

**Comments by the European Union and its Member States
on UNEA 3 Implementation Plan**

The EU and its Member States welcome UNEP's update proposals for "A UNEA3 Implementation Plan" as set out in the presentation 'Towards a UNEA-3 Implementation Plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet"'.

We offer these reactions:

- The value of UNEA, and its future status and influence, depend on how thoroughly its resolutions and other outputs are implemented. The follow-through and implementation of resolutions already passed therefore deserves at least as much institutional priority, attention and resource as preparing future events and negotiating further resolutions. We therefore welcome and support the commitment by UNEP which this presentation indicates.
- Many UNEA-3 resolutions built on outcomes from earlier UNEAs. Thanks to the theme chosen, UNEA-4 in turn has great potential to make further progress on dossiers from UNEAs 1, 2 and 3. Implementation work should emphasise and support a sense of continual progress on perennial problems. It should do this by looking both back and forward: both by working to apply earlier resolutions as well as recent ones, and by helping set the agenda for possible future resolutions. But real, tangible action and progress is critical: we must avoid any sense that we keep talking about the same problems while nothing actually changes.
- Implementation action, monitoring and reporting should so far as possible use and scale up existing UNEP activities, structures and processes, taking into account areas where implementation gaps are most needed to be addressed and impact can be made and minimise the need for new ones, other than where resolutions explicitly mandate new process (for example the new expert group on marine litter) and for the follow-up of voluntary commitments made at UNEA-3.
- The pollution plan should include a clear follow-up mechanism for UNEA3 voluntary commitments. The mechanism should be light and be designed so that it could serve for future UNEAs, be the collection of voluntary commitments reproduced. It should make a clear link to SDGs, notably to ensure compatibility with the follow-up of the SDG 14 conference's voluntary commitments.
- UNEP should maximise its reach and influence by working with other agencies wherever possible (for example with WHO over antimicrobial resistance.)
- We welcome the commitment to thorough involvement of stakeholders.

We stand ready to offer more detailed comments and engagement as plans for implementation develop.
