The fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly

Presentation to the CPR Bureau 23 April 2019
and to the CPR Subcommittee 7 May 2019
UNEA 4

MAIN POLITICAL OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW-UP
UNEA 4 – main political outcomes

• An important milestone for global environmental multilateralism
• Ministerial Declaration adopted
• 23 resolutions adopted
• 3 decisions adopted
• Programme of Work and Budget adopted
• Implementation plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet” welcomed
• The 6th Global Environment Outlook GEO-6 welcomed
Number of UNEA Outcomes

Number of Resolutions & Decisions

* Ministerial Declaration adopted
Increased role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on follow-up and review of implementation

*Decision UNEA/UNEP/EA.4/1 on PoW / Budget*
- Implementation of GA RES 72/279 and 71/243 on UN reform / UNDAFs
- Early consultations with MS on new initiatives
- Sustainability, predictability, and stability of the funding of future UNEAs.

*Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.22 on Implementation and follow-up of UNEA resolutions*
- Requests ED to develop an online monitoring mechanism to “track and assess UNEP’s implementation of resolutions in the framework of the Programme of Work and Budget”

*Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.23 Keeping the world environment under review*
- The CPR to approve the composition of a steering committee to support consultations on options for the next GEO

*Decision UNEP/EA.4/2 on Provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA 5*
- CPR-based review of UNEA and subsidiary bodies to improve efficiency/effectiveness
- Requests the ED to develop action plan to implement Para 88 of Rio + 20 outcome
- Requests the UNEA bureau to define a theme for UNEA 5 before end 2019, in consultation with the CPR
The 146th Committee of Permanent Representatives on 20 of June - an important milestone

- The Secretariat is reviewing/fine-tuning reporting to the CPR on the basis of guidance from UNEA 4

- Some key decisions and resolutions requiring early action from the Secretariat are:
  - Decision UNEP/EA.4/1 on PoW / Budget
  - Decision UNEP/EA.4/2 on Provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA 5
  - Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.6 Marine plastic litter and microplastics
  - Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.22 on Implementation and follow-up of UNEA resolutions
  - Resolution UNEP.EA.4/RES.23 Keeping the world environment under review
Status of preparations for the High Level Political Forum, 9-18 July

- UNEA 4 technical contribution to ECOSOC President letter (submitted 18 March in line with the ECOSOC deadline)
- Formal UNEA 4 report to the ECOSOC under finalization
- Programme for the UNEA President at HLPF at the High Level Segment of the HLPF on 16 July under development
- Support provided on request to MS on national reports
- Contributions to regional sustainable development Forums and to the preparation of a draft HLPF declaration
- Identification of UNEP-led side events at HLPF and summit
New UNEA 5 bureau: enhancing the strategic role of bureau meetings and the role of Bureau members

• President: Mr. Ola Elvestuen, Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway.

• Vice Chairs: Costa Rica, Serbia, France, Bahrain, Suriname, Indonesia, Estonia, Burkina Faso

• Rapporteur: South Africa

• First UNEA Bureau tentatively planned on 3 July in conjunction with the Ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity in Norway (2-5 July)
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PARTICIPATION AND PERCEPTIONS
UNEA 4 – participation

• 176 Member States/observer states represented; 132 at ministerial level (114 Ministers, 18 Deputy Ministers)
• 4,942 participants in total (43% Female, 54% Male, 3% not specified)
• 1,712 Member States delegates
• 120 IGO representatives (94 MEA and UNEP Entities)
• 917 NGO representatives
• 499 Private Sector/Trusts/Foundations representatives
• 72 independent experts
• 426 invited guests and speakers
Overall perception of UNEA 4 is very positive - but the survey turnout so far has been limited

The online survey for UNEA-4 participants indicate that a large majority of participants:

- rate UNEA 4 as **very successful or successful** (74% of respondents)
- perceived UNEA 4 as **very effective or effective** in informing participants about key environmental issues (76%)
- would **recommend a colleague to attend** the next UNEA (71%)
- consider the UNEA **website excellent or adequate** (75%)
- consider the UNEA **App excellent or adequate** (73%)
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CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT
917 civil society actors participated at UNEA

- 57% of from accredited organizations; 43% from non-accredited
- UNEA 4 attracted new stakeholders such as faith groups, plastic pollution/marine litter NGOs and SCP-focused groups
- Majority of NGOs from the African region, followed by Europe and North America

Civil Society online UNEA 4 survey - key conclusions:

- UNEA considered an ideal networking platform – but too many events taking place in parallel
- Most appreciated events: Green Tent, Marine Litter events, Faith events
- Call for improved opportunities to engage with UNEA in a meaningful and proactive way, including through timely speaking slots
- Call for measurable targets to be agreed and for information on implementation status of UNEA resolutions
- A majority (293 responses out of 315) considered that their participation in CPR meetings was not effective
The Sustainable Innovation Expo

• The UNEA 4 Sustainable Innovation Expo focused on *Eco-Innovation and Sustainable Financing*, with two platforms:
  
  ➢ SIE interactive dialogues with 9 Panel Discussions, 3 Pop-up Chats, and 5 Side Events
  
  ➢ SIE exhibits with 46 companies showcasing innovative solutions to environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production

• The Expo convened businesses, governmental bodies and civil society to find solutions, nurture partnerships, and help implement the SDGs

• The Expo provided a space for all participants to network and share best practices

• SIE exhibits and panels were mapped to support the political outcomes of UNEA 4

• Over 500 private sector participants were present during UNEA 4.
UNEA 4

MEDIA OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION
Significant media and social media coverage of UNEA 4

Multimedia and stories
• 76 #SolveDifferent stories on UNEA were published; top 3 stories were:
  ➢ What’s in your burger? (5,799 views)
  ➢ Putting the Brakes on Fast Fashion (6,660)
  ➢ Innovative cooling system (3,400)
• Multimedia content boosted visibility, with more than 3 million video views (a 100% increase compared to UNEA 3)

News and media
• 388 journalists from 52 countries attended UNEA 4
• UNEA 4 was covered in 26,500 news articles (128% increase compared to UNEA 3) in 160 countries and 49 languages
Digital platforms

- #SolveDifferent engaged 124,000 people
- #UNEA4 received 54,000 mentions and engaged 98,000
- #SolveDifferent and #UNEA4 were top trending topics on Kenyan Twitter on the UNEA opening day
- The Solve Different website received 54,402 page views
- Seven campaign newsletters were sent out, with the number of subscribers going to over 109,000 people

Goodwill Ambassadors

- Top influencers attending UNEA 4 included Amina J. Mohammed, Aidan Gallagher, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Dia Mirza, Uhuru Kenyatta, Lewis Pugh, and Nadya Hutagalung
- UN Environment National Goodwill Ambassador Karry Wang, a Chinese singer and actor, attracted over 510 million views for his social media posts; hashtag #KarryatUNEA4 was a trending topic.
Flagship publications

• Several flagship publications received significant media attention: GEO-6, the 2nd Global Chemicals Outlook, the Global Resources Outlook, the Frontiers Report

GEO-6
• Efforts to increase reach include an interactive story (8,369 views), press release, launch video (over 1.1 million views), and infographics.
• Within the first month, the report was downloaded 10,241 times.