

The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UNEP
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Briefing on Joint efforts of UNON and UNEP for the Sustainable United Nations

Environmental Management System

UNON, in partnership with UNEP and World Food Programme (WFP) are working towards an Environmental Management System (EMS) for the UN Gigiri complex, with the aim of achieving ISO 14001:2015 certification. The UN Gigiri complex would be one of the first to achieve this. While the EMS is proposed to cover all UNON's operations and facilities at the UNON complex, the initial focus will be on management of waste, water and power, establishing mechanisms to collect data so targets can be set and measured for improvements in each of these main areas. UNON currently provides all Agencies Funds and Programmes (AFPs) located at the UN Gigiri complex with greenhouse gas emission, waste and water related data for submission to Sustainable UN, which is incorporated into the annual UN Greening the Blue Report. UNON has achieved carbon neutrality through offsetting for two years. The improvement in data collection and accuracy will therefore benefit all AFP's on the UN Gigiri complex. The initiatives below are also aiming to significantly improve the management of waste, water and power.

Waste Management

UNON, in partnership with UNEP and WFP have established a working group to focus on reducing the amount of waste (including waste collected from offices) that goes directly to landfill, and instead significantly increase the recycling of waste. Currently only about 11% of waste from the UN Gigiri complex is recycled, but this initiative hopes to increase the recycled content of waste leaving the UN Gigiri complex upto 90%. Construction of a waste sorting station was completed at the end of 2017, and an environmentally friendly waste management service has been established with a company who will sort all waste collected at the UN Gigiri complex, measure and record accurate quantities of each category of waste (e.g. paper, plastic, glass) and then dispose through certified recycling and disposal facilities in Nairobi. Next step will be the rollout of waste sorting bins in the core of each office building to sort waste at source, and this will be supported by staff communication and training.

Waste Water Management

UNON in consultation with UNEP conducted an in-depth assessment of the current wastewater facilities and management at the complex, and contracted a professional waste water consultant, to help design of an upgraded and improved sustainable wastewater management system. This involves amongst others, the rehabilitation of the 30-year old oxidation ponds, to increase capacity to support 4,500 instead of 3,000 people. This will increase the efficiency of the ponds and lower running costs, as this is a natural water treatment process. Treated water is transferred to the wetland and used for irrigation. There may also be options to produce small amounts of bio gas.

Water Management

Refurbishment of washrooms including efficient sanitary fittings, reduced water usage (12 to 6-9 litres) and self-closing auto shut push taps.

Power Management

Replacing corridor lighting with LEDs, installation of energy saving lighting with motion sensors in washrooms. Solar lighting was introduced in the eastern carpark during 2016/17 and UNON will be

installing solar lighting along internal roads and car parks as part of the current rehabilitation of the internal access road to the eastern car park.

Mobility Policy

UNON and UNEP worked in close partnership during 2017, as part of a working group established by the Common Services Management Team (CSMT) which includes operational representatives from every UN AFP based in Kenya. This working group hired a transport specialist to prepare a Mobility Strategy for the UN Gigiri complex, ultimately aimed at reducing congestion in the area over the next few years. The outcome will be a number of initiatives aimed at reducing single occupant car usage which is the biggest contributing factor to congestion in the area. Focus will be on improving convenience for staff using the bus service (reduced travel time through improved routes and vehicle configurations), encouraging non-motorized transport options such as bikes and trialing of a bike share scheme across the UN Gigiri complex during 2018.

General Construction Update

Rehabilitation of internal access road, washroom upgrades, roof/walkway waterproofing, rehabilitation of oxidation ponds. ongoing electrical upgrades and GA decision on initiation of office block A-J replacement project.