



## Key Take Away Messages – Leadership Dialogue on Regulatory Frameworks, Institutions and the Rule of Law to Address Pollution at the 2017 UN Environment Assembly

<b>Title of your session:</b>	<b>Leadership Dialogue on Regulatory Frameworks, Institutions and the Rule of Law to Address Pollution</b>
<b>Date and Venue:</b>	<b>5 December 2017 Conference Room 1</b>
<b>Organizer:</b>	<b>Law Division, UN Environment</b>
<b>Speakers:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mr Karmenu Vella</b>, EU Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</li> <li>2. <b>Prof Geoffrey Wahungu</b>, Director General, National Environmental Management Authority of Kenya</li> <li>3. <b>Mr Sverre Thomas Jahre</b>, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway</li> <li>4. <b>Mr Laurent Fabius</b>, President of the Constitutional Council, Republic of France and UN Environment Patron on Environmental Governance</li> <li>5. <b>Ms Patricia Espinosa</b>, Executive Secretary of the secretariat to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</li> <li>6. <b>Mr Jorge Jurado</b>, Undersecretary of Environmental Quality of Ecuador</li> <li>7. <b>Ms Tina Birmpili</b>, Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat</li> <li>8. <b>Mr Rolph Payet</b>, Executive Secretary of the Joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions</li> <li>9. <b>Mr Marco Lambertini</b>, Director General of WWF International</li> <li>10. <b>Ms Olga Algayerova</b>, Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</li> <li>11. <b>Prof John Knox</b>, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment</li> </ol>
<b>Please summarize the key messages from your event or session (maximum of 350 words):</b>	<p>Legal and regulatory frameworks are essential for tackling pollution, which does not respect borders and requires a cross-cutting response. A mix of legal instruments is needed for the achievement of political aspirations and to support policy. There should be customization of legislation to suit national circumstances and flexibility in order to achieve countries' defined targets. In addition, the establishment of robust institutions is a prerequisite for the implementation of the law.</p> <p>All stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and citizens, should be engaged in addressing pollution. The rule of law empowers stakeholders to take action, and this empowerment can</p>



	<p>be achieved through greater transparency, and access to information.</p> <p>Systemic challenges that countries are facing include the length of time that it takes to enact law, which is in contrast with the imminence of environmental issues. Strong political will is then required for effective implementation once laws have been enacted. Moreover, the financial capacity of developing countries should be enhanced, and more can be done to punish those who commit crimes relating to pollution.</p> <p>There is a need for greater cooperation among all countries. Multilateral environmental agreements provide internationally-agreed ground rules on, among other things, tackling climate change, sound management of hazardous wastes and harmful chemicals, and the phaseout of ozone-depleting substances, all of which relate to efforts to address pollution. At the regional level, various European Conventions relating to waste, environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context, long-range transboundary air pollution, and access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters are particularly relevant in this context. However, national legislation is absolutely necessary for their implementation. There is a need for each agreement to learn from each other, and to share country experiences and best practices in the successful implementation of these agreements.</p> <p>A comprehensive international legal instrument is needed, such as the Global Pact, to specify environmental rights, to tackle environmental damage, and to embody the third generation of environmental law. UN Environment has an important role to play in this respect.</p> <p>Experiences from Ecuador, the EU, Kenya and Norway bear out these key messages.</p>
<p><b>Please highlight and specify any voluntary commitments made from Government/private sector/civil society during your session:</b></p>	<p>None</p>