

Possible themes for UNEA-5

EEG's Recommendations on themes

Chosen theme:

Addressing the water-energy-food interlinkages for sustainability

Rationale behind the theme chosen:

The Emirates Environmental Group, after considerable consultation and discussion, has chosen the theme: Addressing the water-energy-food interlinkages for sustainability.

We believe the linkage between these three sectors i.e. water, energy and food is critical for sustainability, economic development as well as environmental preservation. The demand in these three sectors is constantly on the rise due to rapidly growing global population, urbanisations, rising incomes etc. Thus, it is imperative that the UN Environment Programme and its members and stakeholders find action-oriented and strategic solutions to counter the same.

However, we do recommend changing the theme to '**Addressing the water-energy-food nexus for sustainability**'. Using the word '**nexus**' can broaden the theme and make it less technical (which was also one of the recommendations provided during the July meeting). The Nexus approach – one that integrates managements and governance across sectors – will allow different players (governments, private sector, civil society) to provide their stories in this regard. Other reasons include:

- Easier transition to a green economy through this approach;
- Reducing negative externalities (social, economic and environmental);
- Building strategic synergies across the various sectors;
- Better understanding of the interlinkages and interdependencies across the three sectors;
- More potential for mutually beneficial approaches for the various sectors involved;

Given below are our recommendations on some of the issues that can be addressed under this theme:

- Addressing challenges in the water-energy-food nexus from the different parts of the world;

- Developing tools/resources to build a database on the water-energy-food nexus in different countries/regions;
- Help with microeconomic impact assessments on various success stories to evaluate the economic, social and environmental benefits of projects from around the globe;
- UNEA to act as a catalyst to generate interest for the nexus amongst governments, academia, civil society and other stakeholders;