

**Comments by the EU and its MS**  
*on Revised elements for the concept of the theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly*

**UNEA Bureau meeting**  
**20 June 2018**

- The EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat for providing the revised elements for the concept of the theme of the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly.
- While not all our comments have been taken on board we welcome the improvements made.
- For further improvement of the document we suggest the following changes:
  - **Paragraph 3:** In order to not make the list in lines 5-6 exclusive, the EU+MS would suggest inserting before “policy” the words “for example” or “inter alia”.
  - **Paragraph 4:** The sustainable lifestyles/behaviour and prevention dimensions of the theme still remain overshadowed. Therefore we would like to propose adding “to do more and better with less: resource demand depending on lifestyles, consumer information and choice” after “economic activities” and would prefer to replace “extraction of resources” by “efficient use of resources” to avoid diluting the focus on SCP.
  - **Paragraph 6:** We propose “Ministerial Declaration” to be replaced by “Ministerial Declarations”, which is an editorial amendment.
  - **Paragraph 7:** In (4) the EU+MS suggest to add “awareness raising”. In last sentence, we suggest to add “including regarding gender aspects” after “sustainable development”.

- **Paragraph 9:**
  - With regard to the first focus area, “Sustainable food systems including food security and eradication of hunger” has been expanded to subtopics that are not in the core mandate of UNEP/UNEA. The EU and its MS would prefer to stick to the original wording “Sustainable food systems” with the understanding that sustainability encompasses food security.
  - As regards the second focus area, the EU and its MS appreciate very much that our comment have been taken on board. However, in order to improve the formulation, we would suggest to mention explicitly products and chemicals, and to reformulate the focus area as follows:  
“Life-cycle approaches to resources, products, chemicals and waste management”.
  - With regard to the third focus area the EU and its MS are of the opinion that the change from “green business development” to “Business development for sustainable development” resulted in a loss of the environmental focus that UNEA should have. Therefore we suggest a reformulating as follows “Business development for SCP in a time of rapid technological change”?
- **Paragraph 11:** the EU and its MS suggest sound chemicals and waste management to be integrated in the way biodiversity is integrated in order to recognize the urgency – and last chance for UNEA to address – the global goals/SDGs in both the areas that have 2020 deadlines. Therefore we propose to insert after "biodiversity": "and sound management of chemicals and wastes".
- **Paragraph 13:** The implementation plan should also take into account related relevant previous UNEA 1 and 2 resolutions and for that reason the EU and its MS suggest inserting "and other related relevant UNEA resolutions" after "As outlined below, it will build on the outcomes of the third UN Environment Assembly".

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