

TECHNICAL NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED “Sustainable Lake Management”

Submitted by Indonesia on 25 October 2021

This technical note has been prepared by the UNEP Secretariat to facilitate consultations among Member States within the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on submitted draft resolutions for the resumed session of UNEA-5, as requested in paragraph 31 the [Chair’s Summary of the 8th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the CPR](#) held 25 - 29 October 2021¹. The note may be adjusted and updated, as needed and relevant, in view of additional information that may become available in the course of upcoming consultations.

The main elements of the draft resolution on Draft resolution on [Sustainable Lake Management](#) are:

- **To advance the protection, restoration and sustainable use of lakes and to integrate lake management plans into national/regional plans and policies**
- **To engage and build the capacities of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of lake management plans**
- **To further the science and knowledge related to sustainable lake management, and finally,**
- **To develop international collaboration on the topic.**

The suggested operative elements request UNEP to:

- **Mainstream sustainable lake management in the global agenda**
- **Facilitate research, capacity building and sharing knowledge and best practices, including South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and**
- **To designate a World Lake Day to highlight the importance of lakes for the well-being of both humanity and nature**

i) Relation to UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work

The overall objective and operative parts of the resolution are related to all three thematic sub-programmes of UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work:

- **Climate:** Sustainable water management, including lakes, is an essential part of the solution to both mitigating and adapting to climate change. It is also an essential element to meet key SDGs, including SDGs 1 and 2 and an underlying factor in creating stable societies.

¹ “The Chair also suggested that the secretariat will support our upcoming consultations on the draft resolution by providing technical guidance in writing for each draft resolution, with a technical analysis on the following three aspects: i) Relation to UNEPs Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work; ii) Legal aspects; and iii) Budget implications”

- *Nature*: Maintaining a healthy relationship between water (including lakes), nature and people is central to economic development, to providing water supply & sanitation services and to combating and recovering from pandemics/epidemics. This provides an important link to meeting SDGs 3 and 13, and also to ecosystem health as embedded in SDGs 6, 14 and 15.
- *Pollution*: Water pollution is a root cause of the decline of human and ecosystem health, and pollution in lakes can be a long-term problem, and challenging to address, due to their longer retention times.

Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, on the integration of lake management plans into national and regional development plans of Member States, relates to paragraph 77 of the MTS (under Outcome 3 of the Nature Action subprogramme). Paragraph 77 states that UNEP will support sustainable habitat management through transformative processes and outcomes, as well as provides that UNEP will drive responsible, freshwater-inclusive decision-making for all freshwater ecosystems (lakes, rivers, wetlands, groundwater).

ii) Legal aspects

There are no UNEA resolutions that explicitly focus on lake management, though lakes form part of the range of freshwater ecosystems and are also included within “ambient” waters and therefore indirectly addressed by:

- UNEA 1/8 Ecosystem based adaptation
- UNEA 1/9 Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water)
- [UNEA resolution 3/10](#) addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems.

Within Agenda 2030, the management of lakes and their waters are directly and indirectly included in a number of targets, among others:

- Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- Target 6.6: to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- Target 15.1: to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

In addition, UNEP has developed a [Freshwater Strategy 2017-2021](#), which covers the actions called for by operative paragraph 1, and it should be noted that UNEP is the UN custodian agency for monitoring and reporting on SDG indicators 6.3.2 (on water quality), 6.5.1 (on integrated water resource management), and 6.6.1 (on freshwater ecosystems).

