Actions approved by EMG senior officials at their eighteenth meeting
27 November, 2012[1]

***Action I*: Directions for the Issue Management Group (IMG) on biodiversity and its support to the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategic Plan and Aichi targets as well as the Rio+20 outcome document**

The senior officials decide to continue the work of the IMG on biodiversity for another year to:

1. Provide technical support to facilitate further synergies and cooperation, sharing tasks and coordination and planning of future actions by the UN system to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as the strategic planning processes of the biodiversity related MEAs, such as for migratory species, including by:

    a) further developing and finalizing the synthesis mapping report of the strategic objectives and key functions of EMG members *vis a vis* the Aichi Targets; and

    b) developing appropriate metrics and indicators

2. Carry out its work bearing in mind the ongoing post 2015 sustainable development process, and in this context, consider how biodiversity concerns could be best integrated into the SDGs.

3. Prepare a common approach to support the review and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and

4. As requested by the CBD-COP 11 prepare a progress report on its work for consideration at CBD-COP12.

***Action II:* Continuation of the work of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on land for developing a UN Drylands Action Plan and implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document.**

1. The senior officials, in response to the UNCCD COP 10 and UNEP Governing Council decision, decide to continue the work of the IMG on land for another year to prepare an Action Plan on the implementation of the EMG report, "Global Drylands, a UN system-wide Contribution", for consideration of the 11th COP of the UNCCD. This could appropriately draw on the related work on drought and disaster risk reduction;

[1] The context and background of the approved actions is contained in document EMGSOM18/03/Rev.1

2. Cognizant of the ongoing processes at the UN system level for the post 2015 development agenda, consider how best the IMG can inform the post 2015 development process, including options for the integration of drylands concerns into the SDGs.

***Action III*: Continuation of the work of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Green Economy to support implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document**

The senior officials decide to extend the work of the IMG for another year to serve as a mechanism for UN system-wide outreach, information sharing, awareness raising and coordination on inclusive green economies, building on the existing information, knowledge and experiences of the EMG members. In light of the mandates given by Rio+20, co-chairing arrangements for the IMG should be considered to ensure that the work of the IMG is led in a way which reflects the carrying out tasks that encompass the three dimensions of sustainable development and that embed the concept of green economy into the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The IMG should focus on preparation of the following key deliverables:

1. Take stock of the existing UN system-wide web-based platforms and green economy resources, including toolkits, best practices, lessons learned and analytical/assessment methodologies, including for evaluation, and provide suggestions on how these resources can be catalogued and made publicly available through an appropriate platform to better serve the member states.
2. Present options to the EMG at its next session on where the coordination of work relating to the inclusive green economy should be placed within the UN system;

The senior officials agree to contribute resources on a voluntary basis in support of the basic capacity needed for the EMG Secretariat to perform the coordination functions under the IMG.

***Actions IV*: Consultations on advancing the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system to support implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document.**

1. The senior officials agree that the ongoing Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability should be continued for one more year in order to support the implementation of the Sustainability Framework, including by translating it into a roadmap that clarifies the elements in the Framework essential for its implementation and for a common approach;

2. The senior officials also agree to recommend to the first CEB meeting in 2014, or earlier, the transfer of the Framework and its implementation to the CEB. This would ensure follow up and implementation of the Framework in all its dimensions and enable CEB consideration of options for a common support function and a knowledge sharing

mechanism in which environmental, social and economic considerations are fully integrated. The EMG will remain available to provide support to the environmental part of the Framework.

***Action V*: Strategic plan for environmental sustainability management[2] and arrangements for a common environment sustainability office and system-wide network**

1. The senior officials recall the approval of the Strategic Plan for Environmental Sustainability Management in the UN system in their 17th meeting in September 2011 by which they have committed to move towards a consistent, systematic and cost-effective approach to environmental sustainability management.
2. The senior officials have considered the proposed arrangements for the continued UNEP Sustainable UN facility and related system-wide network (IMG), and agree that the combination of both mechanisms is the most cost-effective way forward.
3. Recalling the 13 June letter to executive heads from the Secretary-General, the senior officials request the Chair of the EMG to inform and seek guidance from the CEB in 2013 on follow up to and implementation of the strategic plan for environmental sustainability management, including the proposed creation of a common UN environmental sustainability management office.[3]
4. In preparation for the CEB discussions, the senior officials also request that the "Strategic Plan for environmental sustainability management" be clearly communicated to the HLCM, including IMG recommendations for minimum criteria for environmental sustainability management systems in the UN system.
5. The senior officials also decide to extend the IMG until the end of 2014 to continue knowledge sharing, training and awareness-raising activities on issues such as sustainable facilities, procurement, events, travel and e-communications, and to further strengthen links with relevant inter-agency networks. The senior officials also undertake to make best endeavours to continue to support the delivery of the IMG work programme.

***Action VI:* Environmental Peer reviews of the EMG members**

The senior officials welcome the Options Paper for Peer-reviews of Environmental Profiles of EMG members. They request further development of the peer-reviews approach, in consultation with the Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management. They also request the EMG secretariat to seek two or three pilot and voluntary peer-reviews of agencies, based on the proposed approach and with a focus on environmental management, and to share

[2] The title of the strategic plan is modified to "environmental sustainability management" to avoid confusion with the Framework on Environmental and Social Sustainability

[3] FAO awaits guidance from its senior management regarding the "*proposed creation of a common UN environmental sustainability management office".*

lessons learned and progress made at the next EMG meeting.

Action VII: **Support the implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document including contribution to the relevant post Rio+20 processes**

1. The senior officials agree to continue cooperation towards implementing the outcome document of Rio+20, based on the implementation framework of the Secretary General and focusing on issues that might warrant a contribution by the EMG.
2. The senior officials request the EMG secretariat to provide a progress report on its work and contributions to implementation of the outcome document for their consideration and any further follow up at the 19th meeting of the EMG senior officials

Action VIII: **Approval of the work plan for EMG for the period 2013-2014**

The senior officials approve the work plan for EMG for the period 2013 – 2014 based on the understanding that the EMG secretariat will revise the plan presented in document EMG/SOM.18/04 to ensure that it fully reflects the actions agreed by the 18th meeting of EMG senior officials. The work plan will be implemented on the basis of in-kind contributions from members and is subject to availability of resources

Action IX: **Reporting to the Governing Council of UNEP**

1. The senior officials welcome the opportunity to inform the UNEP Governing Council, and through the Council the UN General Assembly, of its work. The meeting appreciates
   the guidance received from the Council and requests the Chair to continue the practice of circulating a draft of the EMG report to members of the Group for their comments, and to submit the final report to the 27th Session of the UNEP Governing Council

   Senior officials also encourage members of the EMG to make the report available to their governing bodies as appropriate.

Action X: **Date and venue of the next senior officials meetings**

The senior officials request the EMG secretariat to circulate to the members of the EMG the date and venues for their 19th meeting and to consult with members on its agenda.