



# SwitchMed and UNEA Resolutions

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment and meets biennially to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop international environmental law. Through its resolutions and calls to action, the Assembly provides leadership and catalyzes intergovernmental action on the environment. The Assembly is the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the successor of its Governing Council, which was composed of 58 member States. UNEA, with a universal membership, is now composed of 193 Member States.



The first (23-27 June 2014) and second (23-27 May 2016) UNEA editions discussed and adopted resolutions on major issues of illegal trade in wildlife, air quality, environmental rule of law, financing the green economy, the Sustainable Development Goals, and “delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The third UNEA edition (4-6, December 2017) under “Towards a pollution-free planet” addressed five sub-themes: Water Pollution, Land Pollution, Marine Pollution, Air Pollution, and Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste.

The fourth Environment Assembly was held on 11-15 March 2019, focusing on the theme “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production (SCP)” and addressed three focus areas:

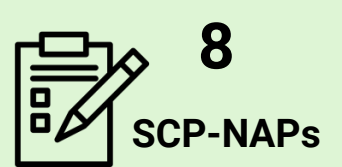
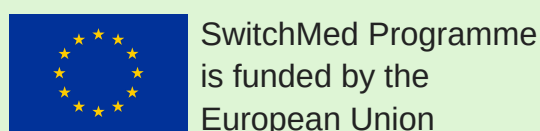
- environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security and halting biodiversity loss;
- life-cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, chemicals and waste management;
- innovative sustainable business development at a time of rapid technological change.

The SwitchMed work coordinated by UNEP and implemented in close collaboration with the countries responds directly to several of the UNEA 4:

#### EA.4/Res.1: Innovative pathways to achieve SCP

- Countries **implement policies** to move toward SCP such as resource efficiency, circular economy, sustainable materials, management, and 3Rs;
- Developing domestic policy measures to empower consumers;
- Achieve SCP through improving resource efficiency and moving towards circular economy when **developing relevant national plans and policies**, strategies and sector policies;
- Develop **sustainable public procurement** policies in line with the Sustainable Development Goal target 12;
- Support education and awareness raising regarding sustainable consumption, sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumer.

**SwitchMed contribution:** Eight Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans (SCP-NAPs) of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia), Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) projects in Egypt and Israel, Green label of Tel Aviv Yafo Municipality of Israel.





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## EA.4/Res.2: Promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste

- Develop and share best practice regarding integrated, energy-efficient and safe cold chain solutions that bring value to farmers and producers, and introduce innovative post-harvest technologies;
- Develop and share best practice regarding food preservation innovations to enhance the cooling and preservation of food products during the manufacturing, packaging, transportation and handling processes.

**SwitchMed contribution:** demonstration activities in Palestine included three tools for i) biological control of agricultural pests; ii) preserving organic matter and moisture content in soils; and iii) post harvesting techniques and handling of fruits and vegetables to prevent food loss and waste.

## EA.4/Res.4: Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices

- Create enabling conditions for policy reforms, innovative practices and technologies, economic instruments and investments to encourage efficiency;
- Recognizing initiatives to promote sustainable business such as resource-efficient and cleaner production, SWITCH Africa Green, **SwitchMed**, SWITCH-Asia Programmes, among others.

**SwitchMed contribution:** SwitchMed programme is mentioned in the resolution; eco-innovation demonstration projects carried out in Egypt and Jordan.

## EA.4/Res.7: Environmentally sound management of waste

- Integrated approaches to solid waste management through sustainable consumption and production;
- Through market mechanisms and capacity-building, to promote SCP to a circular economy;
- Promote policy alternatives and economic instruments to support sound management of solid waste;
- Promote public- and private-sector solutions for innovative waste management financing.

**SwitchMed contribution:** The waste management is a priority in the SCP-NAPS in Algeria, Egypt, Israel and Jordan. Demonstration project in Aqaba, Jordan included 15 hotels and 17 restaurants to turn the waste into an asset rather than a burden (waste audit, training needs assessments, capacity building workshops). An action plan was developed for a modification on the solid waste collection fees. Training carried out for local women on upcycling hotel material to reduce the amounts of solid waste.

## EA4/Res.9: Addressing single-use plastic products pollution

Facilitate technical and policy support regarding the environmental impact of single-use plastic products and the promotion of innovative and environmentally friendly solutions for their replacement.

**SwitchMed contribution:** Demonstration project in Egypt (National plastic bag initiative).

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## UN Environment Programme

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.



The EU-funded SwitchMed programme assists eight countries in the southern Mediterranean to switch to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and supports national and regional stakeholders in achieving productive, circular, and sharing economies in the Mediterranean. [www.switchmed.eu](http://www.switchmed.eu)