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## **United Nations Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific Office**

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## **Review of the implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly and secretarial functions**

***Discussion Document -- Not for quotation or citation.*** The purpose of this document is to facilitate discussions during the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, 5-7 October 2021. Comments are welcome and should be sent to [unep-  
apmf@un.org](mailto:unep-<br/>apmf@un.org).

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Senior Officials' Meeting at the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific will review progress of the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions in Asia and the Pacific. The Forum is being organized jointly by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). This session will also review progress of regional forums where UNEP is the secretariat.

2. This background paper has three main sections. The first section is an introduction to this discussion document. The second section provides an update of the implementation of the resolutions in Asia Pacific during the period of January 2020 to June 2021. The third section presents secretarial functions of UN Environment Programme's Asia and the Pacific Office during the period of Jan 2020-June 2021. Supplementary information on progress on implementation of resolutions during 2019 is also available in the Annex. The last section looks at the processes and mechanisms for promoting Asia Pacific priorities in the resumed session of the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) in February 2022.

## **II. Regional and country follow up on the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions**

3. This section provides the follow up on implementation in Asia Pacific of the following resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly:

- A. Resolution 4/3 Sustainable mobility
- B. Resolution 2/6 Supporting the Paris Agreement
- C. Resolution 1/8 Ecosystem-based adaptation
- D. Resolution 4/10 Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation
  - Resolution 2/16 Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being
- E. Resolution 4/11 Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
  - Resolution 4/9 Addressing Single-use Plastic Products Pollution
- F. Resolution 4/12 Sustainable Management for Global Health of Mangrove
- G. Resolution 4/13 Sustainable coral reefs management
  - 2/12 Sustainable coral reefs management
- H. Resolution 4/14 Sustainable Nitrogen Management
- I. Resolution 4/16 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands
- J. Resolution 2/4 Role, functions and modalities for UNEP implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- K. Resolution 2/10 Oceans and seas
- L. Resolution 2/17 Enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration, and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions
- M. Resolution 2/23 Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication

- N. Resolution 4/17 Promote gender equality, and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance
- O. Resolution 4/18 Poverty Environment Nexus
- P. Resolution 4/20 Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V)
  - 2/19 Midterm review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme)
- Q. Resolution 2/14 Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
  - 1/3 Illegal trade in wildlife
- R. Resolution 4/2 Promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste
  - 2/9 Prevention, reduction, and reuse of food waste
- S. Resolution 4/6 Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics
  - 3/7 Marine litter and microplastics
  - 2/11 Marine plastic litter and micro-plastics
  - 1/6 Marine plastic debris and microplastics
- T. Resolution 4/7 Environmentally Sound Management of Waste; Resolution 4/8 Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste
  - 2/7 Sound management of chemicals and waste
  - 1/5 Chemicals and waste
- U. Resolution 3/8 Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally
  - 1/7 Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality
- V. Resolution 3/9 Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries
- W. Resolution 4/1 Innovative Pathways to Achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production
  - 2/8 Sustainable consumption and production
- X. Resolution 4/5 Sustainable infrastructure
- Y. Resolution 4/23 Keeping the World Environment under Review: Enhancing UNEP's Science-Policy Interface and Endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook
  - Resolution 1/4 Science-policy interface
- Z. Resolution 3/4 Environment and Health

*Resolutions included in Annex:*

- i. Resolution 4/4 Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices\*
- ii. Resolution 3/5 Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals\*

## **A. Resolution 4/3 Sustainable mobility**

4. UNEP, in partnership with the International Energy Agency and Asian Development Bank (ADB), is currently implementing a “Global Programme to Support Countries with the Shift to Electric Mobility.” The objective of this project is to ‘support countries to design and implement electric mobility programs as part of an overall shift to sustainable, low carbon transport sector.’ In Asia and the Pacific, six countries were supported by UNEP and collaborating agencies to access Global Environment Facility (GEF) funds to implement country programmes: India, Maldives and Sri Lanka with support from UNEP, Bangladesh and Indonesia with support from the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Philippines in collaboration with the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The Global Programme will also establish regional technical support and investment platforms to support further development of e-mobility in the region. The ADB will lead the regional platform for Asia Pacific.

5. UNEP has also supported the development of policy and research to transition to e-mobility focusing on two- and three-wheeler vehicles in Viet Nam, the Philippines and Thailand, including an assessment of the electricity demand and manufacturing potential in these countries. Policy Guidelines on Electric 2&3 Wheelers in Southeast Asia were developed together with the Electric Vehicle Associations in Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In Uttar Pradesh, India, UNEP have completed a project with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) of the Government of India focusing on establishing a charging network in the state and developing their state e-mobility policy. In Indonesia, UNEP supported the integration of e-busses in the Trans Jakarta Bus System and facilitated resources from the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to provide further technical assistance to the city. In China, UNEP, in partnership with Tsinghua University, has organized a multi-stakeholder forum on management of waste electric vehicle batteries and is developing a guidance manual on waste battery of electric vehicles with Chinese case studies to promote awareness and knowledge on management of waste battery of electric vehicles in the region. UNEP is also implementing projects to promote cleaner and efficient fuels and vehicle policies in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, and the Philippines.

6. UNEP and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition have also supported an emissions inventory for waterways in Bangkok to analyze the emissions contribution of ferries and boats, together with the Pollution Control Department of Thailand and the Asian Institute of Technology, to highlight sustainable mobility in rivers and canals.

## **B. Resolution 2/6 Supporting the Paris Agreement**

7. In 2019 and 2020, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Support programme trained 278 government officials from the 42 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including the LDCs in the Asia Pacific region, on tools and methods to advance the NAP process specifically on integrated, risk-informed climate response, and integration of transboundary climate risks into the NAP process. In addition, 17 LDCs have received support to establish national systems for climate change data and develop coordination strategies. Further, UNEP has supported the LDC Climate Change Negotiating Group to implement the LDC’s workplan, specifically through coordinating a strategy meeting for their contribution to the Secretary General’s Climate Action Summit and Climate Change Talk in Madrid, Spain. It has also continued its collaboration with the LDCs University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) and efforts to expand the consortium membership and build the capacity of homegrown institutions to support

LDC countries in accessing finance and integrating climate change adaptation into education and research.

8. UNEP initiated a project in 2019 to provide technical support to Bangladesh, Mongolia and Viet Nam to detail actions based on their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including developing policies to support action and financing plans for investments, in two identified sectors. 26 officials from 9 countries in the Asia and the Pacific region have increased capacity to develop and implement gender inclusive NDCs, particularly on energy and agriculture due to UNEP's support. As a part of newly established partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Energy (ACE), 20 officials from the ASEAN Centre for Energy were trained on gender mainstreaming in the energy sector. Under the EmPower (Women for Climate-Resilient Societies) project, 20 different renewable-energy based livelihood opportunities have been identified in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Viet Nam. These include methods to help build climate-resilient communities and directly serve more than 300 women. National institutions in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam are also being supported to integrate gender equality and human rights in their climate change and energy policies and processes.

9. Through the Cool Coalition, UNEP is supporting Cambodia, Bangladesh, India, Viet Nam to enhance or achieve their NDC targets through the reduction of energy and refrigerant-related emissions from the cooling sector across buildings, transportation, agricultural and industrial processes, and the provision of effective health services. Specifically, UNEP is working with these four countries in partnership with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UNDP and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to reflect cooling in their NDCs and to implement ambitious, cross-sectoral approaches to meet growing cooling demands using energy efficiency, renewable energy and nature-based solutions. The Cool Coalition is also catalyzing finance to support such efforts including the new Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP) NDC Cooling Support facility of \$12 million and the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) two new financing windows for cooling action readiness and investment.

10. UNEP's District Energy in Cities Initiative is supporting India, China, Mongolia and Malaysia on the decarbonization of the heating and cooling sector by scaling up investment in modern district energy and trigeneration systems which improve efficiency, can use nature-based energy sources such as rivers, lakes and seas or the heat from below the earth's surface (geo-exchange), as well as renewable energy sources. As a result of the work of UNEP in India, two cities, Rajkot, and Thane, have started the procurement phase for the construction of district energy systems.

11. UNEP is supporting Lao PDR,<sup>1</sup> Fiji, Thailand, Maldives, and Myanmar to strengthen their Transparency Framework to enable them to effectively track climate actions and greenhouse gas emissions and use the information for the design of effective and ambitious climate actions. Additionally, UNEP, in collaboration with UNESCAP, is developing tracking methodology for cities to track Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) baselines and developing solutions for integrated urban energy to help cities identify and implement solutions to meet their climate and energy targets under SDG7.

12. UNEP's Asia and the Pacific Office is supporting India, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Myanmar to improve energy efficiencies of appliances through Global Environment Facility financing. The Green Climate Fund Readiness for Energy Efficient Appliance

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<sup>1</sup> Lao People's Democratic Republic

project was initiated in Lao PDR, with the aims of supporting the development of a national Strategy and Action plan, including financing proposals for increasing the sale of energy efficient appliance in the market. This will support the country in implementing its NDCs.

13. UNEP's Asia and the Pacific Office has supported Myanmar, Vanuatu, and Maldives to access funds from the Green Climate Fund to formulate and implement medium and long-term National level adaptation plans. This support will help to build technical and institutional capacity towards developing adaptation plans and financing mechanisms to build climate resilience. The Green Climate Fund approved the US\$49.9 million Programme on "Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean". This is UNEP's first multi-country programmatic initiative, and will cover the Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu, countries with some of the world's smallest and most dispersed populations surrounded by vast ocean areas. UNEP has also supported Vanuatu to develop a Green Climate Fund project concept proposal to increase resilience of vulnerable and marginalized communities of Malekula Island through Integrated Water Resource Management and Ecosystem-based Interventions.

14. UNEP and UN-Habitat have partnered to support the Government of Myanmar to further integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into Myanmar's national priorities, which include becoming a climate resilient, low-carbon society. This will be done under the Second Phase of Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA2) supported by the European Union flagship initiative named the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) programme.

15. The UN-REDD Programme, a joint undertaking of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNDP and UNEP, was developed to advance the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2008. Since then, it has become a flagship UN partnership for delivering on the Paris Agreement and the SDGs with a people-focused approach. Through the UN-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) Programme, UNEP has supported Viet Nam to submit their first Summary of Information on REDD+ safeguards to the UNFCCC, making Viet Nam among the first countries in the Asia-Pacific region to complete all the UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ (the Warsaw Framework). UNEP have also supported Myanmar to finalize their national approach to REDD+ safeguards, the design of their safeguards and information systems, and prepare and submit their first summary of information on safeguards; Indonesia is implementing a project on peatland fire management and rehabilitation; and Malaysia is undertaking a Green Climate Fund readiness project on accessing REDD+ result-based payments. UNEP has also facilitated knowledge exchange, including a sub-regional exchange on safeguards and information systems with Viet Nam, Cambodia and Myanmar, and has helped to develop new initiatives in the region, including: REDD+ implementation in Mangroves in Myanmar; the multi-country project 'Addressing Forest Crime through Improved Governance in the Lower Mekong Region'; and development of a 'deforestation-free jurisdictional approach' in Viet Nam's Central Highlands.

16. In India, UNEP is working at the sub-national level to support select States/Union Territories develop their Action Plans on Climate Change as well as support the development of the strategy for climate resilience and low carbon development for the State of Bihar.

### **C. Resolution 1/8 Ecosystem-based adaption**

17. UNEP is currently implementing ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) projects in both rural and urban communities of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The projects aim to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities through EbA interventions, ultimately aiming to increase the number of countries with the technical capacity to integrate ecosystem-based management into their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). This project includes supporting local scientific institutions to establish long-term research programmes, assessing the societal, economic, and ecological benefits of an EbA approach.

18. UNEP has started implementation of the 'Urban EbA Asia' project which aims to support selected urban communities in Bhutan (Thimphu Thromde), Cambodia (Kep Province), Lao PDR (Oudomxay & Phongsaly) and Myanmar (Mandalay) to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts using EbA interventions. The urban authorities in each country will benefit from institutional strengthening and capacity building to plan and implement regional urban EbA and the dissemination of knowledge and public awareness raising on urban EbA in designated pilot cities.

19. As interest in Nature-based Solutions for adaptation, and specifically ecosystem-based adaptation, has increased, UNEP, who have been mandated to work on EbA since 2010, have led the development of supplementary guidelines for integrating EbA into NAPs. UNEP initially prepared a series of briefing notes on EbA, including integrating EbA into national planning, and the full development of Supplementary Guidelines for integrating EbA into NAPs has begun in support of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP-26), and to help countries understand why, where, when and how EbA can be integrated into NAPs.

20. UNEP is also collaborating with UNDP, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant institutions and organisations to integrate ecosystems as a key element in national adaptation planning processes.

### **D. Resolution 4/10 Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation; Resolution 2/16 Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being<sup>2</sup>**

21. UNEP's 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Initiative', under the European Union funded project 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Promoting a sustainable agriculture and food sector,' has supported China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in assessing economic interdependencies between human (economic and social) systems, agriculture and food systems, and biodiversity and ecosystems. The initiative aims to address the economic invisibility of many of these links, while exploring how biodiversity and key ecosystem services deliver benefits to other sectors. This initiative also seeks to engage private sector actors in the agrifood sector towards shifting business behaviors. TEEBAgriFood Operational Guidelines for Business were launched for consultation in 2020 as an innovative tool to guide companies in how to assess their impacts and dependencies on nature, and mainstream these into their decision making. Activities to engage businesses in the region began with China, India, and Indonesia in 2021 and will be followed by activities in Malaysia and Thailand.

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<sup>2</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

22. Further, UNEP has been developing and implementing a series of projects funded by the Global Environment Facility to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in various sectors, particularly the agricultural sector. Examples of projects include: “Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Utilization in Agricultural Sector to Ensure Ecosystem Services and Reduce Vulnerability” in India, and “Healthy Landscapes: Managing Agricultural Landscapes in Socio-ecologically Sensitive Areas to Promote Food Security, Well-being and Ecosystem Health” in Sri Lanka. In addition, several new projects are being developed in India, Thailand and Timor-Leste which combine the transformation of agricultural systems, strengthening local economies in high biodiversity landscapes, sustainable landscape management and public-private finance.

23. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is implementing the ‘Restore +: Addressing Landscape Restoration on Degraded Land in Indonesia & Brazil’ project, with the Indonesia component including evaluation of the socio-economic and biodiversity impacts of restoration policies, advising the Ministry of Planning, and creating a platform for data crowdsourcing. A methodology for identifying and mapping degraded lands and prioritizing areas for restoration was developed and implemented, which was validated and refined by crowdsourcing data campaigns.

24. UNEP-WCMC has also contributed to the global Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme, which is led by IUCN and assists 79 countries to address priorities for improved governance of biodiversity and natural resources and management of Protected Areas. Participants from the region include Samoa, Palau, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Micronesia, and Timor-Leste. The project works with regional and national organisations on data collection, as well as standardisation and management of protected area data. As a result, over 50% of the participating Pacific countries were updated in the World Database on Protected Areas in 2019/2020. In addition, Global Environment Facility funded projects on Protected Areas management are being implemented in Cambodia and China.

#### **E. Resolution 4/11 Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities; Resolution 4/9 Addressing Single-use Plastic Products Pollution<sup>3</sup>**

25. Resolution 4/11 on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities was sponsored by Indonesia at UNEA 4 and India sponsored Resolution 4/9 on Addressing Single-Use Plastic Products Pollution. UNEP has supported the implementation of these resolutions in the region through the following:

26. The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) is supporting countries in the East Asian Seas to address marine pollution from land-based activities with a particular focus on nutrients, sediment, wastewater and marine litter in line with the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 and the 2019 Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. COBSEA is providing technical assistance to participating countries for strengthening and harmonizing marine litter monitoring programmes in line with COBSEA Regional Guidance on Harmonized Monitoring Programmes and is promoting evidence-based marine litter planning through the regional marine litter project ‘SEA circular’ implemented jointly with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. To meet the region’s knowledge management and networking needs on marine litter, COBSEA

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<sup>3</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1



countries are establishing a Regional Node of the GPML, including a regional research network and plastic pollution research database to bridge science and policy making.

27. The SEA circular project - 'Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia' with funding support from the Government of Sweden, is implemented in six target countries - Thailand, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Cambodia in collaboration with three knowledge partner countries - the Republic of Korea, Singapore, People's Republic of China. SEA circular's strategic approach to addressing land-based plastic pollution focuses on two main work streams: (i) market-based solutions and circular economy approach in the managing plastics value chain and (ii) strengthening science and policy for informed decision making. The project leverages COBSEA's regional mechanism to tackle the transboundary challenge of marine litter in a harmonized manner and contributes to the achieving the COBSEA's Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAPMALI) actions.

28. In line with the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 and in cooperation with the Global Programme of Action, a discussion has been initiated on strengthening efforts to address land-based sources of marine pollution with a focus on nutrients, inter alia building on the UNEP Global Environment Facility Global Nutrient Cycling and UNEP Global Environment Facility International Nitrogen Management System projects. COBSEA and UNEP are also providing technical assistance and capacity building to governments, private sector and other stakeholders to strengthen market-based incentives to reduce hard-to-recycle and single-use plastic, scientific evidence for improved national marine litter planning and harmonized monitoring programmes, and awareness raising and outreach.

29. Under the India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative, UNEP is contributing to the management of marine pollution in India by supporting the policy and technical capacity of the Marine Litter Cell at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other stakeholders, through policy research, stakeholder discussions and sharing of international experience. UNEP's initiatives on plastic pollution in India are aligned to development goals of the Government such as that of eliminating single-use plastics by 2022; and initiatives such as the *Swachh Bharat Mission*. UNEP also intends to support India to engage on the issue of plastics pollution a global level. Capacity building and awareness sessions are being organized across India in collaboration with government organizations to raise awareness on managing single-use plastics.

30. India is an active partner in the global Tide Turner Plastic challenge as part of UNEP's Clean Seas Campaign, which engages young people from across India to address the issue of plastic pollution threatening life in oceans, rivers and on land. The initiative seeks to educate young individuals on single-use plastics leading to action that will reduce land and marine plastic pollution. It aims to motivate youth to alter their behaviour and norms around plastic usage at both individual and community levels. The programme is in its third phase and since 2019, it has reached out to nearly 300,000 youth. In its current phase, it will be engaging closely with the eco-club network of the government to take expand the reach of the TTC.

31. In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, UNEP is implementing Phase 3 of the African Caribbean and Pacific Multilateral Environment Agreements (ACP MEAs) project to continue to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island countries to meet their obligations under the Noumea Convention including the implementation of the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan.

32. The Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) cooperated closely with Our Sea of East Asian Network (OSEAN) to develop the Third Overview of Marine Litter in the Northwest Pacific Region a decade after the last review. The importance of reflecting the current resolutions on marine litter adopted by the UN Environment Assembly in the last few years and the gaps identified by the UNEP at the global level were highlighted.

33. Under SWITCH-Asia's Regional Policy Advocacy component, support on SDG12 reporting is being extended at national and regional levels which includes indicators on recycling of waste.

#### **F. Resolution 4/12 Sustainable Management for Global Health of Mangrove**

34. This resolution was sponsored by Indonesia at UNEA 4, and UNEP has partnered with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) to produce an analysis of the changes to the extent of mangrove ecosystem cover globally over the last few decades. This analysis also addresses the impact of these changes on mangrove-associated biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services.

35. WCMC is collaborating with the World Mangrove Alliance and the Global Mangrove Watch to build on the latest satellite imagery from the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency to analyze changes in mangrove extent at global, regional, national and sub-national scales. Based on the satellite imagery analysis, WCMC will provide an analysis of how changes in mangrove ecosystems are globally impacting mangrove-associated biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services such as fisheries production, shoreline protection and carbon sequestration at global, regional, national and sub-national scales. Detailed case studies will be provided for selected ecosystem services in selected mangrove areas, including specific examples from Southeast Asia, to showcase the impact of mangrove loss on biodiversity and ecosystem services. UNEP is developing data layers and an interactive tool specifically for exchange of information related to mangroves on the World Environment Situation Room platform.

#### **G. Resolution 4/13 Sustainable coral reefs management; 2/12 Sustainable coral reefs management**

36. Indonesia sponsored this resolution at UNEA 4, UNEP and has continued to strengthen awareness of the value and threats to coral reefs through the Green Fins approach, most recently introduced to Japan in 2019 and Timor-Leste in 2020. The Green Fins approach aims to protect and conserve coral reefs by improving tourism practices. Trainings of Green Fins assessors, and assessments of dive centers, have taken place in seven countries in the region. Additionally, assessment and planning tools for coral reef climate resilience, developed by UNEP, have been adapted and applied in Malaysia through a COBSEA demonstration project in Tun Mustapha National Park in Sabah, with funding from a UNEP/International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) small grant. New Caledonia have also improved conservation strategies against coral reef bleaching through the same Grants Programme

37. UNEP and COBSEA supported the organisation of a Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) workshop on global data in Bangkok, Thailand, 18-20 February 2020, towards preparation of the GCRMN 'Status of the Coral Reefs of the World' report which will be launched in 2021. Together with the East Asia Regional Node of GCRMN, discussions have been initiated towards strengthening the science-policy interface as well as disseminating findings of a region-specific coral reef status report to COBSEA countries in 2021.

38. Through the UN Country Teams in Fiji and Papua New Guinea, UNEP in partnership with UNDP and the UN Capital Development Fund is implementing projects to safeguard and protect the coral reefs funded by the Sustainable Development Goals Fund and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs.

#### **H. Resolution 4/14 Sustainable Nitrogen Management<sup>4</sup>**

39. Sponsored by Bangladesh and India, the Sustainable Nitrogen Management resolution was adopted during UNEA-4 to recognize the pollution threats resulting from anthropogenic reactive nitrogen including adverse effects on the terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments and contributions to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The resolution also highlights better nitrogen management practices.

40. A global campaign championed by the President of Sri Lanka on Sustainable Nitrogen Management was launched in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 23-24 October 2019, as a partnership between the Government of Sri Lanka, the UNEP Global Environment Facility project 'Towards International Nitrogen Management System' (INMS) and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), within the framework of the Global Programme of Action on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management calls on countries to develop and implement policies on Sustainable Nitrogen Management; conduct comprehensive assessments on quantitative and qualitative nitrogen cycling covering scientific aspects, policy, regulation and implementation; develop national roadmaps for sustainable nitrogen management, with an ambition to halve nitrogen waste by 2030; and promote innovation on anthropogenic nitrogen use and recycling, emphasizing the opportunities for the circular economy.

41. UNEP has received nominations of 44 National Focal Points for a Working Group on Sustainable Nitrogen Management, including from the Asia Pacific region. National Focal Points will oversee the implementation of the UNEA-4 resolution, review current national nitrogen policies and comment on plans for improved coordination, as well as provide guidance on the proposed Inter-Convention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM). Nitrogen Working Group commenced with e-briefing in June 2020 where a Task Group was established to define the INCOM Terms of Reference, followed by several e-briefings on the procedures for developing a Terms of Reference for INCOM; key characteristics of INCOM; and potential INCOM funding mechanisms as well future meetings arrangements. The next UNEP Nitrogen Working Group meeting is to be held on 5-15 July 2021.

#### **I. Resolution 4/16 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands<sup>5</sup>**

42. Sponsored by Indonesia at UNEA 4, this resolution has been supported in the region as UNEP, with implementation and leadership from the Global Peatlands Initiative, have convened critical meetings, held webinars, interactive events and high-level dialogues, produced blogs and news pieces and supported technical discussions in various countries globally including Indonesia to advance the conservation and sustainable management of peatlands. To enhance regional and international collaboration for the conservation and sustainable management of peatlands the Global Peatlands Initiative, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia and International

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<sup>4</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

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Tropical Peatland Center and others collaborated on several events including:

- The Global Peatlands Initiative co-hosted a session with International Tropical Peatland Center and the Center for International Forestry Research on “Why peatlands matter for food security” on June 2020 which gathered government representatives from the 4 Global Peatlands Initiative partner countries to share on the importance of peatlands and the vital role they play for food security and livelihoods of local communities in Indonesia.
- A series of webinars on “Peatland management and wet livelihood opportunities in Indonesia” aiming at showcasing concrete opportunities for Indonesia to further develop and scale-up positive experience with sustainable, wet peatland management.
- Newcastle University, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and UNEP created a Global Peatlands Initiative Research Funding Working Group to further encourage interdisciplinary peatlands research. Additionally, the International Tropical Peatland Center, with support from the Global Peatlands Initiative, is negotiating Memorandums of Understanding with international universities and has gained recognition through their Focus Group Discussions by sharing best practices and gathering information on the Peatlands Project Initiatives in Indonesia.

43. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, a planned South-South exchange visit was adapted to a high-level South-South exchange online event “Peatlands as a super nature-based solution to climate change, and a refuge for unique and threatened biodiversity” held at the Global Landscapes Forum in October 2020. Participants exchanged knowledge and experience on successful approaches to conservation, restoration and sustainable peat-lands management and spoke about the importance of connectivity of ecosystems and a landscape approach that includes diverse stakeholders and multiple sectors to ensure success. Plans are ongoing to reschedule a physical South-South exchange event in 2022.

44. In collaboration and led by the Center for International Forestry Research, UNEP is supporting the International Tropical Peatland Center to strengthen its presence in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific through technical support and resource mobilization for key islands in these regions. Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam are countries of major global significance for peatlands with their incredible carbon storage and climate regulation functions, as well as biodiversity conservation. The International Tropical Peatland Center is also working with countries and partners to collect and disseminate tropical peatlands knowledge products and tools to help increase the access of partners to conservation, restoration, and sustainable peatland management approaches.

45. Finally, work on the Global Peatlands Assessment (GPA) has been kicked off. There is growing awareness, support and interest by countries and academia to contribute to the GPA which is a first step to establish a baseline for a future Global Peatlands Inventory. The Assessment will outline hot spots for urgent action and emerging opportunities to restore and protect peatlands and will include a chapter on Asian peatlands with a focus on Southeast Asia and Indonesia as a GPI partner country.

**J. Resolution 2/4 Role, functions, and modalities for UNEP implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>6</sup>**

46. The SAMOA Pathway is being implemented by the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in tandem with the Sustainable Development Goals, through the development of a Pacific roadmap and working groups that include Pacific Regional Organizations, the UN, non-government organisations and the private sector to assist countries with implementation. This resolution was sponsored by Samoa at UNEA-2.

47. UNEP, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), has been charged with coordination of the environmental dimension and have incorporated support for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway into the UNEP Medium-term Strategy and ongoing Programme of Work, particularly through UNEP's Pacific Subregional Office. The primary implementation partner is SPREP, while new partnerships continue to strengthen including with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in oceans management and trade, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in energy efficiency and climate change and the South Pacific Tourism Organization in sustainable tourism.

48. Strengthened UN Resident Coordinator offices and UN Country Teams (UNCT) have facilitated "One UN" coordination in the Pacific, as UNCTs in Fiji and Samoa have jointly formulated a regional UN Pacific Strategy with 12 Pacific countries. The UN Pacific Strategy is linked to the previously agreed Joint Country Action Plans, which guide and coordinate implementation of both Sustainable Development Goals and SAMOA Pathway activities at the national level.

49. In partnership with SPREP, UNEP is helping to build national and sub-regional capacity in the Pacific for reporting against the SAMOA Pathway, Multilateral Environment Agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals through a project to establish national environment databases in all 14 Pacific SIDS and strengthen environmental and oceans governance. National Environment databases and portals have now been established for all 14 Pacific Island Countries and used to generate State of Environment Reports and National Environment Management Strategies. A Pacific State of Conservation and Environment Report was published in March 2021 and launched as a web-based tool to assist awareness, education, advocacy and multilateral negotiations.

**K. Resolution 2/10 Oceans and seas<sup>7</sup>**

50. UNEP's 'Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative' aims to realize a holistic approach to healthy oceans, in synergy with poverty reduction, food security, clean water, sustainable economic growth, sustainable consumption and production and climate resilience. A 'Sustainable Blue Economy Decision Support Framework' is being prepared to assist countries and regions to identify and implement pathways towards resilient, inclusive, and sustainable blue economies. This includes integrated coastal and marine spatial planning and management guided by blue natural capital assessments and scenarios of socio-economic development, climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, and risks.

51. UNEP, in partnership with the European Commission, European Investment

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<sup>6</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

<sup>7</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

Bank, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and World Resources Institute, is hosting the 'Sustainable Blue Economy Financing Principles' to guide private and public investment towards healthy oceans. The Global Environment Facility funded projects for Maldives, India and Thailand also focus strongly on the application of the Sustainable Blue Economy approach in national and sub-national development planning processes. Support has also been provided to Bangladesh on financing a blue economy through a feasibility assessment on issuing blue bonds.

52. UNEP, UNDP and the Asian Development Bank have produced a joint knowledge product on financing a blue economy in Asia Pacific, including recommendations for further joint work to establish a blue economy investment platform in Asia Pacific based on the European Union's Blue Invest platform. UNEP also participated in the ASEAN-UN consultation on blue economy in 2021, providing inputs related to developing national policy, decision-making, planning and financing frameworks for sustainable, resilient, and inclusive blue economies.

53. UNEP is working with the Regional Seas programmes to support action on the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Pursuant to the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022, an Outlook on COBSEA follow-up and review of ocean-related SDGs is being prepared to guide COBSEA in tracking and implementation of relevant ocean-related SDGs and targets. In 2020, COBSEA initiated a regional initiative to advance Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning in the East Asian Seas Region by building capacity and supporting the development of a conducive policy environment. Implemented in partnership with UNEP and the Blue Solutions Initiative,<sup>8</sup> this includes a review of national and regional legal and policy frameworks, carried out in 2020–2021. The policy review includes analysis and recommendations of applications of Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning and area-based management measures to enable sustainable blue economy implementation and ecosystem-based approaches. Further activities include a regional training workshop held in November 2020 as well as a workshop on Sustainable Ocean Economies to be held in 2021.

54. With the endorsement of all 14 Pacific Island countries, UNEP have submitted for consideration under a Pacific regional project with the Global Environment Facility to facilitate oceans policies, marine spatial planning, and sustainable blue economies.

#### **L. Resolution 2/17 Enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration, and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions**

55. UNEP has actively contributed towards the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. UNEP, in collaboration with the Government of Cambodia, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the secretariats of various biodiversity-related Conventions, organized a consultation meeting on "Enhancing cooperation and synergy among biodiversity-related Conventions in Southeast Asia", held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 13-14 November 2019. The meeting was attended by national focal points of biodiversity-related Conventions from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, and resulted in the identification of priority areas for promoting coordination among biodiversity-related Conventions, ensuring links to the Sustainable Development Goals, gender

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<sup>8</sup> Blue Solutions Initiative is a partnership between UNEP, GIZ, GRID-Arendal and the International Union for Conservation for Nature

mainstreaming at national and regional levels, and the formulation of coordinated inputs towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by ASEAN member states. The meeting also informed ASEAN member states of available guidance and tools on synergies amongst biodiversity-related conventions, including the Compendia of Guidance on synergies, data management and global databases as well as the Data and Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

56. Furthermore, UNEP supported the secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals in the organisation of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Gandhinagar, India on 15-22 February 2020. A key outcome of the meeting was the adoption of the Gandhinagar Declaration on the Convention on Migratory Species and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which emphasizes that improving ecological connectivity is a top priority for the Convention in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and that the role of the Convention on Migratory Species and its related Agreements should be clearly reflected in the Post-2020 Framework. The Declaration also recognizes that the role of biodiversity-related Conventions and others should be clearly reflected in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. These outcomes were submitted to the second Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held in Rome, Italy in February 2020. UNEP is also supporting the Government of India in its role as a Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. UNEP China Office also supported the CMS Secretariat in reaching out to and supporting relevant ministries of the national government of China in policy studies on China's ratifying the convention.

#### **M. Resolution 2/23 Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication<sup>9</sup>**

57. Under the 'Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services' project, UNEP, in collaboration with the UN Statistics Division, has been supporting China and India in development of Ecosystem Accounts as part of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework. Ecosystem accounts entails evaluating the extent and condition of ecosystems, and then applying methods to value the stock of ecosystem assets and the flow of ecosystem services. In support of policy mainstreaming, the project aims to strengthen inter-institutional mechanisms for each of the countries in scope, and the statistics offices are working directly with the environmental sectors and the ultimate users of the accounts.

58. China and India are piloting the development of ecosystem accounts, building institutional capacity, and integrating the use of accounts into policy decision-making. National Forums on Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) have been held in each project country, with UNEP leading the valuation of ecosystem services and policy scenario analysis. In India, the Central Statistics Office has compiled ecosystem extent and condition accounts, as well as accounts for a selection of ecosystem services. Further, a pilot is underway for the compilation of a full suite of ecosystem services in seven districts in Karnataka State for policy scenario analysis of land-use planning. The India Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services Forum 2021 brought together stakeholders from across government and private sector for dissemination of results and discussions on advancing NCA in India and launched a process for development of a national strategy for advancing NCA. In China, the project has contributed to the coherence of China's Gross Ecosystem Product measure with SEEA methodology, the development of a policy mapping for natural capital accounting, the compilation of natural resource balance sheets and ecosystem

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<sup>9</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

accounts in Guangxi and Guizhou provinces, and the policy scenario analysis to inform eco-compensation schemes in the Xijiang river basin. A final Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project event is scheduled for June 2021.

59. Further, UNEP has supported India, Thailand, Maldives, and the Philippines to develop Global Environment Facility funded natural capital accounting initiatives. In India, a project which aims to promote the application of natural capital accounting for blue economic growth in two States in India is under development. In Thailand, a Global Environment Facility funded project is being initiated which applies natural capital accounting to building the economic and environmental case for better alignment, collaboration and shared funding between production and services sectors, focusing specifically on synergies between tourism and water supply sectors, and conservation and forestry sectors. In Maldives, a project funded by the Global Environment Facility aims to support the implementation of a blue economic growth model through natural capital assessment and valuation in Laamu Atoll. In the Philippines, a full project document for a new project funded by the Global Environment Facility is currently under development, which focuses on applying natural capital accounting to improve the financial sustainability of protected areas and landscapes by mainstreaming the values of biodiversity and natural capital in government planning, especially for eco-tourism development.

#### **N. Resolution 4/17 Promote gender equality, and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance<sup>10</sup>**

60. The joint project 'EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies' has further enhanced the collaboration between UN Women and UNEP on women's leadership, collection of gender statistics for climate change and disasters, gender responsive national climate policies and women's entrepreneurship for renewable energy business through enabling finance. Clear results are the gender responsive updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of Cambodia and Viet Nam as well as the "Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review," where member states adopted an Outcome document, which included a section on "Environmental conservation, climate action and resilience building" prepared by the EmPower team. For intergovernmental processes, UNEP and UN Women are working with the ASEAN Secretariat on a sub-regional assessment on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change.

61. Through UNEP's partnership with the ASEAN Centre for Energy, the promotion of gender equality and women's leadership in renewable energy has been further enhanced. For example, through launch in the ASEAN Energy Business Forum in 2020 of the publication 'Powering Equality: Women's entrepreneurship transforming Asia's energy sector' and the guideline on how to integrate gender renewable energy policy.

62. UNEP's Regional Office collaborated with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and launched the "Training Materials on Gender and Biodiversity in South-East Asia and the Pacific" in April 2021. The regional office is also supporting the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to integrate a gender perspective in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

63. UNEP and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have strengthened collaboration through various knowledge sharing events and capacity building efforts internally and among partners and member states in the area of human rights and the environment. One event in 2021 was the launch of the UNEP Asia Pacific Staff Capacity Building Plan for Gender Equality and Human Rights (2021-2023) which sets a strong commitment by UNEP Asia Pacific to achieve meaningful gender equality results and

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<sup>10</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1



the integration of Human Rights Based Approach in its work.

64. UNEP, UNDP and FAO provide ongoing support for countries to put in place pillars for participation in REDD+ under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through the UN-REDD Programme. This includes developing national approaches to the Cancun Safeguards for REDD+ and ensuring that REDD+ implementation has minimal negative impacts and promotes human rights and gender equality. REDD+ countries are required to respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and to promote transparent and effective forest governance. In 2019 and 2020, UN-REDD provided assistance to 14 countries to break down gender barriers and inequalities and integrate gender equality and women's empowerment activities into nationally led REDD+ action. In many cases, this work involved moving from policy to practice, producing positive and tangible outcomes and impacts at the national and subnational levels, notably in relation to safeguards.

65. UNEP and COBSEA are mainstreaming a human rights-based approach to promote inclusive solutions to plastic pollution. In 2021, UNEP and COBSEA are working with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights UNDP, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and regional partners to develop a toolbox on human rights and plastic pollution and are launching an online training series for governments and businesses to build capacity for a human rights-based approach.

#### **O. Resolution 4/18 Poverty Environment Nexus<sup>11</sup>**

66. UNEP, in collaboration with UNDP, started implementation of the Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals (PEA) project in Bangladesh and Nepal in early 2020 while Indonesia, Lao PDR and Myanmar have also commenced work for integrating approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting.

67. In Bangladesh, in 2020, PEA supported the National Planning Commission (NPC) to prepare the 2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Voluntary National Review (VNR) titled 'Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development'. A total of 59 public planners were trained on the integration of SDGs into national policy plans. In addition, 118 officials, including 66 SDG Focal Points from 22 relevant Ministries/Divisions/Departments/Agencies, were trained on SDG Monitoring and Evaluation. A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the SDGs was completed and approved by government. PEA supported the development of Chapter-6: 'Monitoring and Evaluation' of the Eighth Five Year Plan as well as the Development Results Framework. In addition, PEA supported a background study 'Leaving No One Behind in Bangladesh: Strategy and Recommendations for the 8th Five Year Plan for implementing Sustainable Development Goals.' An assessment to identify the selection criteria of Upazilas (Sub-Districts) for localizing the SDGs and Mapping of Resources Required to Localize the SDGs in Selected Upazilas was completed.

68. In Nepal, in 2020, development of Financing Requirement Framework for the 15th Plan has been finalized along with the National Framework on Leave No One Behind. The Local Level Plan Formulation Guidelines have also been revised and poverty environment action for SDGs was integrated in the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID-19.

69. In Lao PDR, PEA is promoting and monitoring quality and responsible investment planning for sustainable development and strengthening assessments, regulations,

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<sup>11</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

approvals, and inspections to promote quality and responsible investment. In 2020, An investment procedure and compliance handbook and Investment database have been developed to effectively regulate investment concessions. These provide guidance to investors who are interested in investing in Laos on the procedures for investment applications and approval process. This includes the obligations of investors to conduct Environment and Social Impact Assessment and Environment Management and Monitoring Plans and Social Management and Monitoring Plans in each agreement. A financing model to enhance investment approval process of tourism and agriculture concession was developed. A baseline survey on Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR) Practices in Tourism Sector was conducted with 92 companies, international organisations, and government agencies in Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabang and Vientiane Province.

70. In Myanmar, several key planning frameworks have been developed and submitted for approval with PEA support since 2020. They include the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan Indicators Framework which resulted in the integration of environmental indicators, a draft framework on integrated Environmental Financing Strategy developed in accordance with the Environmental Conservation Law and aligned with international good practices and the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID-19.

71. In Indonesia, a study on Gender Responsive Climate Budgeting was launched and published by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection in May 2020. The Ministry of Finance with support from PEA released a Public Climate Finance report covering the period 2016-2018. Data has been collected and an analysis report developed that will provide analysis on budget allocation and spending for climate change related programmes in Ministries, as well as analysis on the climate budget re-allocation in 2020 which was impacted by COVID-19. Three pilot activities on climate budget tagging were completed at sub-national level in three provinces, one city, and three districts (Gorontalo, West Java and Riau Provinces; Pekanbaru City; Gorontalo, Siak, Sumedang Districts).

**P. Resolution 4/20 Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V); 2/19 Midterm review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme)<sup>12</sup>**

72. UNEP's environmental law activities are coordinated through ten-year programmes. 'Montevideo V' is the name of the programme for the decade beginning in 2020. UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is supporting the implementation of the Montevideo V Programme to promote the development and implementation of environmental rule of law, strengthen related capacities in countries, and contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. UNEP has supported the designation of 27 National Focal Points for the Montevideo Programme, who are senior government officials from Member States with expertise in environmental law.<sup>13</sup> On 27 February 2020, a regional briefing was held for National Focal Points in preparation for the first global meeting of National Focal Points for Montevideo V to set the strategic and institutional direction for the programme. The global meeting originally scheduled for March 2020 was postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The First Global Meeting will now be held across two segments. The first segment of the global meeting will take place virtually on June 2-4, 2021. The second segment will be held face-to-face as soon as possible after that in early 2022, and/or as soon as travel disruptions and health risks connected to COVID-19 are at acceptable levels.

73. The first segment will have two objectives: (a) designate the Steering Committee for Implementation to be constituted on an interim basis until the face-to-face segment; and

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<sup>12</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

<sup>13</sup> Cook Islands and Niue have additionally designated National Focal Points

(b) provide the secretariat with interim guidance on 'priority areas for implementation', which will be in place until the face-to-face segment.

74. Recent activities undertaken within Asia and the Pacific since the adoption of Montevideo V include:

- UNEP supported Afghanistan's efforts to develop and effectively implement its national environmental policy by producing a comprehensive report that reviews its environmental law framework.
- In February 2020, the first regional consultation between UNEP and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was convened to begin implementing the memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation between the two entities, signed in August 2019, building on their joint activities in 2019 on promoting greater protection for environmental defenders.
- UNEP, at the request of the Government of Fiji, reviewed their draft climate change bill, expected to be tabled before the Parliament of Fiji in 2020.
- UNEP contributed to more effective implementation by Bhutan of the requirements of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, including its Kigali Amendment.

**Q. Resolution 2/14 Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products; 1/3 Illegal trade in wildlife<sup>14</sup>**

75. The UNEP India Country Office has begun discussion on a memorandum of understanding with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in India to increase support to CBIC to enhance capacity for the implementation of multilateral environment agreements such as the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species and the establishment of an Enforcement Unit to address transnational environmental crime in cooperation with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The UNEP India Country Office have also established a UN Library with the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics, to ensure UN Resources are available for capacity building in the field of environment protection and customs enforcement.

76. UNEP is working closely with local and international partners on the Lion's Share-funded Leuser Programme to ensure the long-term protection and conservation of the Leuser Ecosystem in Indonesia. In particular, UNEP will be localizing and adapting UNEP's global Wild for Life campaign to an Indonesian context, including translation into Bahasa Indonesian, deploying local-language social media channels to propagate messages, and using local species to highlight the problem of the illegal wildlife trade in Indonesia. The campaign will also support the work of Lion's Share partner, Behavioral Insights Team, to stimulate systematic behavior change around the illegal wildlife trade in Leuser and more broadly across Indonesia.

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<sup>14</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

**R. Resolution 4/3 Promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste; 2/9 Prevention, reduction, and reuse of food waste**

77. This Resolution 3/4 on Promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste was sponsored by Sri Lanka at UNEA 4. UNEP have supported implementation in the region through the following:

78. Under the SWITCH-Asia project's Regional Policy Advocacy component, support on reporting against Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG12) is being extended at national and regional levels across the region. A regional dialogue was organized to deep dive into food waste situation in Asia and how sustainable lifestyles can be promoted to tackle the food waste and food loss issue in Asia. Additionally, UNEP's Regional Office, in partnership with the UNEP Economy Division, Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) and other partners, is implementing projects on climate smart rice production in Myanmar, Pakistan and Thailand.

79. In China, UNEP in partnership with Tsinghua University supported knowledge sharing and encouraged innovations from youth through a national dialogue on reducing food waste and will continue to promote awareness and inspire actions on reduction of food waste in the region through the development of a report of case studies on reducing food waste and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

**S. Resolution 4/6 Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics; 3/7 Marine litter and microplastics; 2/11 Marine plastic litter and micro-plastics; 1/6 Marine plastic debris and microplastics<sup>15</sup>**

80. Japan sponsored the Resolution 4/6 on Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics at UNEA-4 and UNEP provided support to countries in the region through the following:

81. The project "Promotion of action against marine plastic litter in Asia and the Pacific (CounterMEASURE II)" by UNEP intends to generate scientific knowledge on plastic pollution in the Ganges, Mekong and selected rivers in Sri Lanka to inform policy and decision-making processes at local, national, regional and global level. With the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat, the project has started efforts to understand the impact of plastic pollution on freshwater migratory species such as Ganges river dolphin and Mekong Giant Catfish.

82. The project, "Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia" (SEA circular), by UNEP and COBSEA, with support from the Government of Sweden, is being implemented over a four-year timeframe (August 2018–February 2023) in partnership with governments, businesses, civil society, academia, and international partners to reduce and prevent plastic pollution in South-East Asia. The initiative promotes market-based solutions and enabling policies to transform plastic value-chain management, strengthens the science base for informed decision making, engages consumers and disadvantaged groups through targeted outreach, and leverages COBSEA's regional mechanisms to improve national and regional marine litter planning and harmonization of monitoring approaches in line with the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. In November 2019 and November 2020, the first and second annual SEA of Solutions partnership week on marine plastic pollution prevention brought together over 500 participants from governments, business, science, UN agencies and community groups from more than 40 countries to share solutions for plastic pollution. UNEP and COBSEA also contributed to the chapter on marine litter of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) theme study informing the 76th Commission Session.

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<sup>15</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

83. UNEP also support India to engage on policy and technical issues of marine pollution under the 'Indo-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative', working closely with the Marine Litter Cell in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

**T. Resolution 4/7 Environmentally Sound Management of Waste; Resolution 4/8 Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste; 2/7 Sound management of chemicals and waste; Resolution 1/5 Chemicals and waste<sup>16</sup>**

84. UNEP have provided support for implementing waste prevention and sound management policies and good practices with national and/or local governments in Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam.

85. The Hanoi Department of Natural Resources and Environment in Viet Nam with help of UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre and Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership, the Live and Learn NGO, and the Viet Nam Clean Air Partnership, conducted a baseline assessment on open burning in 7 suburban districts of Hanoi. This assessment, along with many local consultations, has facilitated the enforcement of a ban of rice straw open burning that entered into force on January 1st, 2021.

86. In collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies, UNEP has developed a series of technical guidelines on intermediate municipal solid waste treatment technologies, including guidelines on Waste-to-Energy Incineration, Composting and Mechanical-Biological Treatment. At the on-set of the COVID-19 pandemic UNEP mobilized personnel to support member states in addressing the management of medical waste produced in response to combatting the spread and treatment of the infection. Under the leadership of WHO, UNEP developed a series of nine infographic fact sheets aimed at highlighting the potential environmental impact from increased waste production in the health sector. The fact sheets were further supported by a series of global and regional webinars organized through the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership and UNEP Regional Offices. A report, Waste Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic: from Response to Recovery, was developed and includes emergency recovery and response plans, including implementation during the pandemic, as well as long term solutions for building back better. The report also has a section on gender to describe the potential impact of COVID-19 on gender in waste management and proposed actions to be taken.

87. Some important progress has been made in curbing heavy metal emissions and human exposure to the pollutants. UNEP led the Project for Promoting Minamata Convention on Mercury by drawing on Japan's Knowledge and Experiences, in collaboration with Minamata Environmental Academia in Minamata City Japan, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, UN Institute for Training and Research and the Minamata Convention Secretariat. UNEP have initiated a series of skill-up programmes for national authorities responsible for implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and laboratories. So far, the programme has covered topics such as mercury monitoring in key media, mercury survey and research, and mercury inventory and material flow analysis. As of March 2021, over 100 individuals from 10 countries (Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam) have benefited from the training programme.

88. The Global Environment Facility's Continuing Regional Support for the persistent organic pollutants (POPs) Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean reports POPs levels in human milk samples

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<sup>16</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

to the Stockholm Convention from countries in the region.

89. India's National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also taken important progress on chemicals management by giving a green light to pilot testing of new training modules on Integrated Vector Pest Management. The training modules have been developed under the Global Environment Facility project on Development and promotion of non-POPs alternatives to DDT.<sup>17</sup> The new modules will ideally be integrated into the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme paving a way for India to phase out DDT use.

90. UNEP launched the UNEP Sustainability Action in 2020, an international and multisectoral platform connecting various stakeholders including private sector to promote sustainability with a focus on environmental issues and resource efficiency. Multinational companies including 7&i Holdings (7-Eleven), Fast Retailing (UNIQLO) and Rakuten have joined the platform.

91. UNEP has supported the preparation of a National Chemicals and Waste Data Report for India to consolidate and analyze data on waste and chemicals-related SDG indicators. The objective of the report is to offer a comprehensive assessment on waste and chemicals data in India to support policy makers and regulators improve the collection and management of data, as well as the reporting against various national regulations and multilateral environment agreements.

92. Under SWITCH-Asia's Regional Policy Advocacy component, support on SDG12 reporting is being extended at national and regional levels. SDG12 includes indicator 12.5 on management of hazardous waste, which will ensure greater reporting across Asia and the Pacific in this area.

#### **U. Resolution 3/8 Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally; 1/7 Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality<sup>18</sup>**

93. UNEP, through the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), provides support to countries to prevent and reduce air pollution in the region. UNEP through APCAP is developing a "Clean Air Solutions Tracker" to capture the status of clean air solutions and is supporting Cambodia to develop its National Clean Air Plan. Many countries adopted or are planning to adopt national and sub-national laws and strategies to address air pollution.

94. The first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies took place on 7 September 2020. The first celebration set a precedent for an important and exciting new international day for clean air to be celebrated annually. In commemoration of this day, UNEP and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) organized a Regional Conversation on Air Pollution in Asia-Pacific in Bangkok. Outreach events were also organized at the national and state level in India.

95. Clean air action across the region will be further accelerated through the coordination of multiple UN agencies and partners through the Issue-Based Coalition on Climate Change Mitigation and Air Pollution.

96. UNEP has completed the emissions inventory for the airshed of the city of Agra in India as well as intervention strategies for two key polluting industrial segments. With the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, UNEP is developing an Air Quality Progress Report

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<sup>17</sup> Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) is an insecticide used in agriculture.

<sup>18</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

in collaboration with the Central Pollution Control Board of India.

#### **V. Resolution 3/9 Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries**

97. In Asia and the Pacific, 11 countries (Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam) have enacted and enforce national legislation, regulations and/or standards with aim to stop the manufacture, import and sale of household decorative lead paints. The most effective means of preventing lead exposure from paints is to establish national laws, including legislation, regulations, and/or legally binding standards as appropriate, that ban the use of lead additives in paints.

98. In recent years, China has strengthened national standards that reduce the lead limit for woodenware and architectural paints to 90 ppm total lead and lowered the standard for vehicle and industrial protective coatings to 1000 ppm total lead. Vietnam passed a National Technical Standard for lead in paint on December 21st, 2020, which sets the total lead limit of 600 ppm in listed paints as of date of entry into force: 90 ppm limit 5 years after entry into force. In Bangladesh, where the 90-ppm lead standard for decorative and household paints already exists, the Eco Social Development Organization, an International Pollutants Elimination Network Participating Organization, and the government are working to extend the scope of to cover all types of paints, including industrial paints. In the meantime, the Bangladesh Paint Manufacturer's Association has stated that all their active members have applied for Bangladesh standard Testing Institute CM Certification and 9 companies have received their certifications.

#### **W. Resolution 4/1 Innovative Pathways to Achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production: 2/8 Sustainable consumption and production**

99. Support was provided by UNEP under the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Project's Regional Policy Advocacy to promote a participatory and consultative approach to the national Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Roadmap development process in Cambodia and Lao PDR and to mainstream Circular Economy into national and sectoral plans in Viet Nam. At the subregional and regional level, more than 10 regional dialogues have been organized to enhance knowledge and understanding on SDG 12 and its targets including sustainable lifestyles, sustainable public procurement, and waste management. Regional training on SDG12 reporting is also being provided by UNEP's Regional Office. UNEP Asia and the Pacific are also working closely with the Economy Division and partners to collect good practices on SCP in the region to support the implementation of SCP in the region.

100. National support to China and India has been provided by UNEP on the assessment of SCP policies and reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG12). UNEP is working with India's Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce to promote sustainable public procurement in the country. A prioritization study on sustainable public procurement has been undertaken and a pilot on introducing criteria for specific products on the Government e-Marketplace are being finalized.

#### **X. Resolution 4/5 Sustainable infrastructure**

101. Sponsored by Mongolia at UNEA 4, UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific have implemented this resolution through the provision of extensive support on green public procurement for sustainable infrastructure across the region, as well as to Thailand and Viet Nam as pilot countries for sustainable infrastructure initiatives. The Regional Office organized consultative process with Economy Division to discuss the progress on the UNEA 4/5 Sustainable Infrastructure. Sustainable Public Procurement is one of the important tools and UNEP is providing support at the regional level as well as the national level including

through UNEP India and UNEP China offices.

102. There is strong complementarity between UNEP's work, which focuses on the upstream and enabling policy and regulatory environment, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)'s sustainable investment at the project-level. On 5th May 2021, UNEP's China Office and the Economy Division's Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) partnered with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), to jointly organize the 'Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Infrastructure Investment' Virtual Dialogue, in order to foster dialogue between UNEP and AIIB about how to work together to address challenges and take advantage of opportunities associated with sustainable infrastructure development.

**Y. Resolution 4/23 Keeping the World Environment under Review: Enhancing UNEP's Science-Policy Interface and Endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook; Resolution 1/4 Science-policy interface<sup>19</sup>**

103. In 2020, Global Environment Outlook (GEO) experts delivered a lecture on the status and trends of environment and nature-based solutions, based on the findings of the GEO Youth Asia Pacific and the Key Messages from 'Preventing the next pandemic – Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission', at the International Webinar on 'From Distortion to Nature – Natural and Healthy Life', organized by the Rajeshi Kalani Foundation and India Institute of Rural Academics and Versatile Interaction on 28th June 2020. The Webinar targeted communities vulnerable to COVID-19 pandemic and relying on nature for their livelihoods. UNEP and partners then organized a webinar on 'Preventing the next pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission' on 22 October 2020, with more than 200 registered participants from governments of member countries, the academic community, civil society organisations and regional partners. The webinar was based on the key findings of the UNEP report 'Key Messages from Preventing the next pandemic – Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission' and featured in-depth exchanges and dialogues on the COVID-19 pandemic.

104. The 4th UN Environment Assembly initiated an intergovernmental consultative process to propose options for the future of the Global Environment Outlook. The Assembly requested the establishment of a Steering Committee of experts from Member States to oversee and manage the consultations for, and preparation by, the Secretariat of an options document focusing on the scope and objectives of the GEO process. Regional government nominated experts from China, India, Japan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand were members of the Steering Committee. One web-based survey with Member States, stakeholders and assessment experts was conducted on the design elements and the criteria for identifying the options for the future of GEO.

105. UNEP, with regional partners, conducted numerous outreach events for the 6th Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) and family products in the Asia Pacific region, including targeting youth to diffuse scientific knowledge and inspire actions. These events reached a total audience of over a thousand users. With the support of partners from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Philippines, a number of GEO-6 family products have been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Tagalog to reach targeted audience and promote science-driven policy making.

106. UNEP organized a GEO Course coordination meeting with leading Chinese universities. The meeting was the culmination of an innovative approach to environmental education that resulted in the development of a GEO-based course curriculum that will be delivered in Peking University, Tongji University and University of Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2020. This pioneer initiative will disseminate high quality knowledge to university students in the three leading higher education institutions in China and has potential to be

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<sup>19</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1



replicated globally.

107. Coordinated by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the International Climate Initiative funded project 'Supporting decision making and building capacity to support an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services through national ecosystem assessments' entered a third phase in 2020. The project currently supports eight countries to undertake national ecosystem assessments, including Viet Nam and Cambodia, and four more, including Thailand, are expected to start this year. In the reporting period, Viet Nam produced the first draft of their National Ecosystem Assessment report, and Cambodia carried out scoping for its assessment. In Asia-Pacific, the project focuses on China and Indonesia, and commodities such as rubber, soy, wildlife, and palm oil. Scoping studies are now underway, with some results supporting the development of the new Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

108. UNEP, in cooperation with the East China Normal University, has developed a methodology for marine litter hotspot assessment. Hotspot assessments of plastic waste leakage are currently conducted in COBSEA countries in cooperation with UN-Habitat and on-site assessments of marine litter accumulation in the environment will be carried out in cooperation with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and East China Normal University in 2022 through the regional marine litter project 'SEA circular'. Through 'SEA circular', COBSEA is working with National University of Singapore to launch a regional research network and updated plastic pollution research database to inform policy making as part of the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

109. On 29 April 2021, UNEP's China Office, in cooperation with the European Union Delegation, Royal Norwegian Embassy, and United Nations in China jointly organized a virtual presentation of UNEP's synthesis report entitled "Making Peace with Nature: A Scientific Blueprint to Tackle the Climate, Biodiversity and Pollution Emergencies" in Beijing. The Synthesis Report was launched by the Secretary-General on 18 February for the attention of the UN Environment Assembly. The event provided an opportunity to strengthen the commitment towards the defining challenge of the 21st Century and accelerate the SDGs with evidence based scientific recommendations.

## **Z. Resolution 3/4 Environment and Health<sup>20</sup>**

110. The Resolution 3/4 on Environment and Health was sponsored by the Philippines at UNEA 3. UNEP have supported implementation of this resolution in the region through the following:

111. The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Asia Pacific Office, the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regional Office, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and UNEP are supporting the preparation of the 2nd National Strategic Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) (2022-2026) for Thailand. UNEP is supporting the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Disease to undertake research study to enhance the understanding of the environmental aspect of antimicrobial resistance. This is aimed at strengthening the national action plan on AMR, as well as support the Tripartite efforts by FAO, OIE, and WHO to promote "One Health" approaches to AMR.

112. Thailand has pioneered innovative policies and programs in response to high rates of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) working with the UN Thailand Thematic Working Group on NCDs co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator for Thailand and the Director General of the Department of Disease Control in the Ministry of Public Health. However, the

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<sup>20</sup> Further review of implementation is reflected in Annex 1

country but still faces numerous challenges in achieving its NCD-related goals.

113. Joint engagement between UNEP and the WHO has led to the Government of India establishing an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Environment and Health in 2020 co-chaired by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. Under this initiative, the World Health Organisation and UNEP will support the ministries in awareness raising, evidence generation, capacity building and mitigation action.

114. An inter-ministerial Steering Committee on Environment and Health has been established in India under the co-chairmanship of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with the participation of UNEP and WHO to promote cross-sectoral approaches on the environmental dimensions of human health. UNEP and WHO will support the government in 4 key areas: awareness creation, evidence generation, capacity building, and mitigation action.

### **III. Secretarial Functions for Regional Forums and Flagship Events**

#### **A. Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE)**

115. The Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and the Environment was established in 2004 in recognition of the threat that environmental hazards pose to human health. The Forum seeks to create greater synergy among relevant government departments to address environmental and health issues. Every five years, ministers of both health and environment come together to set the overall policy direction of the Forum, while their high-level officials meet intersessionally to deal with policies, strategies, budgets, and plans. The Forum addresses environment and health priorities in ways that add value to the ongoing efforts of countries and other regional and sub regional bodies. Since 2010, thematic working groups have reported on progress made in key areas. The most recent Regional Forum took place in Manila, Philippines in 2016. Indonesia has commenced its role as the new Chair of this forum in 2020 with for the period of 2020-2024 with theme of "The role of strategic health and environment on national development to achieve SDGs."

116. Indonesia, composed of co-chairs from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment and Forestry, with the support of the WHO and UNEP, will host the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment in 2022. The former chair country, the Philippines led the signing of the Manila Declaration which was the basis of the Asia Pacific contribution to the above UNEA resolution on environmental and health. The Manila Declaration included the commitment from Member States on emerging policy priorities relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals, among them were management of hazardous chemicals and waste and heavy metals such as lead (Pb) and mercury, air pollution reduction, and reducing antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Highlighted also was the need to address through a One Health approach the unsafe management of healthcare wastes and wastewater which could be sources of antimicrobial resistant organisms and antimicrobial resistant genes.

#### **B. The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)**

117. UNEP, as the Secretariat for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), has been continuously working toward implementing UNEA Resolution 3/8 'Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally and strengthening the role of UNEP in promoting air quality' as reflected through its various activities in 2019 and 2020. EANET is the only regional intergovernmental initiative in the world focusing on monitoring acid deposition. In the last 20 years, EANET has been continuously working towards achieving its objectives, among others, to create a common understanding of the state of acid deposition problems in East Asia, provide useful inputs for decision making at various levels, and promote cooperation among the countries. As quoted from the recently approved Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025), the Participating Countries agreed that EANET had made excellent progress and achievements on acid deposition monitoring and cooperation. Therefore, after 20 years, the Twenty-second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of EANET (IG22) in November 2020 decided to expand EANET Instrument's scope to enable EANET to work not only on acid deposition but also on wider air pollution issues. It marked an important milestone for EANET to accomplish more tasks to improve acid deposition and air pollution status in the region and beyond. With this expansion of scope, EANET could be one of the most important intergovernmental initiatives in the Asia region to lead the countries in collectively fighting against air pollution problems.

118. Through its activities, EANET has been providing its support to SDGs' achievements, in particular SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. From February 2019 to May 2021, those activities included the

provision of regular monitoring data and analysis of acid deposition including PM2.5 and ozone; development of the EANET Data Report 2019 and 2020; development of National Acid Deposition Monitoring Plan in 2020 and 2021; development of EANET Medium Term Plan (2021-2025); development of expanded systems and activities of EANET to work on air pollution; organisation of the Awareness Forum on Prevention of Air Pollution in the Asia Pacific (2019); National Awareness Workshop in Malaysia (2019) and Myanmar (2020); provision of capacity development for targeted stakeholders through the implementation of the EANET Research Fellowship Programme in 2010 and technical training (2019 and 2020); organisation of the IG21 (2019) and IG22 of EANET (2020); and organisation of 19th and 20th EANET Scientific Advisory Committee meeting (in 2019 and 2020, respectively).

### **C. Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership**

119. The Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) was established in 2015 as a mechanism to promote coordination and collaboration among various clean air initiatives in the Asia and Pacific region, following Resolution 1/7 'Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,' APCAP is coordinating regional communities of practice through the 'Clean Air Solutions Hub' to facilitate discussion among practitioners on implementation of 25 clean air measures from the report 'Air Pollution in Asia Pacific: Science Based Solutions', launched in October 2018. As of April 2020, ten partners are using 25 clean air measures to frame their air quality support or are supporting implementation of the measures, including the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, Asian Co-Benefits Partnership, Clean Air Asia, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, French National Institute for Sustainable Development, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, UNICEF, UNEP, UNESCAP, and WHO. A Clean Air Solutions Tracker is being developed to provide information on which of the clean air solutions approaches have been advanced in the region.

120. The Joint Forum of APCAP has become a known platform for knowledge sharing between air quality stakeholders in the region. The First and Second Joint Forum were held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2015 and 2018, respectively. The Third Joint Forum, originally planned for October 2020 in Niigata, Japan, has been rescheduled to 8-9 September 2021 as a virtual event with the theme "build back better for healthy air, healthy planet". The Third APCAP Joint Forum contributes to the commemoration of the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies in the Asia and the Pacific region. In addition, the Bangkok commemoration of the International Day on 7 September 2021 will be organized by the UN Issue-Based Coalition on Climate Change Mitigation and Air Pollution co-led by UNEP and UNESCAP.

121. APCAP also contributes to the Issue-Based Coalition on Climate Change Mitigation and Air Pollution and UNEP's global air quality studies; and is providing technical guidance and support to at least seven countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Maldives, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. APCAP is also coordinating new partnership between UNEP and Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi province in the Republic of Korea to combat air pollution.

### **D. Asia Pacific Adaptation Network**

122. Over one decade, since its launch in 2009 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the Global Adaptation Network (GAN), as the first regional adaptation network, APAN has grown to become a vibrant open network that strives to equip adaptation actors in the region with knowledge to design and implement climate change adaptation measures, access to technologies and finance, and capacity building for integrating climate change adaptation into national development policies, strategies and plans. Over the years, APAN has established close partnerships with key sub-regional organisations and has become an important adaptation knowledge mobiliser in Asia and the Pacific Region.

123. The APAN Forum is the flagship event of the APAN. It is the primary regional platform for adaptation practitioners to meet, share their learning and experiences, and work together towards the pertinent outcomes and practical solutions needed to address the challenges of climate change. The APAN Forum has been taking place since 2010, hosted and sponsored by different governments and agencies, and under different themes. It has grown to become a space for scientists, financing institutions, youth, civil societies, international organisations, the private sector and governmental representatives from various line ministries from over fifty countries to meet, discuss and work together for greater partnerships for adaptation action.

124. UNEP organized the 7th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum from 8-12 March 2021 hosted by the Ministry of the Environment Japan via virtual means. The forum has recognized urgency and underscored that “enabling resilience for all” would require “inclusive transformation” which need to be supported by several step changes including in ambition; in mobilizing climate financing; and creating stronger partnerships and meaningful knowledge exchange. Implementation of action. It has developed recommendations on five enabling conditions to deliver an inclusive resilience society, resilience of economic sectors, nature-based resilience, and resilience of local communities against the adverse impacts of climate change in the Asia-Pacific region. Sessions were also captured by graphic recordings and are available on the APAN YouTube channel. The Forum Summary will be published in a few weeks on the Forum website.

#### **E. Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)**

125. The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) is a regional intergovernmental mechanism and decision-making body on the ‘Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region’ (the East Asian Seas Action Plan, adopted in 1981 and revised in 1994). Nine countries participate in COBSEA: Cambodia, People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Viet Nam. COBSEA is one of 18 Regional Seas programmes, administered by UNEP and with its Secretariat hosted by Thailand.

126. Under Strategic Directions 2018-2022, COBSEA focuses on marine pollution, ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management, and ocean governance. The 24th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) of COBSEA was held 19-20 June 2019 in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting, inter alia, adopted guidance on the establishment and operation of COBSEA Regional Activity Centre’s, agreed steps towards the development of the Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas established by Indonesia as a Regional Activity Centre of COBSEA, and encouraged the development of an East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. The meeting also adopted the revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter RAP MALI, formally establishing a COBSEA Working Group on marine litter. A virtual Intergovernmental Meeting is planned for September 2021, with an in-person Meeting to be held in Viet Nam when conditions permit.

#### **F. The Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)**

127. NOWPAP is one of 18 Regional Seas programmes adopted by China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Russia in 1994. NOWPAP is in the process to develop a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO), which aims to strengthen cooperation and capacity building among the Member States regarding the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity through generating and sharing information and analysis of the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Plan is expected to be adopted by the NOWPAP Member States by the end of 2021.

128. NOWPAP is also updating its Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI), which was adopted in 2008. RAP MALI has facilitated the cooperation among the NOWPAP Member States and partners to address marine litter issues in the Northwest Pacific region. However, after more than a decade of changes of measures to address marine litter, and the development of scientific knowledge, there is a need to update the Regional Action Plan to the modern standards. The RAP MALI has been revised, referring to the recommendations of the Third Overview of Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region, other Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter, and the UNEP guidelines in this regard. The updated RAP MALI will be finalized by the end of 2021.

#### **G. Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP)**

129. The Sustainable Rice Platform, a multi-stakeholder platform co-convened by UNEP and the International Rice Research Institute, aims to promote resource-use efficiency and climate change resilience in rice systems and pursue voluntary market transformation initiatives by developing sustainable production standards, indicators, incentive mechanisms and outreach mechanisms to boost wide-scale adoption of sustainable best practices throughout rice value chains. SRP works with government agencies, research institutes, supply chain actors, civil society organisations and service, input, and equipment providers.

#### **IV. Processes and mechanisms for promoting Asia Pacific priorities in the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2)**

130. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, has a two-part format. The first session of the 5th UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.1) was hosted virtually from 22-23 February 2021 in Nairobi, while the resumed session of the 5th UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) is to be held in person from 28 February-2 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya. We heard a resounding call for a sustainable recovery throughout the meeting, particularly from 87 Ministers, high-level representatives, activists, and scientists during the Leadership Dialogues. In its deliberations, UNEA-5.1 approved the following three decisions:

- i. Medium-term strategy for 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for 2022–2023
- ii. Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
- iii. Adjournment and resumption of UNEA-5

131. UNEA-5.2 will be held under the overarching theme 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'. UNEA-5.2 is planned as an in-person meeting, with strong online components that "gathers a few and reaches out to millions" – maximizing the benefits of both face-to-face and virtual meetings. The possible outcomes of the UNEA-5.2 could include:

- Adopt a ministerial declaration under the theme "Strengthening action for Nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals"
- Agree on impactful decisions through resolutions for example to help implement upcoming global climate and biodiversity agreements.
- Make progress on a declaration under the General Assembly resolution 73/333
- Agree to set in motion a process to address marine litter and microplastics at global level

- Agree on a new Global Environment Outlook approach

132. UNEA-5.1 also decided to convene a special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme. This event will be held on 3 and 4 March 2022 in Nairobi, in conjunction with the resumed 5th session of the Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2). A key assumption is that UNEP@50 will focus on how to strengthen UNEP. This may however many different aspects – including but not limited to financing; stronger science policy interface (e.g. Global Environment Outlook/World Environment Situation Room); improved environmental governance – possibly including MEAs; strengthened headquarters functions such as meeting facilities. Possible outcomes could include:

- A declaration with a vision for UNEP’s upcoming 50 years, possibly building on the ongoing process under General Assembly resolution 73/333
- Agreement on an action plan to implement para 88, building on the secretariat’s proposal
- Launch of the new Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work
- A new vision for UNEP’s work on science policy interface, building on the new Medium Term Strategy, the Future of GEO process, the “Make Peace for Nature” Report.
- A reinforced role for UNEP in the UN system to implement the Sustainable Development Goals through UN reform, building on the new UNEP Medium-Term Strategy.

133. In the lead up to UNEA-5.2, important timeline and events are the following:

- 25-29 October 2021: 8th Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
- Feb 2022: Civil society will host the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, which facilitates the participation of civil society in the Environment Assembly and associated meetings.
- Feb 2022: The Science Policy Business Forum will engage policymakers, scientists, researchers, and civil society stakeholders in a discussion on the science required to deliver on the environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- 21-25 February 2022: The resumed fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will serve as the main preparatory meeting for the Environment Assembly.
- 28 February-2 March 2022: The resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly under the theme ‘Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals’
- 3 - 4 March 2022: a special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50).

134. In addition, the fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific provides a timely platform for discussion and consensus building about defining the priorities and opportunities to address the theme 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals' in the region. Member States can optimize the Forum discussion to identify and recommend potential resolutions that benefit the Asia Pacific region's need inputs as well as regional inputs to the draft ministerial declaration. The AP Forum also could provide regional inputs to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA@50).



## **Annex 1: Supplementary Information on Resolutions**

### **D. Resolution 4/10 Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation; Resolution 2/16 Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being**

In Indonesia, the TEEBAgriFood interim assessment conducted in 2019 provided scientific evidence on improving cacao yields, livelihood impacts and biodiversity outcomes via agroforestry systems and good agricultural practices. The assessment was used to support the inclusion of agroforestry goals in the Medium-Term Development Plan by the President's Office.

### **E. Resolution 4/11 Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities; Resolution 4/9 Addressing Single-use Plastic Products Pollution**

The 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA requested the development of an East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and encouraged Indonesia to further develop the Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas (RC3S), aiming at making it a COBSEA Regional Activity Centre. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia reiterated their commitment to the RC3S to build regional capacity on marine litter at the first annual SEA of Solutions partnership event convened by COBSEA and the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in November 2019 that brought together over 500 participants from governments, businesses and plastic producers, investors, civil society, science and academia and youth to exchange solutions and pledge action to reduce plastic pollution.

On the basis of the COBSEA Strategic Direction and Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, COBSEA organized a Training of Trainers on Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics in 2019 together with the Global Programme of Action, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and the Government of Indonesia. As a follow-up, a National Source Inventory Workshop for COBSEA countries was organized by COBSEA, with the Global Programme of Action and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter in late 2019. The workshop presented and promoted a national source inventory approach in national marine litter planning and monitoring.

In cooperation with the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (TEMM), the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China organized a marine litter management workshop in September 2019 in Dalian, China. This workshop focused on ways to improve waste management to reduce marine litter at the source. Delegates from NOWPAP Member States presented updates on their respective initiatives, including NOWPAP's International Coastal Cleanup Campaign (ICC) on 25 September 2019 in Dalian, China.

### **I. Resolution 4/16 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands**

Further events organized in collaboration by the Global Peatlands Initiative, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia and International Tropical Peatland Center:

- UNEP and FAO collaborated on a global peatland monitoring expert workshop in May 2019, with significant contributions from the Southeast Asia region. Work on peatlands monitoring and mapping has been ongoing, with synergies identified with Indonesia's Peatland Restoration Agency's interactive platform which have enabled UNEP greater opportunities to monitor and coordinate peatland restoration activities and display results to various stakeholders, together with the Global Peatlands Initiative partners FAO and World Resources Institute.
- A [series of workshops](#) on 'Developing core common outcomes and reporting standards for peatlands research' to develop and promote interdisciplinary research, followed by the first inter-disciplinary 'International Peatlands Workshop: [Enhancing Evidence-Based Policy by](#)

[Developing Core Common Outcomes and Collaborations for Peatland Research and Monitoring](#) for tropical peatland researchers and experts in July 2019 in Bogor, Indonesia.

**J. Resolution 2/4 Role, functions, and modalities for UNEP implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Pacific engagement in the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network has strengthened as Palau co-hosted the 2018 forum. UNEP continue to actively support Pacific SIDS to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions through initiatives like the Cool Coalition and the Three Percent Club. The UNEP National Ozone Units network continues to support the development and enforcement of national policies and legislation under the Montreal Protocol together with capacity-building of industry groups to facilitate implementation and compliance.

**K. Resolution 2/10 Oceans and seas**

UNEP contributed to the Twelfth Malaysia Plan Kick-Off Conference held in July 2019, highlighting Sustainable Blue Economy approach in the context of national development planning processes, with a view towards supporting the Government of Malaysia's efforts towards developing a National Blue Economy Blueprint.

A regional workshop was held from the 11-12th December 2019 in Manila, Philippines, organized in collaboration with the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to support further development and finalization of the Outlook document. The final draft document will be considered at the 25th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA.

**M. Resolution 2/23 Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication**

A National Forum and International workshop on Natural Capital Accounting were held in Beijing in 2019.

**N. Resolution 4/17 Promote gender equality, and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance**

Under the regional marine litter project 'SEA circular', an analysis of the human rights, gender equality and economic implications of plastic pollution was conducted in 2019, highlighting knowledge gaps on gendered impacts of plastic product use and pollution and rights of informal waste workers and small-scale fishing communities.

**O. Resolution 4/18 Poverty Environment Nexus**

In 2019, UNEP, in collaboration with UNDP, launched the Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals (PEA) in Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal and Indonesia to strengthen the integration of poverty-environment-climate objectives into public and private planning and financing processes.

In Lao PDR in 2019, the project supported the development of a Provincial Investment Strategies annual reporting template to monitor the implementation of investment strategies in two provinces. PEA also provided capacity-building training on investment profile development to provincial officers of those provinces. UNEP and UNDP also facilitated an 11-member delegation from the Investment Promotion Department to visit Viet Nam and learn from their investment approval process, investment monitoring and investment promotion methods.

In 2019, PEA in Myanmar supported an organisational capacity needs assessment for the Environmental Conservation Department, which was used as a long-term organisational and human

resources development plan for sustainability policy development. UNEP and UNDP provided training to local-level officials in Myanmar on social and environmental standards, Environmental Impact Assessment and disaster risk reduction-climate change mainstreaming approaches in Rakhine State, Mon State and Bago region. Research on successful green businesses has been finalized to be used as the basis to promote investment in environmental goods and services.

**P. Resolution 4/20 Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V); 2/19 Midterm review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme)**

Further activities undertaken within Asia and the Pacific since the adoption of Montevideo V include:

- In 2019, a regional consultation was held to support the global initiative on advancing the rights of the child and the environment.
- To enhance the engagement of LDCs in intergovernmental climate change negotiations and prepare for the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Madrid from 2 to 13 December 2019, a series of workshops were held in Dili, Timor-Leste on 9 and 10 October 2019 (26 participants) and in Dhulikhel, Nepal on 14 and 15 November 2019 (16 participants).
- In 2019, UNEP and OHCHR convened training courses for the media and civil society on the relationship between environmental law and human rights for over 80 participants from the Asia-Pacific region.
- UNEP, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Supreme Court of Fiji, brought together over 120 judges from the Pacific region and beyond in October 2019 to share experiences and ideas on the role the judiciary can play in fighting climate change.
- At the request of Malaysia and in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization, UNEP organized a workshop, held in Kuala Lumpur from 14 to 16 August 2019, on strengthening institutional capacities to address the illegal trade in plastic waste.

**Q. Resolution 2/14 Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products; 1/3 Illegal trade in wildlife**

The 2019 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards were presented by UNEP in partnership with UNDP, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol). The awards recognize excellence in law enforcement by government officials and institutions or teams combating transboundary environmental crime, such as illegal trade in wildlife or chemicals or waste (including plastic) in Asia. Winners from China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Singapore received awards. The event gathered around 100 participants and received a large media coverage.

The UNEP India Office led the creation of an award-winning awareness campaign with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of India on wildlife trafficking through Indian airports in May 2019.<sup>21</sup> The campaign, titled 'Not all Animals Migrate by Choice', aimed to raise awareness of the conditions in which endangered animals are smuggled across borders, and illicit support for greater protections. The Tiger, Pangolin, Star Tortoise and the Tokay Gecko were chosen as the representative animals for the first phase of the campaign, based on real-life stories and their prominence in trafficking. The campaign is running at 22 airports across the country.

<sup>21</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190050>

**S. Resolution 4/6 Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics; 3/7 Marine litter and microplastics; 2/11 Marine plastic litter and micro-plastics; 1/6 Marine plastic debris and microplastics**

The Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Badge was introduced to India on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, after successes in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana and Mauritius as part of UNEP's Clean Seas Campaign. UNEP has been working with the Scouts, the Guides, Junior Achievement and University students across various African countries and India with the aim of mobilizing thousands of young people to participate in the fight against plastic pollution and marine litter. The programme is set to expand to 16 different countries later this year.

The Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) organized the Second Experts Group Meeting on Microplastic Research in Dalian on 27 September 2019, to discuss methods of monitoring microplastics pollution in the region. Scientists from China, Japan, Korea, and Russia are working on a project proposal to harmonize monitoring methodologies in the Northwest Pacific region. Pollution criteria of microplastics in the marine environment was highlighted for further studies.

**T. Resolution 4/7 Environmentally Sound Management of Waste; Resolution 4/8 Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste; 2/7 Sound management of chemicals and waste; Resolution 1/5 Chemicals and waste**

Experiences from Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal were published in the report 'Gender and waste nexus' in 2019 and UNEP's ongoing efforts on gender received a special acknowledgment awarded by UN Women. The report provides policy considerations for decision makers to create a more gender responsive waste management sector. In conjunction with the launch of the report, gender mainstreaming workshops were held in Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal, targeting a wide range of stakeholders including national and local governments, the private sector, civil society organisations and community women. A video series called Gender and Waste Nexus was launched in celebration of International Women's Day in March 2020, targeting the wider public to mainstream gender in waste management.

Training on Lifecycle assessment and lifecycle costing for the circular economy in Asia and the Pacific was organized in December 2019. Support on Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG12), as well as assessment and road-mapping on Sustainable Consumption and Production, continues to be provided to countries in Asia and the Pacific by UNEP, including assessment of environmentally sound waste management.

**U. Resolution 3/8 Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally; 1/7 Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality**

In early 2019, India launched the National Clean Air Programme as a national-level strategy for reducing the levels of air pollution at both the regional and urban scales. UNEP and partners also launched the Agra Clean Air Plan in June 2019 and are working with partners for the implementation of specific aspects of the Plan related to industrial emissions and overall monitoring and assessment capacity of relevant agencies. UNEP and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) are also supporting the preparation of a National Air Quality Assessment report for India. During the same month, Maldives adopted their first National Action Plan on Air Pollutants. Thailand's National Air Pollution Control Plan was approved in October 2019. The Republic of Korea adopted the 'fine dust special law' in February 2019 and 'the Seasonal PM2.5 Management System' in November 2019. Afghanistan endorsed the five-year Action Plan on Air Pollution Prevention and Reduction in 2019.

UN World Environment Day 2019 called for global attention to #beatairpollution, with China as the global host. Additionally, fifteen more cities have joined the BreatheLife campaign to demonstrate their commitment to clean air action, including Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar (India); Balikpapan, Bogor and Jamba (Indonesia); Lalitpur and Kathmandu (Nepal); Bataan, Manila, Marikina, Pasig,

Paranaque, San Juan, and Quezon City (Philippines); and Can Tho (Viet Nam).

A regional community of practice, named the “Clean Air Solutions Hub”, was launched in September 2019 to facilitate discussion on implementation of clean air solutions.

**Y. Resolution 4/23 Keeping the World Environment under Review: Enhancing UNEP’s Science-Policy Interface and Endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook; Resolution 1/4 Science-policy interface**

The International Climate Initiative funded project ‘Supporting decision making and building capacity to support an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services through national ecosystem assessments’ has delivered capacity building activities such as a global workshop in early 2019 and regular webinars bringing together participating countries to share their experiences.

Additionally, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre led UK Research and Innovation Global Challenges Research Fund Trade, Development and Environment Hub began in early 2019, and is a large-scale global project to investigate the trends and impacts of trade in wildlife, wild meat and agricultural goods, and to help make trade sustainable for people and the planet.

**Z. Resolution 3/4 Environment and Health**

FAO’s Asia Pacific Office, the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regional Office, the World Organisation for Animal Health and UNEP in Asia and the Pacific collaborated to highlight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as a regional priority issue during the preparation of the Global Chemicals Outlook II in 2018-2019, which resulted in raising global awareness on the AMR challenge in the region. This has occurred alongside effort to raise awareness on the environmental factors of AMR during the annual AMR awareness week in November, with nation-wide celebration prominent in countries such as Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand.

**Additional Resolutions**

**i) Resolution 4/4 Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices**

Two events were organized by UNEP’s Asia and the Pacific office in 2019: one on sustainable reporting for the private sector, and the second on businesses accelerating the circular economy. These events were organized in support of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the Human Rights Forum respectively.

**ii) Resolution 3/5 Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

An East Asian regional workshop on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators was held from 8–10 October 2019 in Da Nang, Viet Nam and brought together 20 participants from five countries. The workshop enabled sharing and learning from the European Commission-UNEP partnership project on data and information sharing and reporting for SDGs.

The ‘Asia-Pacific Regional Environmental Data Knowledge-Sharing, Capacity Strengthening and Strategic Pathways’ workshop was held from 22-25 July 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. Under a UNEP and European Commission project, more than 30 governmental officials and national experts from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal and Thailand met to strengthen national capacity for sharing and reporting environmentally relevant and reliable data and information to achieve the SDGs and support science-based decision-making.