

### **Agenda Item 3: Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly**

#### **“Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”**

**Vision:** To develop partnerships towards sustainable and innovative societies and build upon the theme of pollution with focusing on innovative solutions to key environmental challenges, building on outcomes from previous sessions of the Environment Assembly.

The political message from the Ministers will be informed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Environment Outlook report on key environmental challenges as well as the report of the International Resource Panel on the global status of resource efficiency.

**Main priority 1:** Ensure the transparency, accountability and comparability of global environmental data and develop science-policy-business partnerships on innovative data technologies and digital solutions.

- Establish comprehensive environmental monitoring systems (including citizen observations and satellite monitoring) to improve data collection and foster cross- border environmental monitoring data exchange, (for example in the form of pilot projects on establishing global real-time air quality and deforestation monitoring systems).
- Ensure everyone has a fair and where possible electronic access to environmental data and develop secure and accessible monitoring databases.
- Develop digital solutions to gain better knowledge on global resource use and productivity, including introducing global product information factsheets in order to make informed decisions.
- Engage regions, countries and municipalities to collect and analyze environmental data, and develop technologies and apps and make scientific discoveries through citizen science.
- Enhance integrated use and analysis of environmental data from various sources (smart devices, mobile applications, environmental monitoring and research).
- Develop global environmental data policy and common data standards.

**Main priority 2:** Foster sustainable and efficient resource management by promoting decarbonisation, detoxification and decoupling of resource use, to enhance ecosystem resilience and protection of the planet’s natural systems.

- Accelerate the transition towards circular economies and the application of life-cycle approaches for sustainable materials management, in a manner that fosters economic growth, improves competitiveness, creates jobs and safeguards social benefits.
- Foster innovative governance mechanisms that integrate circular economy principles and frameworks into national policies.

- Fully implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- Maximize the benefits of sound waste management with the special focus on food, plastics and marine litter.
- Promote sustainable land management to maintain soil health, ensure food security and combat desertification.
- Introduce global product sustainability criteria to stimulate the market for secondary raw materials and sustainable products.
- Accelerate and activate sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and ensure transparent funding of eco-innovative solutions.
- Develop a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) beyond 2020 to ensure non-toxic material cycles and healthier products.
- Commit to accelerate the implementation of the Aichi Targets and consider a new time frame going beyond 2020, to improve the health of the world's ecosystems.

**Main priority 3:** Support robust engagement of civil society, citizens and academia in promoting innovative approaches for meeting global environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.

- Allocate adequate resources to research and development to drive innovation for the environment.
- Ensure access to basic and environmental education worldwide and promote sustainable lifestyles through a wider uptake of innovative approaches in education.
- Identify and promote the wider application of indigenous knowledge about environmentally friendly practices.
- Support the creation of new, innovative business opportunities to eradicate poverty and establish infrastructure for new greener economy.
- Engage citizens in improving their local urban environment, green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.
- Promote and raise awareness for sustainable tourism.

**Agenda Item 3: Letter from President of the UN Environment Assembly on the Draft  
Outline for the Ministerial Outcome Document**



Tallinn, 08 August 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I have the honor to approach you in my capacity as the President of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly, which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 11-15 March, 2019.

The Assembly's overarching theme is "**Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production**".

Following my letter dated 2 May 2018, I am hereby pleased to share with you a Draft Outline for the Ministerial Outcome Document of the next Environment Assembly. The Draft Outline is a result of informal consultations with member States and stakeholders, including written submissions, and takes into account the final concept note on the theme of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly developed by the Secretariat. The Draft Outline reflects 3 main priority areas for global, regional and national level to take action towards achieving innovative and sustainable societies.

The attached Draft Outline will be discussed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled to take place 6 to 7 September 2018 in Tallinn, Estonia. In this regard, and to inform the members of the Bureaux in view of their discussion, I would welcome inputs in writing from member States and stakeholders on the Draft Outline **by 4 September 2018**. Please send your comments to [unep-sgb@un.org](mailto:unep-sgb@un.org) and to [ado.lohmus@envir.ee](mailto:ado.lohmus@envir.ee).

Your inputs will assist me in developing a Zero Draft Ministerial Outcome Document by end of September. I will initiate an inclusive process of consultations leading to the adoption of a Ministerial Outcome Document at the Fourth UN Environment Assembly that will represent firm commitments for action and priorities from all Ministers of Environment. This process will be planned as follows:

August 2018	Draft Outline for the Ministerial Outcome Document shared with Member States and stakeholders
4 September	Inputs in writing from member States and stakeholders on the Draft Outline
6-7 September	Consultations on the Draft Outline at a joint preparatory retreat for the Bureaux of the Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Tallinn, Estonia, September 6-7, 2018)
End of September	A "Zero Draft" of the Ministerial Outcome Document shared with Member States and stakeholders
October-November	Informal consultations on the Zero Draft through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and UN Environment regional and other preparatory meetings for the Environment Assembly, and with key stakeholders
December	A first full Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document shared with Member States and stakeholders
December-February	Consultations with Member States and stakeholders
February 2019	Final Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document shared with Member States and stakeholders
5-9 March	Final consultations on the Draft led by the President at the meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives
15 March 2019	Adoption of the Ministerial Outcome Document at the Fourth UN Environment Assembly



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



I very much look forward to working with you during the coming months towards a successful Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly, and to receiving your comments on the Draft Outline by 4 September 2018.

**Siim Kiisler**  
**Minister of Environment of Estonia**  
**President of the UN Environment Assembly**

Ministers responsible for the Environment  
Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Major Groups and Stakeholders