



# UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement      Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде      برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



## **Annotated provisional agenda for the workshop on “Achieving environmental sustainability for sustainable development”**

United Nations Global Compact Office, New York

21-22 July 2016

**Day 1 Moderator:**     **Elliott Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNEP  
New York Office**

10:30 am     **Registration**

11:00 am     **Welcome remarks, followed by introduction of participants**

- Elizabeth Mrema, Director of UNEP Division of Environment Law and Conventions (DELIC)

11:20 am     **Opening remarks**

- H.E. Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica is expected to provide brief opening remarks for the workshop, highlighting several key elements of the UNEA-2 and, where relevant, HLPF outcomes that would provide a context for the present workshop (tbc).

### **Session I     Setting the stage for the workshop**

11:30 am     Elliott Harris presents the main objectives and expected outcomes of this workshop in the context of different and sometimes competing and duplicating actors in the field of international environmental governance.

Followed by discussion.

### **Session II     Assessing the landscape of international environmental governance (IEG)**

12:00 pm     Thomas McInerney, Distinguished Scholar in Residence, Loyola University Chicago Law School, provides an overview of the post-Rio+20 IEG landscape, identifies multiple actors and sheds light on how the strengths and weaknesses of the current IEG system can be addressed.

Followed by discussion

01:00 pm     **Lunch break**

- 02:30 pm      **Session II (continued)**
- Participants continue discussion on the landscape of IEG, with reference to where UNEP is now and where it should go to better deliver on its strengthened mandate provided by the Rio+20 outcome document, *“The future we want”*.
- Session III    The “environment” within the UN system**
- 3:30 pm      Hossein Fadaei, Secretariat of the Environment Management Group, briefs the workshop on how different UN system agencies, organizations and mechanisms cooperate on environmental activities, including through the Environment Management Group and the recently adopted System-wide framework of strategies for the Environment.
- Discussion focuses on how UNEP can effectively play its role within the UN system as the leading global environmental authority.
- 04:30 pm      **Coffee break**
- Session IV    Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)**
- 04:45 pm      Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, Professor of Botany, University of Ghana, sheds light on the relationship between UNEP and various MEAs – both those for which UNEP provides the secretariat and others.
- Discussion brainstorms on how different MEAs and UNEP can promote coherence and collaboration, while ensuring their full implementation on the ground.
- 06:00 pm      **Conclusion of Day 1**
- 06:30 pm      **Dinner at Ali Baba (862 Second Avenue, 46th Street)**

**Day 2 Moderator:** Maria Ivanova, Associate Professor, Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance, University of Massachusetts, Boston

09:30 am **Recap of Day 1 and the introduction of Day 2**

- The moderator provides a brief summary of Day 1 and lays out the programme for Day 2.

**Session V** **UNEA in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals**

09:45 am Helge Elisabeth Zeitler, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission identifies the roles that UNEA and UNEP are expected to play in the implementation of, in particular, the environmental dimension of the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development in conjunction with various actors and processes, such as regional ministerial environmental forums. Discussion focuses on how UNEP can strategically position itself in the implementation of the Agenda 2030, without having universal country presence, through for example reporting on the latest environmental data.

11:15 am **Coffee break**

**Session VI** **The contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) to the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF)**

11:30 am Adil Najam, Professor of International Relations and Earth & Environment, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, explores how UNEA can make constructive contributions to HLPF, taking into account the outcomes of the UNEA sessions in June 2014 and May 2016, respectively, and how member States would like to see UNEA feed into the HLPF.

Followed by discussion.

01:00 pm **Lunch break**

**Session VII** **Is the current UNEA what was envisioned when Member States established universal membership in the UNEP governing body at Rio+20?**

2:30 pm Participants are invited to share their views on whether UNEA as it stands today fulfils the mandate given to it by member States. Does UNEA mark a substantial departure from the Governing Council? In which areas can UNEA improve its function? How can its third session (tentatively scheduled from 4 to 6 December 2017) be conducted to meet Member States expectations?

04:00 pm **Coffee break**

**Session VIII “The future we want” for IEG**

04:15 pm Based on the discussion held during the workshop, each participant will share their “take aways” and concrete “lessons-learned” for UNEP to play its rightful role in international environmental governance. In which areas should UNEP be more active and how should it improve its modus operandi on governance issues, considering the political realities and potential financial constraints? How should UNEP play a leading role in “steering” IEG rather than responding to the changing circumstances of IEG?

05:30 pm **Conclusion of the workshop**

- Elizabeth Mrema, Director of UNEP Division of Environment Law and Conventions (DELIC), makes concluding remarks and potential follow-up activities to this workshop.