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**United Nations Environment  
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**144th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 8 January 2019

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1

**Agenda Item 7: Consideration of resolutions adopted at the third session of the UN  
Environment Assembly**

**Status of Implementation: UNEP/EA.3/Res. 6 “Managing soil pollution to achieve  
Sustainable Development”**

The annexed progress report for the implementation of UNEA-3 Resolution 3/6: Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development (UNEP/EA.3/Res. 6) serves as a background document for discussions under agenda Item 7a.

## **A. Progress on Implementation of UNEP/EA.3/Res. 6 “Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development”**

A key contribution to the process was the Global Symposium on Soils Pollution that was co-organized between FAO, UN Environment Programme, the WHO and the BRS Conventions Secretariat that was held in Rome at FAO Headquarters in May 2018. A side event on the UNEA 3 soil pollution resolution was convened by UN Environment within symposium to present an agenda which suggested way forward (paragraphs 4,5,6,7,8,9). The FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) launched the report titled "Soil Pollution: a hidden reality". This report is comprehensive and will be a significant input to the UNEA3 resolution (paragraphs 4, 6, 7). The ITPS has agreed to remain engaged in the process and maintain a core role in making technical and scientific contributions, with UN Environment facilitating the bridge to the policy reform and mainstreaming with governments and collaborating agencies (paragraphs 4, 6, 7).

A consultation workshop to advance implementation of the UNEA pollution resolutions was convened in Paris in June 2018 which was attended by various stakeholder groups, and some Member States through the CPR subcommittee. The meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholder input and engagement to shape the UNEA3 Implementation Plan. The meeting assisted to identify and prioritize solutions relevant to the Soil Pollution Resolution (paragraphs 4, 6, 8).

The Environment and Health UNEP/EA.3/RES.4 resolution being led by the Economy Division has overlap with the Soil Pollution Resolution. The anticipated report under the Environment and Health resolution addresses the impacts of pesticides and fertilizers, and joint planning to harmonize the outputs from the two resolutions is ongoing.

A proposal on the broad outline of the UNEA5 Soils Pollution Report has been developed. Against this, a draft implementation plan and budget has been prepared to facilitate resource mobilization. This is being incorporated into a joint mobilization strategy proposal with the FAO for the implementation of the resolution.

Within the scope of the Environment and Health resolution, a First Consultative Meeting was held in October 2018 back-to-back with FAO's Joint Meeting on Pesticides Management (JMPPM). The meeting brought together subject-area experts on both pesticides and fertilizers to provide clarity on joining the work between the two resolutions.

In September 2018, the Government of France confirmed a grant to UN Environment Programme of Eur 30,000 toward the implementation of the resolution.

## **B. Recommendations and Suggested Actions**

1. **Resource requirements:** Implementation of the resolution will require further resource mobilization efforts to complement the cash contribution from the Government of France. The estimated total cost for implementing the resolution is USD280,000, inclusive of procurement of consultancy services and convening of national, regional and international dialogues.
2. **Building on existing work:** The delivery of the outputs under the resolution will take into account some key initiatives and ongoing processes and will incorporate existing relevant work. These include:
  - a. FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) report titled "*Soil Pollution: a hidden reality*". There is significant coverage of many 'common' aspects in this report that will be useful to the resolution. There are however some areas not addressed that will require further development with contributions from partners as per requirements of the UNEA 3 resolution.

- b. Work in close conjunction with the UN Environment focal points, technical and policy experts on implementation of the Environment and Health resolution to integrate technical outputs into the relevant elements of the Soil Pollution resolution expected outputs.
  - c. A report based on the *gap analysis of existing data and information on assessments of rangelands and pastoralism* will be submitted to the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly and the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations to Combat Desertification. Based on the gap analysis, the report will include recommendations for action that could contribute to raising the global awareness of rangelands and pastoralism, as well as enhancing sustainable pastoralism and protection of rangelands, while taking into consideration local and indigenous knowledge and technologies (paragraph 9).
  - d. The *Toward and International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) Project* funded by the Global Environment Facility (UN Environment is the implementing agency) anticipates the delivery of a global nitrogen assessment by 2021 that will focus on the impacts of forms of reactive nitrogen in the environment including within soils. The assessment is to commence within 2019 and will complement, and inform as relevant, the reporting outputs under the soil pollution resolution.
3. **UNEA-4 planning:** The upcoming UNEA will be used as an opportunity for further work planning and for technical and policy dialogue contributory to the resolution implementation. Discussions are ongoing with the Africa country group on the convening of a special event during UNEA-4.

## **Partners**

World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, Global Soil Partnership and its Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (under FAO), Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm Convention Secretariat, Convention to Combat Desertification, Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (under UNEP/GPA).