



May 31, 2018

Eva Truuverk
Member of the Management Board
Let's Do It Foundation

H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler
President of the UN Environment Assembly
Minister of Environment of Estonia

Dear H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler,

With regard to Your kind request from 2 May, which was very well received by Let's Do It Foundation and whereby You invited to submit input on key priority areas, messages and elements that may be included in the foreseen Ministerial Declaration from UNEA4,

With due consideration for the theme which will be focused (*Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production*),

We considered to propose input related to our specific area of action and expertise, i.e.:

- i) General remarks on the need to shift to circular economy/sustainable management of resources, and;
- ii) Specific reference on the role of clean ups.

Below, the points we would therefore submit for Your consideration:

1. Firstly, sustainable management of discards (and resources) meets various United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (in particular, 11 through 17) from different angles;
2. In particular, we would stress SDG 16, through the peace-keeping value of circular economy, in that it:
 - a. Decreases pressure on the need of new primary raw materials/resources;
 - b. Thereby tackles one of primary reasons for international tensions;
 - c. Promotes models that trigger local economic initiatives on separate collection, reuse, recycling, composting, with related occupational benefits for nations and local communities.
3. In this respect, clean ups are of fundamental help, in that they:
 - a. Help to fight what we have long termed as "trash blindness" (people involved in civic action to remove litter from where it should not be, become more aware of problems around waste production and management);



- b. Trigger assumption of responsibility by individuals, communities, decision makers, and policy makers;
 - c. Help to collect a valuable set of information during mapping and clean ups, thereby feeding into litter- and waste-related research and policy making through what is globally known and promoted as “Citizen Science”.
4. Clean ups are instrumental in promoting action on waste across the world, in that they are:
- a. Participative (promote responsibility by everybody);
 - b. Inclusive (aggregate people around a common goal);
 - c. Educational (fight trash blindness);
 - d. Informing (provide valuable info).

We would therefore warmly encourage UNEA4 to consider including one or more references to the foregoing, supporting the shift to Circular Economy and promoting participation in clean ups and supporting communities who have already taken part in clean ups and want to improve their waste management systems.

Please accept the most sincere expression of our highest esteem and kindest regards.

Yours faithfully,

Eva Truuverk
Member of the Management Board
Let's Do It Foundation

