

World Animal Net
Suggestions on Way Forward
19 March 2019

These suggestions have been provided by World Animal Net, but also include aspects of the paper for this meeting submitted by the NGO Major Group, which can be found [here](#).

Global Pact/Principles/ Environmental Rights

We believe that the best way to progress work on a potential agreement (be this a Global Pact, new umbrella MEA, convention, treaty or whatever) may be to recommend an intergovernmental conference to the General Assembly as an outcome of these substantive meetings. This could be accomplished through a “Stockholm plus 50 process”, with an inspirational theme (similar to the “Future We Want”). This intergovernmental conference could progress key aspects such as environmental principles and environmental rights.

If well prepared in advance, with contributory specialised working groups, established and guided by a roadmap, this could provide practical and effective results.

Governance

There are aspects of governance which could be implemented by UNEP in the interim. For example, clustering of existing MEAs under their purview, and examination of other MEAs.

Clustering should be accompanied by a broader strategic oversight function, considering Earth Systems, using the latest scientific knowledge to provide a holistic analysis and overview of the state of the world’s environment. This should include identification of the sectors which cause the most environmental degradation, followed by analysis of root causes/drivers and preventative measures

Each cluster should carefully consider the coverage of existing MEAs, and the need to extend these (either in scope or number) to cover any identified gaps. In particular, careful consideration should be given to any gaps identified in the Secretary General’s report. Consideration should include new and emerging issues of concern, including food and energy security/systems and the impact of new technologies.

Strategic oversight could also facilitate a review of best practice in environmental treaties/conventions, and subsequent consideration for adoption in other areas. Ideas for best practice in monitoring and evaluation could be included in this analysis.

Financial and Economic Measures

Another area which could be further analysed and developed prior to any intergovernmental conference would be financial and economic options. These could include both far-reaching and well rehearsed solutions not yet implemented, such as: a new economic system that will place well-being and the environment at the forefront, and return to and stay within our planetary boundaries (for example, a “restorative economy”, with options for financial measures for prevention and change). This would include aspects such as “polluter pays plus” – disincentives for unsustainable or polluting practices/products, incentives for transition to more environmental and sustainable alternatives, the removal of subsidies for unsustainable production, and moves towards a circular economy, decoupling our economy from resource use in absolute terms.

This work should also take into account any progress in the context of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which has called for the world to commit to a “New Deal for Nature” in Beijing in 2020.

Other measures could include:

- Implementing legal strategies to incentivise limiting the total environmental impact of our production system, such as Integrated and Extended Producers Responsibility schemes, by making the manufacturer responsible for the entire supply chain and life-cycle of the product and especially for funding the take-back, recycling and final disposal.
- Redefining the shareholder value law/regulation to avoid production based on ‘maximised profit’ and instead to promote production based on ‘societal benefit and environmental benignity’.
- Internalising social and environmental costs (at the source) and the application of fair pricing.
- Using financial instruments: tax shift from income tax towards environmental use/global taxes such as the border adjustment tax to tax products from those countries that are causing environmental degradation/climate change.

Capacity Building and International Development

Another area which could be further analysed and developed prior to any intergovernmental conference would be capacity building and international development.

There is a strong need to strengthen capacity building around the environment for developing countries. This should include capacity building, technical assistance (for example, with regulation and enforcement) and financial support. This should preferably be undertaken within the new development framework as pioneered by the Secretary General by working with the UN family and the UN country teams to address the needs that developing countries have identified, but should also be accomplished by more effectively identifying and working

closely with member states already undertaking international development work and stakeholders. For example, many NGOs are already working to support environmental development.

Education and Awareness

Another area which needs to be progressed is education and awareness. This should include both environmental and sustainable development education in schools, and consumer education/awareness. This could be approached through the compilation of best practice - in approach, educational resources and pedagogy for school programmes and social science perspectives on consumer change, in the first instance.

Stakeholders

There should be a main role for Stakeholder Groups that defends the environment, nature and animals. The majority of the current Stakeholder Groups represent economic and social interests, and one group represents private interests, but there is no sole representation on behalf of environment, nature and animals: These cannot represent their own interests, and need voices to speak on their behalf.