

Second Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux
of the UN Environment Assembly and
the Committee of Permanent Representatives
9 – 10 June 2017
Hotel Villa Caletas (Pacífico Central)
Puntarenas, Costa Rica
Agenda item 4

Note by the Secretariat on the Private Sector Engagement

The Secretariat submits a note on the private sector engagement in the 2017 UN Environment Assembly. The Secretariat, suggests that the joint bureaux meeting consider the items under Agenda item 4: Private Sector Engagement in the UN Environment Assembly, at the Second Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to be held on 9 – 10 June 2017.

Private Sector Engagement

2017 United Nations Environment Assembly

The third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (4-6 December 2017) will continue to provide a platform for the private sector to engage with Ministers of the Environment and all other relevant stakeholders, and contribute to the solutions that address the world's environmental challenges while protecting the ecological boundaries of the planet for future generations.

BACKGROUND

The UN Environment Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, provides a unique platform for building crucial partnerships by convening stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector to determine the path that will address the shared and unprecedented environmental challenges the world is facing and deliver on the environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

At the second session of the UN Environment Assembly (23-27 May 2016), the private sector was engaged through the *2016 Sustainable Innovation Expo*, which took place on the margins of the Assembly.

The *Expo* brought together policymakers, civil society and the international business community in nine thematic panel discussions over three days. Panelists focused on some of the most critical and prevalent issues in today's world. These included sustainable energy; healthy oceans; air quality; rapid urbanization; big data and innovation; natural capital; and waste management.

The nearly 600 participants to the *Expo* included Chief Executive Officers of major companies, institutional investors, foundations, banks, insurance companies, civil society representatives and thought leaders from non-governmental organizations, and think tanks. The outcomes and key messages of the panel discussions fed into a three-hour high-profile *Business Dialogue for Environmental Sustainability*.

With strong financial support from UN Member States, such as Denmark, philanthropic foundations, such as the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, and private sector entities, such as the Henley Media Group, the *2016 Expo* strengthened UN Environment's existing partnerships with the private sector and created new ones.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES TO ENGAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN LEAD UP TO ASSEMBLY

UN Environment continues to engage the private sector as it prepares for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly and its overarching theme, *Towards a Pollution-Free Planet*. This active engagement is raising public awareness on the significance of the Assembly. It has also fostered interest from the private sector to partner with member States for delivering on a number of tangible commitments to end the pollution of our air, land, waterways, and oceans, and to safely manage our chemicals and waste.

This engagement with the private sector could impact the following in the upcoming Assembly:

- **Resolutions and decisions** adopted by member States to address specific dimensions of pollution;
- **Voluntary commitments** made by Governments, private sector groups and civil society organizations to clean up the planet;

- **Launch of a Clean Planet Charter** and based on a collection of public commitments to end pollution in all its forms;
- **Sharing of technological and innovative solutions** which could address the planetary challenges of pollution.

More specifically and in the run-up to the 2017 Assembly, UN Environment has been engaging the private sector through a series of consultative dialogues on the margins of major global meetings. These important discussions are fostering champions and generating the commitments in all sectors to scale up solutions to tackle pollution. The outcomes and key messages of all these meetings will feed into the next Assembly. To date, these meetings include among others:

- The *Consultative Roundtable and Dinner-in-Conversation* on 26 November 2016 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Funded by the Danish government, and with a strong focus on the private sector in the Nordic countries, the meeting set the cornerstone for engaging Nordic private sector groups with the UN Environment Assembly.
- *Leaders' Breakfast* on 24 March 2017 on the margins of the Second Ministerial Conference of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) in Berlin. The *Breakfast* brought together leading policymakers and private sector representatives in an interactive discussion on creating the policies and partnerships for tackling the most pervasive forms of pollution which will be addressed in the 2017 Assembly.
- Summits of the *World Economic Forum* in Africa, ASEAN and the Middle East in May 2017, to which the UN Environment sent leading experts to speak on the 2017 Environment Assembly. Followed by the *Annual Meeting of the New Champions of the World Economic Forum* (25-28 June) in Dalian, China, to be attended by UN Environment's Chief Scientist, Jian Liu.
- *Global Dialogue on Oceans* in Puntarenas, Costa Rica (8-9 June), in which UN Environment will convene private sector with governments and civil society groups in the region.

The momentum of this active engagement with the private sector throughout 2017 will culminate in the following activities during the Environment Assembly:

1. The *Leadership Dialogues* will call attention to the Assembly's multifaceted theme of pollution and will involve thought-provoking discussions, an interactive format and will feature Heads of State, Ministers and representatives from private sector and civil society groups. Professionally moderated, those who participate will learn new ways to scale up solutions and incentivize commitments for a healthy and pollution-free planet. (**Benefits:** It will strengthen possible partnerships and commitments from these specific private sector entities. **Cost:** The cost of the professional moderators).
2. A thematic discussion on engaging the private sector could take place during the *Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum* (2-3 December 2017), or outside the venue, and under the auspices of the Business and Industry Major Group. It will build the foundation for establishing a network of Chief Executive Officers and International and National Chambers of Commerce and business groups, including UN Global Compact. Key messages of the meeting could feed into the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue of the 2017 Environment Assembly. (**Benefits:** It will strengthen possible partnerships and commitments from these specific private sector entities. **Cost:** No cost to the Environment Assembly or UN Environment).
3. All side events during the 2017 Assembly will be encouraged to include speakers from the private sector. (**Benefits:** It will strengthen possible partnerships and commitments from these specific private sector entities. **Cost:** No cost to the Environment Assembly or UN Environment).

PROPOSED INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY HUB

UN Environment would like to inform Members of the Bureaux of an additional consideration to organize an *Innovation and Technology Hub* (or *Sustainable Innovation Hub*). The Hub will allow UN Environment to showcase the latest in innovation and technology from innovative industries based in developed and developing countries, for tackling the most pervasive forms of pollution as identified by member States and as relevant to the pollution agenda of the 2017 Environment Assembly. The *Hub* will act as a convening platform for sharing knowledge and best practices, South-South Cooperation and partnership building among all stakeholders. The table below describes the first stage in the form of a virtual *Hub*, which could be scaled to a larger scale physical exhibition space. Further guidance is sought from member States on the absence of financial resources to fund the initiative of the Hub, which could be replicated in future UN Environment Assemblies.

Opportunities for Engagement

Options	Details	Cost (US\$)
1. Virtual World Innovation and Technology Hub	<p>Will compile the latest in innovation and technology from both North and South for tackling the most pervasive forms of pollution as identified by member states and as relevant to the pollution agenda of the 2017 Environment Assembly. The <i>Hub</i> will go viral on all multimedia sites and its interactivity will ensure a diverse and large audience for sharing knowledge and best practices, South-South Cooperation and partnership building among all stakeholders. It will build on the Technology Facilitation Mechanism of the Sustainable Development of the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/tfm)</p> <p>(Benefits: Organized like an online network, the Hub will create and/or strengthen existing partnerships and commitments from a wide variety of private sector entities, academic institutions, civil society groups and individuals committed to tackling pollution).</p>	<p>20,000*</p> <p>Funding not secured yet</p>
2. World Innovation and Technology Hub (physical expo)	<p>Will be the 2017 Environment Assembly's physical marketplace for connecting the science to the solutions for the most pervasive forms of pollution. Housed in a Pavilion behind the UN Environment Assembly's plenary conference rooms, it will complement the <i>Leadership Dialogues</i> and provide a unique opportunity for ministers of environment, heads of UN Agencies and leaders of the private sector and civil society organizations to meet, network and find the innovation/technology, financial resources and partnerships for tackling pollution.</p> <p>It will necessitate the rental of a marquee; furniture; lighting; sound system; flooring and décor; layout planners, movers; as well as food and beverages. It will include a website and catalogue of technology. This option also will require the dedication of at least two full-time</p>	<p>105,000*</p> <p>Funding not secured yet.</p>

	<p>staff members. (Benefits: It will strengthen possible partnerships and commitments from a wide variety of participants. Cost: Substantial sponsorships will be needed to cover costs. Participating companies will be expected to pay for the shipping and handling of technology).</p>	
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