

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH



INPUTS OF THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH ON THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE 2019 UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY.

Introduction

We thank the President of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly for his openness and willingness to ensure that the voice of stakeholders form a vital aspect of inputs received on the possible outcomes of the 2019 United Nations Environmental Assembly. It reflects the commitment to ensuring the emergence of innovative solutions that can deal with new frontiers in global environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production; and will built confidence of the populace especially of Major Groups on the integrity and strength of the outcome of UNEA4. As we had mentioned in an earlier brief, the theme of UNEA-4 shows a deep sense of responsibility and the commitment of global leaders towards promoting integrated innovative solutions that can tackle the myriad of environmental issues that confront people, planet and prosperity.

The theme of unea-4 is particularly apt because it contextualizes the need for integrated solutions and affords opportunity for the multidisciplinary approach needed to ensure integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and can be used to chart the course for environmental solutions which are human rights sensitive, pro-poor and gender-sensitive while also promoting inclusiveness and participation.

Therefore, the success of UNEA-4 is dependent on the inclusion of a perspective in UNEA-4 notes/drafts and Ministerial declaration which provides the needed leadership in demystifying the concept of innovative solutions and adopting an approach to assessing innovations that brings together different bodies of

knowledge, perspectives, and disciplines while also presenting firm commitments for future action and priorities from all Environment Ministers.

It is key to note and emphasize the fact that innovative solutions are dependent on improvement of innovative capacity to promote knowledge-based solutions for developing a sustainable society and dynamic research groups that deliver high-quality research.

• Key Priority Areas Where Collective Interventions towards the 2019 UN Environment Assembly Should Concentrated

While Emerging issues already identified by UN Environment includes the investigation of the environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance; dealing with nanomaterials; securing benefits of marine protected areas for sustainable development; subduing sand and dust storms, using solar solutions to bridge the energy gap for off grid settlements and dealing with environmental displacements still burn on the global agenda as areas where urgent planning and solution is needed, It is needful to emphasize their interlinkages with other environmental problems.

Give priority to increased investment that will trigger global research-based innovation activities, expand research expertise and further develop the research and innovation system for the environmental sector as a whole while emphasizing its interrelatedness with the economic and social pillars of sustainable development.

Give priority to development of innovations and knowledge that advances sustainable consumption and production by development of clean energy technologies and low-emission solutions.

Prioritize innovative research that create smart solutions and effective utilization of petroleum resources.

Prioritize means of identification of enabling innovative technologies/ innovative solutions that will deal with Global and local environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production and set the pace for a new global innovative initiative, new technological solutions that promote low-emission society and a green transition and an innovative industrial policy/legislature.

• Possible Elements and Key Messages That Could Be Used As Building Blocks for the Ministerial Declaration

Structure dialog on issues surrounding the use of innovative solution for addressing environmental concerns without polarizing or stalling discussions based on conceptual clarification, instead broadening understanding of innovations to mean the creation of incremental value by providing a new or better solution to environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production and to include technological innovations especially those that are systemic in nature and promotes and provides novelty across a number of dimensions of relevance to the society, the economy and the environment.

Commitment to increased investment that will trigger global to local research-based innovative activities, expand research expertise and further develop the research and innovation system for the environmental sector as a whole while emphasizing its interrelatedness with the economic and social pillars of sustainable development.

Commitment to promoting gender-sensitive multidisciplinary innovative research, and innovations that improves the quality of people's lives regardless of their gender status and targets gender inequalities in knowledge-making, research processes, recruitment and retention, assessment of research productivity, and measurement of innovative excellence; Development of a culture of equal opportunities in research and innovation and increase female participation and representation; Organizing official side events and approving stakeholder events focused on topics related to promoting women in innovation; and Reporting on gender innovative activities in report guidelines and provision of key recommendations to reflect closing/narrowing existing gender gaps.

Commitment to Strengthening and enforcing more integrated policies, regulations and laws and innovative solutions through and integrated implementation and enforcement mechanism in existing resolutions, environmental agreements and development of global policies to prevent, reduce and control pollutants.

Commitment to Promoting fiscal incentives to stimulate systemic and behavioral changes making it easier for producers and consumers to rethink, reuse, recycle, recover and remake any products, materials and services.

Commitment to standardization of ethical guidelines that ensure that innovative solutions promote human rights and have a human face are fit for global and local purposes.

Commitment to increase financial investment for research and development and financing smart research partnerships that will promote innovative solutions especially those that integrate indigenous knowledge.

Commitment to increased investment in exploring the link among innovation, use of technology and the sustainable development of emerging economies.

• Possible Elements for an Implementation Plan against Pollution, Building on the Outcomes of the Third Session of the Environment Assembly

See attached also, our amendment to Pollution Implementation Plan: Main proposed area following UNEA-3

Member States & stakeholders consultations to develop a conceptual framework and an implementation plan

- ✓ Develop a common definition and a score criteria
- ✓ Developing an integrated discussion paper on implementation of UNEA 4 that links UNEA 3 implementation.

Evidence for Policy

- ✓ Systematic Review of Innovative Solution for Environmental Challenges
- ✓ Identification of Research Partnerships/collaborations for Innovative Environmental Solutions
- ✓ Identification of gender-sensitive multidisciplinary innovative research
- ✓ Auditing of Innovations

Enhancing Standards, Regulations and Legal Frameworks

- ✓ Strengthen and promote integrated and innovative policy, legal and regulatory framework
- ✓ enhance coherence & efficiency on resolutions, commitments, policy & legal responses for innovative environmental solution
- ✓ Promote Greater regional and international.
- ✓ Cooperation adoption and enforcement of national legislations and sanctions for environmental crimes.

Stepping up Action to promote innovative research/innovations for environmental challenges including sustainable consumption and production

- ✓ Advocacy and Awareness-Raising
- ✓ Promote Educational and Consumer Aware Programmes.
- ✓ Building Momentum for Increased investment that will trigger global research-based innovation activities. Expand research expertise and further develop the research and innovation system for the environmental sector
- ✓ Give priority to development of innovations and knowledge that advances sustainable consumption and production
- ✓ Prioritize innovative research that create smart solutions and effective utilization of resources.
- ✓ Prioritize means of identification of enabling innovative technologies/innovative

Leadership and Partnerships

- ✓ Harness innovative environmental, economic and social integrated solutions.
- ✓ Financing innovative research that create smart environmental solutions
- ✓ Strengthening partnerships and collaborations that promote innovative solutions to environmental challenges.
- ✓ Audit private sector partners
- ✓ Lead regional fora
- ✓ Promote South-south and Global-local cooperation, partnerships and collaborations
- ✓ Creating and expanding multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and individuals.

• Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives at National, Regional and International Levels With a Multiplying Effect and Impact/Identification of Strategic Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges That Could Have Far-Reaching Positive Impacts If Implemented Globally.

Strategic partnerships and collaboration leads to innovations. Creating and expanding multi-stakeholder partnerships at national, regional and international levels will promote innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production. In the field of sustainable development, an annual fora has been key in promoting and show casing and providing rewards for partnerships. This again can be adopted as a model.

Preceding and Following UNEA-4, there should be an opportunity, a call and a platform for identification of strategic innovative solutions for environmental challenges that could have far-reaching positive impacts if implemented. Such innovation should promote multi stakeholder partnerships and could be Global, connect rural to Global or connect city to local initiative.

As incentive support for flagship partnerships should be provided.

Collect interesting examples of different innovation solutions from around the world and finance and support in-depth study on processes and types of partnerships that help achieve innovation solutions for environmental changes in order to draw lessons for practitioners and policy makers.