of the Environment Assembly and UN Environment Programme;
  - Feasibility to result in meaningful and tangible action, partnership or initiatives or useful directions to UNEP;
  - Link with SDGs to be reviewed in 2018.
- Following these criteria, elements that could be addressed in the outcome document could be:
  - The transboundary nature of pollution and the urgency to act, following the assessment of the extent and stakes of pollution at the global level, including its impact on environment and human health;

- A (political) commitment to keep pollution on the international agenda;
  - A commitment from the international community that their development and cooperation policies avoid or reduce pollution;
  - Specific messages on the importance and potential of tackling pollution for SDGs that will be reviewed by the HLPF in 2018 (SDG 6 on water , 7 on energy , 11 on cities , 12 on sustainable consumption and production and 15 on terrestrial biodiversity);
  - Cross-sectoral, high-level principles for addressing pollution (e.g., importance of a multi-sectoral and multi-actor approach; the priority of prevention or the hierarchy "prevention, reduction, restoration"; ecosystem-based solutions ).
- EU/MS suggest that UNEP proposes a limited number of options on how to organize the discussion and outcome documents on pollution. Further, UNEP should make, on a scientific and technical basis, suggestion for areas which could be addressed in these documents, taking into account the criteria mentioned above and suggestions from UN Member States for which there is broad support. The **outline report on the 2017 UNEA theme** (announced for early February) to be prepared by the UNEP Secretariat should reflect these options and subtopics, describe the international framework to tackle pollution as well as recommendations where further action (by the international community) on these areas is required, taking into account relevant scientific information and data (such as the Global Report on Health and Pollution, the Global Chemicals Outlook report the regional GEO-6-reports and relevant IRP reports).
  - Regarding subtopics which could be highlighted in a global “Pollution Action Plan”, EU/MS need more time to elaborate internally. At this stage, EU/MS would support a comprehensive approach to be taken into account in addressing the theme of pollution, including impacts on health, ecosystems, urban development or aspects linked to sustainable consumption and

production. Preliminary suggestions (including initial suggestions for Actions) are:

1. Air quality: The focus and potential outcomes should be informed by and build upon work undertaken under the resolution adopted at UNEA-1.
2. Marine litter/microplastics: Recent international initiatives, including measures to reduce the usage of plastic bags, could be further promoted. Environment Ministers and private sector parties could commit to actions for phasing out microplastics in relevant products. The content should build further upon the resolutions adopted at UNEA-1 and UNEA-2 and the outcomes of the SDG14 conference and the 2017 HLPF.
3. Chemicals and Waste (management) - either as a self-standing topic or as part of other pollution related topics: Innovative solutions for waste prevention, e.g. product redesign, recycling and reuse could be presented. Partnerships with the industry for designing and implementing control measures for certain pollutants.

### **Title for UNEA-3**

- EU/MS believe the title should be short (less than 5 words), simple, positive and solution oriented. EU/MS are flexible on the exact formulation of the title, but would like to share some additional suggestions to the ones proposed by the UNEP Secretariat:
  - Healthy environment for all (subtitle: finding solutions to tackle pollution)
  - Towards a clean planet (subtitle: finding solutions to tackle pollution)
- A reference to 2030, thus providing a timeline and clearly linking with the 2030 Agenda could also be considered.