

Comments by Australia to the Draft concept note for the theme of the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly

Australia welcomes the secretariat's concept note as well as the UNEA4 theme, which it supported. Generally speaking, Australia thinks this is a well written note with some additional points that need to be considered. One of these points is the definition of 'innovation'. As this is a main component of the theme, we think there may be scope to define more accurately what we consider as innovation. This will assist to better frame the discussion and consider the value of the draft resolutions that will be brought forward in preparation to the assembly. This sentiment is reflected in the note itself, which claims that '*Because innovation is a broad concept, it will be important to clarify the focus and the boundaries within which the fourth environment assembly will explore innovative solutions*'.

The note discusses the *Sixth Global Environment Outlook* and the *Global Assessment of Natural Resource Use and Management* in its second paragraph. We believe these assessments may be better placed later in the document.

The last paragraph in the '*Proposed Note*' section contains three desired outcomes to the Assembly. We believe there is also scope for defining desired outputs. While doing so is more challenging in the innovation space, this can be done in the sustainable consumption and production space.

The third dot point in the '*Possible Outline*' section should focus on the opportunities, while mentioning the barriers and challenges. We think it better reflects what the Assembly is trying to achieve.

In relation to the tentative roadmap, we suggest that the authors of note the may consider including consultations with the secretariats of the various chemical conventions (for example, the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam, and Minamata Conventions).

Finally, we note that waste or recycling are not mentioning specifically but are rather captured in their very high level terms. The note may wish to refer to these concepts noting their centrality to the Assembly theme.

Best regards,
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