



Feedback Switzerland

Programme of Work and Budget (version 1 Oct 2020)

Link to POW/B : [Weblink](#) (version 1 Oct, for ASC 2020)

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Overarching considerations following the intervention during the ASC 2020

- Switzerland wants to congratulate UNEP on the transparent, open and inclusive process towards developing the MTS and the PoW and Budget.
- Most importantly, Switzerland wants to express its **full support** for the approach taken by the Secretariat on shaping its new MTS: the three action areas, with sustainable consumption and production considered to be the enabling element, and science-policy & governance to form the foundation for the three action areas.

The following three elements we would like to see strengthened in the next versions of MTS & PoW:

- We support the understanding that unsustainable consumption and production patterns are considered to be the underlying threat of environmental protection. SCP is to some extent included in the “Finance and Economic Chapter” of the MTS. While the production angle of SCP is embedded well in the chapter, the topic would merit a more explicit placing of the **consumption angle** into the strategy and more so in the PoW. Further, it does not, however, refer to the 10YFP / One Planet Network. This framework ends in 2022. We consider a framework like the **10YFP** embedded in the UN as absolutely crucial to address SCP in the long-term as laid out in the MTS.
- The current MTS advocates for authoritative science that is delivered with greater coherence and integration. In order for UNEP to continue to be an authoritative voice in the global scientific community, [] collecting and analyzing scientific data, **and assessing potentials and risks of new & emerging technologies** is of utmost importance. A sound assessment of potential benefits and risks of new and emerging issues is fundamental for further political action. In order to have UNEP lead the digital transformation, UNEP must be ready to assess emerging technologies.
- We are suggesting adequate space for the work of UNEP under the Environment Management Group. PoW and MTS should be highlighting the role of the EMG and its System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment in the UN system. The documents must allow us to understand the role and opportunity of UNEP in the EMG and the UN-wide strategy.



Chapter	Section / Page / Paragraph	Comments (including argumentation)	Questions to UNEP Secretariat
Science-policy as a foundation (p. 9)	First para	<p><i>UNEP will provide the enabling conditions for countries to institutionalize sustainable development goal monitoring with respect to the environmental dimension of the SDGS and the internationally agreed environmental goals, data calibration and monitoring and reporting.</i></p> <p>As the custodian agency for 26 indicators of the sustainable development goals UNEP should not embark on the institutionalization of all SDGs monitoring and rather focus on the 26 indicators and the environmental dimension of the SDGs. UNEP has neither the capacity, the expertise nor the mandate to implement/monitor/etc. the SDGs beyond the environmental dimension of sustainable development.</p> <p>UNEP on the other hand (as a provider of the Secretariats of many MEAs) should rather support the monitoring of the internationally agreed environmental goals.</p> <p>UNEP must commit to and promote the standardization of indicators and methodologies, and to free and open access to data from monitoring and observations from in situ and remote sensing.</p>	
	First para	<p><i>Science-policy will empower governments and other stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions through environmental assessments, identifying and tackling emerging issues and fostering policy action ...</i></p>	

	First para	<p><i>UNEP will also use innovative and targeted ways of publishing to ensure that information and data reach the intended target audiences. The World Environment Situation Room can provide the necessary science-policy interface in that regard.</i></p> <p>In order to bridge science/data and its assessment with informed decision-making the WESR is a promising vehicle in that respect.</p> <p>Proposed wording: "... data reach the intended target audiences and is available in a free and open manner"</p> <p>Furthermore, UNEP should foster scientific knowledge, approaches and tools for enhanced coordination, cooperation and synergies for the coherent implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.</p>	
	Table 1		Does UNEP collect information on climate? What is meant there really?
	Table 1	Chemicals & Pollution action: water quantity is forgotten.	
Environmental governance as a foundation (p. 10)	First para	<p><i>UNEP will catalyze capacities to support the development and effective implementation of fair, clear and coherent policies, legal frameworks and institutions.</i></p> <p>Following the mandate of 1972 (GC 2997) UNEP's work with respect to implementing projects and programmes targets mainly the coordination. It is termed as "catalyzing support" versus capacity building measures on the ground.</p>	

Finance and economic transformations as an enabler (p. 11)	Table 3, para on climate action	<p><i>Private and public finance flows are aligned with the long-term finance goals of the Paris Agreement.</i></p> <p>Private and public finance flows should <i>be aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement</i> and not the long-term finance goals, i.e. they should support the implementation of the objectives of the Paris Agreement anchored in Art. 2.1.</p>	
	Table 3, para on Chemicals & Pollution action	<p><i>Land-based sources of land, water and ocean pollution reduced eliminated, including plastic litter and nitrogen.</i></p> <p>UNEP needs to tackle the pollution across all the spheres of the environment, that includes soli/land. According to UNEA 3/7 OP 1, "... long-term <i>elimination</i> of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans ..." we speak of "elimination" rather of "reduction."</p>	
		<p>The text highlights the promotion of innovative pathways to sustainable consumption and production. It does not, however, refer to the 10YFP / One Planet Network. This framework ends in 2022. We consider a framework like the 10YFP embedded in the UN as absolutely crucial to address SCP in the long-term. In this light, a consideration of a post-2022 area should also find its way into the Programme of Work.</p>	
Digital transformations as an enabler (p. 12)	First Para	<p><i>... through partnerships, platforms and networks to amplify and accelerate progress towards the internationally agreed global environmental goals as well as a circular economy.</i></p> <p>Argumentation see above.</p>	
	First Para	<p><i>UNEP will leverage environmental digital public goods and assess the risk and benefits of related digital technologies ...</i></p> <p>A sound assessment of potential benefits and risks of new and emerging issues is fundamental for further political action. In order to have UNEP lead the digital transformation, UNEP must be ready to assess emerging technologies.</p>	

	<p>First Para</p>	<p>In order to bridge science/data and its assessment with informed decision-making the WESR is a promising vehicle in that respect. In particular when talking to digitalization the new form of the WESR in providing a science-policy interface should find its way into this paragraph.</p> <p>UNEP-Informea develops a tool (DaRT) to facilitate an integrated reporting against the biodiversity related conventions implementing the future Global Biodiversity Framework. This tool will ease the reporting burden by parties, allow an integrated assessment of the state of biodiversity and grants public access to data.</p>	
			<p>Does the digital transformation also affect UNEP itself (nature action: digital nudging towards services with lower env. footprint), e.g. by giving greater weight to virtual participation opportunities?</p>
<p>Climate Action (p. 6, 15) (list in p. 9-11)</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Indicator (i) could be enhanced to also include some measure of implementation. Policies not only need to be adopted, but also implemented.</p> <p>Furthermore, it would be useful to distinguish between the various levels of ambition of these climate policies. In that sense, additional indicators could be: the number of countries that aim for -50% emissions by 2030, or the number of countries that have set climate neutrality objectives by 2050. These two objectives are in line with the recommendations of the IPCC.</p> <p>On Indicator (iii), it is not clear how we intend to measure the: “Increase in knowledge and positive shift in public opinion, attitudes, and actions in support of climate action, nature and addressing pollution”</p> <p>On Indicator (iv), we can clarify that we are referring to “accounting standards” <u>as defined under the Paris Agreement.</u></p>	<p>How does the UNEP Secretariat intend to measure the “increase in knowledge and positive shift in public opinion, attitudes, and actions in support of climate action, nature, and addressing pollution”. While we fully support this objective, we feel that it would be useful to define more precise indicators.</p> <p>We would also suggest looking not only at how many countries have defined climate policies, but at their level of ambition and at their level of implementation. Further work is needed to define appropriate indicators in that regard.</p>

	9-11	<p>In pages 9 to 11, we appreciate the clear emphasis on transparency and accountability. We also appreciate the emphasis on policy informed by science and data, in particular the attention around carbon neutrality.</p> <p>Under page 10 “environmental governance”, we could add the objective that “national capacity is enhanced for effective national implementation of environmental agreements and regulations”.</p> <p>Furthermore, we recommend an explicit mention of countries’ preparation and submission of NDCs and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategies, as defined under the Paris Agreement, in addition to other national policies and strategies.</p>	
	12	<p>Whilst the objectives on Climate Action are all very pertinent, it is not clear how they are linked with digital transformation, and what is meant to be achieved in terms of digital transformation.</p>	<p>Could the UNEP Secretariat perhaps specify what are the expected outputs and outcomes, in terms of digital transformation?</p>
<p>Nature Action (p. 7, 16) (list in p. 9-11)</p>	Table p. 7	<p>2030 Outcome: Recovery of nature ensured and contributing positively to human well-being</p> <div data-bbox="622 778 967 906" style="border: 1px solid green; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>2026-2029 Outcomes All sectors contribute to maintaining the integrity of biodiversity and ecosystems for human wellbeing</p> </div> <p>These parts of the diagram are too anthropocentric. UNEP is not protecting the environment for human beings. It is for all living creatures. But it is true that in the discussion on a Global Biodiversity Framework a strong link between conservation and the “benefits to people” (IPBES: “Nature’s Contribution to People” NCP) is established.</p>	
	Page 9	<div data-bbox="622 1190 936 1353" style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Data and scientific knowledge are persuasively translated into feasible policy instruments and action plans</p> </div>	<p>It is not clear that all actions of UNEP under science-policy are going to be limited to? What does improved science mean?</p> <p>Indigenous and local traditional knowledge can contribute to sustainable management of Nature. How is UNEP tapping into that knowledge, specifically/practically? How does it fit into the new data strategy?</p>

	Page 10	Could you better describe and explain the relationship between environmental governance and in “Benefits of the sustainable use of biodiversity equitably accessed and shared”	
	Page 11		<p>“Food systems support biodiversity and environment sustainability. Please explain where does finance come into play?”</p> <p>“Ocean and coastal economy contributes to prosperity and pollution-free development.” How can ocean economy have an impact on agricultural pesticides on the land?</p> <p>How exactly can the private sector financial flows improve ecosystem management?</p> <p>The text states that sustainable value chains are adopted, product comparability enhanced, and circularity maximized. Where exactly comes the finance into play?</p>
<p>Chemical and Pollution Action (p. 8, 17) (list in p. 9-11)</p>	p. 8, diagramm	<p>- Air pollution action, sustainable mobility and clean energy supported. - Institutional capacity enhanced to adopt and act on national and international commitments. - “3R” waste management systems mainstreamed. - Resource efficiency and circularity in key sectors improved. Global advocacy to phase out most harmful / polluting substances and practices.</p> <p>We do not see either the link to finance: Use of chemicals of concern in products reduced in key sectors.</p> <p>The importance of the existing legal instruments, their further strengthening and development should come out more explicit and clearly.</p>	

	9, table 1:	Add for chemicals and waste that strengthening science-policy in the field of chemicals and waste will enable and improve not only environmental policies but also linked policies in areas such as health, agriculture, labour, etc.	
	Page 10	In the context of UNEP's support to MEAs please add that UNEP can further strengthen MEAs through the sharing of services and the use of synergies.	
UNEP's performance measures (p.18)	Figure 5	<i>(Direct) ..., catalyzing capacity development and ...</i> Following the mandate of 1972 (GC 2997) UNEP's work with respect to implementing projects and programmes targets mainly the coordination. It is termed as "catalyzing support" versus capacity building measures on the ground.	
Executive Management, Policymaking Organs, Programme Management and Support (p. 19-21)		See comments in relation to the Budget in our general intervention.	
	Page 20		UNEP wants to develop more customized training for its staff: is this cost-effective? UNEP wants to present its internal evaluations in the CPR. For reasons of transparency and inclusiveness, would online availability not be appropriate (possibly in addition to presentation in the CPR)?
	Page 21	The EMG is not mentioned under System-Wide Strategies. We are suggesting a new para that will be highlighting the role of the EMG in line with implementing the System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment in the UN system and the role of UNEP in it. This will allow follow up and reporting on the implementation of the environmental aspects of the SDGs by the UN system, also speaking to the UNEP GEO process providing regular and systemic UN system data and analysis on the environmental indicators of the SGs to UNEA and HLPF.	