



CH-3003 Bern, BAFU

United Nations Environment Programme  
Jorge Laguna-Celis  
Secretariat of Governing Bodies  
PO Box 30552 – 00100  
Nairobi, Kenya

Reference: Q313-0172  
Your reference: : 00116(2017)  
Our reference:  
Contact person:  
**Bern, 7 August 2017**

## **Feedback of Switzerland to the Advance Copy of the Background Report on Pollution**

Dear Mr. Laguna-Celis,

We refer to the publication of the advance copy of the Background Report of the Executive Director on the theme of the third session of the Assembly, *Towards a Pollution-Free Planet* (Ref: Committee Note No: 00116(2017)). There, you welcome governments to comment on the advance copy of the report.

First, we would like to thank UNEP for a report that is well-crafted and focused on the key global issues of pollution. We also appreciate that this advance copy reaches to member states way ahead of UNEA-3. Here, we would like to make some general and a few specific suggestions on the policy-relevant chapters of the report. We hope that it improves the underlying document and that it will be a valuable basis for the summary for policy makers.

With regard to *chapter 3 on Transitioning to a Pollution-Free Planet*, we encourage you to place the existing **Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)** at the centre of the chapter. It is through these agreements that countries have obligations, implement actions and can get expertise and support. Thus, the role of MEAs in achieving a pollution-free planet is of utmost importance and the framework should use MEAs as a basis. The framework and text should also contain the international processes that complement the MEAs, e.g. the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

With regard to the selected interventions targeting *key pollution areas*, we consider it important to add the important element of **recycling** into the context of waste management. As a result, recycling should be included in the *Intervention 27* on page 43.

In *subchapter 3.3. on Enablers* you list as set of key enabling mechanisms to transition to a pollution free-planet. We believe that there is one important enabler missing, i.e. **international environmental governance**. UNEP must become the one gravitational center for global environmental policy, and hence must play its vital role in international environmental governance together with all the other actors.

The role of legal frameworks and governance are mentioned in the report, however, strengthening and supporting international environmental governance (and the positive interplay between the relevant actors) should be mentioned more explicitly as a key enabler.

Switzerland has actively supported and shaped the resolution at UNEA-2 on the role of UNEA and UNEP in delivering on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Throughout the underlying document, the SDGs are prominently linked to the elements of pollution. We must not, however, forget that we can build on existing products and processes towards achieving the SDGs and targeting pollution. The **internationally agreed environmental goals** (or originally called the Global Environmental Goals, GEGs) remain vital as a complementary but interlinked tool to the SDGs. They are drawn from the goals in existing multilateral environmental agreements, resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the results of UN summits. They present a comprehensive set of environmental goals and indicators, some of them serving as indicators for SDG targets. They are not only an essential basis to report on the environmental dimension of the SDG but represent the basis for the proposed way “towards a pollution-free world” and should be included prominently in the report.

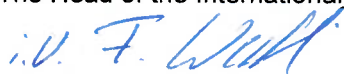
In *subchapter 3.2.1 on Building circularity into production processes and supply chains and key economic sectors*, examples of actions seem to focus on micro/meso (companies, industries) or on national levels. However, global action is particularly needed in the **extractive industries**. The extractives sector should not only lower its overall footprint, but is also an important supplier of key raw materials necessary for clean technologies and infrastructure which brings additional challenges in terms of coordination and governance with respect to achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Finally, **environmental due diligence** is an important aspect to enable systemic change, and strengthen governance across the supply chain. It should be mentioned in *Table 9*, in column *changing supply-chains/enabling systemic change* on page 46.

We hope the suggestions will prove valuable to UNEP when drafting the final version of the report and preparing the forthcoming summary for policy makers.

Yours sincerely,

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN  
The Head of the International Affairs Division



Franz Perrez  
Ambassador

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- Embassy of Switzerland in Kenya: DPR Florian Gubler
- Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York: Leo Karrer
- Directorate of Political Affairs, Sectoral Foreign Policies Division: Beatrice Schaer, Riccarda Caprez
- Federal Office for the Environment: Ambassador Franz Perrez, Martine Rohn-Brossard, Felix Wertli, Sebastian König, Michel Tschirren, Sibylle Vermont, Laura Platchkov

## König Sebastian BAFU

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**From:** owner-envimins@unep.org on behalf of UNEP SGB <unep.sgb@unep.org>  
**Sent:** Dienstag, 27. Juni 2017 08:06  
**To:** Void-envimins@unep.org  
**Cc:** Rosemary Mukasa; Monica Mutira; Henry Ndede  
**Subject:** Availability of the Background Report of the Executive Director on the theme of the third session of the UN Environment Assembly, ?Towards a Pollution-Free Planet?

**Ref: Committee Note No: 00116(2017)**

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the advance version of the Background Report of the Executive Director on the theme of the third session of the Assembly, Towards a Pollution-Free Planet, is now available at the following link:

<http://www.unep.org/about/cpr/reports-executive-director>

This advance version of the report by the Executive Director is meant to support preparations for the third session of the UN Environment Assembly. Comments to the Secretariat on the report are welcome.

The Secretariat will prepare a shorter version of this paper targeting policy makers. It will be provided in September.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

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# Towards a Pollution-Free Planet

Report of the Executive Director  
United Nations Environment Programme

Advance Copy (long version)

**UN**   
**environment  
assembly**

The 3rd United Nations  
Environment Assembly  
of the United Nations  
Environment Programme

