

NOTE TO THE CPR

Possible role of Voluntary Commitments in the context of the development of the Implementation Plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”: *Keeping Track, sharing progress and allowing for new or expanded voluntary commitments*

In the run up to and at the third session of the UN Environment Assembly held in Nairobi in December 2017, the Secretariat encouraged stakeholders to make voluntary commitments “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”. By the end of December 2017, 405 Voluntary Commitments were submitted and registered, including 269 from 69 different governments, 32 from private sector entities and 104 from civil society organizations, which provide details of their current and future actions for tackling pollution. (an analysis report¹ and a short video presenting expected potential impacts of the commitments are available URL to be inserted).

As mandated by the Ministerial Outcome Document adopted at the third session of the Assembly, an Implementation Plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet” will be developed submitted for consideration by Member States at the fourth session of the Assembly, to be held from 11 - 15 March 2019 in Nairobi, following in-depth consultations with Member States.

It is proposed that the implementation of existing and new voluntary commitments should constitute an integral part of the Implementation Plan to be adopted at the fourth session of the Assembly. The commitments can help mobilize stakeholders to take an active role in transformative change towards a pollution-free planet, and stimulate concerted action, and can be considered to represent a solid understanding of stakeholder priorities and of their readiness to act.

With a view to keeping track and share progress of existing commitments, and allow for making new or expanded voluntary commitments, the following is proposed:

- 1) **Member states and stakeholders that have made voluntary commitments in the run up to and at UNEA3 will be invited to share brief progress updates through an online portal** by mid-December 2018 at the latest, including through a formal request addressed to the focal points appointed by the entities which submitted commitments.
- 2) To further accelerate actions against pollution prior to UNEA4 which will consider the Implementation Plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”, **Member States and stakeholders could also be invited to make new or expanded voluntary commitments.** Such commitments should:
 - Relate to any or all of the following pollution areas: air, water, land and soil, marine and coastal, and cross-cutting chemicals and waste;
 - Consist of concrete targets or actions to avoid, reduce, mitigate, measure, monitor, report, and/or manage pollution;

¹ Towards a Pollution-Free Planet: #BeatPollution Voluntary Commitments, https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/beatpollution_voluntary_commitments_evaluation_and_monitoring_reporting_and_evaluation_framework_-_final_2018.pdf

These new or expanded voluntary commitments should be made on the online portal (URL to be inserted when available), and be subject to the same process as for existing commitments, with a two-year self-reporting cycle adapted to the timing of future sessions of the UN Environment Assembly.

3. Based on progress updates provided by stakeholders, the Secretariat would develop a brief progress report to be made available to future UNEA meetings for information.