

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of UN Environment Assembly and
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Tuesday 27 February 2018
4:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Executive Office Boardroom
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Agenda Item 5

**Secretariat Note on the process of contribution of the UN Environment Assembly to
the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

The Secretariat has submitted a note on the process of the contribution of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held 9-18 July 2018 under the theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”, in support of agenda item 5 of the Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and Committee of Permanent Representatives to be held on Tuesday 27 February, 2018. This note responds to the request of the resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.3 on contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which “provide timely substantive inputs to the annual meetings of the High-Level Political Forum”, and “recommend that the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly actively participates and conveys the main messages of the United Nations Environment to the High-Level Political Forum”.

Preparation of inputs from the UN Environment Assembly to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

1. Pursuant to its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (the Forum) will convene from 9 to 18 July 2018 in New York under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with the theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.”
2. In accordance with the following resolutions, the UN Environment Assembly will convey the main messages from its third session to the Forum:
 - General Assembly resolution 71/231 of 21 December 2016 on the *Report of the Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme*, which, inter alia, “Encourages the President of the Environment Assembly to convey the main messages agreed upon by the Environment Assembly at its sessions during the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, taking into account the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as General Assembly resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016.”
 - Environment Assembly resolution 2/5 of 27 May 2016 on *Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which, inter alia, “commits to conveying the main messages of its sessions to the high-level political forum on sustainable development to support its function in the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”
 - Environment Assembly resolution 3/3 of 6 December 2017 on *Contributions of the Environment Assembly to the Forum*, which, inter alia, “Recommends that the President of the Environment Assembly actively participates and conveys the main messages of the Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum.”
3. Political outreach is underway, including through the New York Office, to ensure that His Excellency, Mr. Siim Kiisler will be given a stand-alone opportunity to present the main messages from the third session of the Environment Assembly and to do so in his capacity as President of the Environment Assembly rather than as a member of the Estonian delegation. This will be different from 2017 when the former President of the Environment Assembly, H.E. Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, was only given the floor following the remarks of the Costa Rica delegation and was offered additional time to deliver the main messages of the second session of the Assembly.
 - Members of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly are encouraged to speak to their counterparts in the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council under whose auspices the 2018 Forum is being organized.
 - The former and current Presidents of the Environment Assembly met respectively with the President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Mrs. Marie Chatardová, Permanent Representative of the

Czech Republic to the UN in New York, in the margins of the third session of the Environment Assembly in December 2017 to discuss the matter.

4. In addition to the envisaged oral input, the Environment Assembly will provide a substantive written input to the Forum as requested by the President of the Economic and Social Council in her letter dated 27 November 2017 (attached). The input will focus on the six Sustainable Development Goals chosen for in-depth review at the 2018 Forum:
 - Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
 - Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
 - Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
 - Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
 - Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
 - Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (considered each year).
5. As was the case last year, it is expected that the inputs collected from the Environment Assembly as well as from other intergovernmental bodies will form the basis for the “Note by the secretariat: Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums” issued by the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (DESA) as one of the supporting documents for the Forum ([see 2017 synthesis report](#)).
6. In accordance with the resolution adopted at the third session of the Environment Assembly on *Contributions of the Environment Assembly to the Forum (operative paragraph 3)*:
 - a. Inputs will be provided on the overarching environmental perspective of sustainable development,
 - b. The inputs will take into account the Forum themes as well as the Sustainable Development Goals under review at each of the Forum, as well as the inter-linkages between the environmental dimension and the social and economic dimensions;
 - c. The inputs will further take into account relevant resolutions adopted by the Environment Assembly.
7. For the 2018 Forum, the following steps will be taken by UN Environment secretariat to submit the input through DESA to the Economic and Social Council by 27 April 2018:
 - Secretariat to provide an update on the status of input preparation to the 141st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 20 February 2018.
 - Secretariat to submit a draft input to the President for his consideration by 2 March 2018.

- Secretariat to submit an updated draft input to the 1st Joint Preparatory Retreat of Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking place in Nairobi on 22 and 23 March 2018.
 - Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Member States to provide comments to the secretariat by 6 April 2018.
 - Secretariat to revise the input based on the comments from Member States for final consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 142nd meeting scheduled for either 10th or 12th April 2018.
8. Due to the limited nature of the written input, in terms of its intended use (in a synthesis report) and target audience (technical level), the importance of enabling the President of the UN Environment Assembly to deliver the main messages at the Forum cannot be overemphasized. This would help raise the political profile of the UN Environment Assembly and truly position it as the leading global environmental authority that delivers on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, but most importantly will raise the relevance of an effective integration of the environmental dimension when implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

For any questions related to the preparation of input, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Director of Law Division, at Elizabeth.Mrema@un.org.



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

27 November 2017

Excellency,

The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will convene under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at UN Headquarters in New York from 9 to 18 July 2018 (with a ministerial segment on 16 - 18 July).

The forum, which was created at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 (Rio+20) to provide high-level policy guidance and promote and review implementation of sustainable development, has also been given a role as a central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015.

Specifically, the General Assembly in resolution 70/1 called for thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including cross-cutting issues, to take place at the HLPF. These will be supported by reviews by the ECOSOC functional commissions and other inter-governmental bodies and forums which should reflect the integrated nature of the goals as well as the interlinkages between them. They will engage all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feed into, and be aligned with, the cycle of the HLPF.

In this context, I would like to point out the 2017 HLPF received a total of 40 inputs from intergovernmental bodies and forums. I would like to thank all those who contributed to the thematic reviews at the 2017 HLPF through their contribution to its theme. These inputs, together with the synthesis provided by the Secretariat, can be found at the 2017 HLPF website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/>

As you know, the General Assembly in its resolution 70/299 on “Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level” has decided that the HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC and without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible, interlinked nature of the sustainable development goals, will discuss a set of goals and their interlinkages including, if appropriate, with other goals, at each session representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review on progress of all goals over the course of a four-year cycle, with means of implementation, including goal 17, reviewed annually. In this regard, the General Assembly further defined the theme of the 2018 HLPF to be “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. All 17 SDGs will be examined from the perspective of the theme. Additionally, the following SDGs will be discussed together with SDG 17: 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15.

*H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler, President
United Nations Environment Assembly
Nairobi*

In this regard, I invite you to provide substantive inputs to the 2018 HLPF showcasing your intergovernmental body's contribution to the 2030 Agenda in general, and particularly for the SDGs and respective targets that are most relevant to your intergovernmental body's mandate. The following template, inspired by the report of the Secretary-General on global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/70/684), could be considered in providing inputs:

- (a) an assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level;
- (b) the identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges;
- (c) valuable lessons learned on transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies;
- (d) emerging issues likely to affect building sustainable and resilient societies;
- (e) areas where political guidance by the high-level political forum is required;
- (f) policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in establishing sustainable and resilient societies.

This reporting template can be accessed at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf> and I would kindly ask you to send your contribution no later than 27 April 2018 to the HLPF Secretariat (e-mail: wang24@un.org).

I look forward to your contributions to the 2018 HLPF.

Yours sincerely,



Marie Chatardová
President of ECOSOC