

**Comments by the European Union and its Member States
on Revised elements for the concept of the theme of UNEA-4**

CPR Subcommittee Meeting on 14 June 2018

- The EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat for providing the revised elements for the concept of the theme of the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly.
- While not all our comments have been taken on board we welcome the improvements made and especially with regard to the equal presentation of both components of the theme.
- Paragraph 7 of the revised concept note seems not to include various types of innovation that cover social innovation such as sharing of goods and services and also new business models. We would thus suggest adding an extra category on "social innovation and new business models, including sharing of goods and services".
- The EU and its Member States propose to broaden the scope of the second focus area "waste management" to "sustainable natural resources management, including circular economy, waste prevention, waste management and sound management of chemicals.
- By covering the full life cycle of economic activities, from the processing of resources into materials and products and the subsequent design, production, use and disposal of the products and related services (cf. paragraph 4 of the revised concept note), UNEA4 will enable the identification and promotion of solutions to move towards the achievement of a broader set of SDG12 targets, beyond those linked to waste management. These include i.a. decoupling, sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, sound management of chemical and wastes, better plastics management and prevention of plastics litter, and generally reduction of waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.
- We would like to reiterate that the concept note should recognize the strong links the theme has to the SDG target 12.4 on the 2020 goal on the sound management of chemicals and waste and the need to come back substantively to this matter at UNEA-4, including in particular on the "sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020" which is entering its decisive phase.