Approved Actions by the 20th meeting of the Senior Officials of the EMG

26.09.2014

Suggested Action I: **Directions for the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity**

In view of the time-bound and issue-focused nature of the IMG and accomplishment of its assigned tasks, the senior officials decide to conclude the work of the IMG on Biodiversity. The considerations of the IMG on enhancing integration of biodiversity into national level processes, including the NBSAPs, UNDAF and other planning processes and other work to support implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity, can be followed up by the Aichi Biodiversity Target Task Force (ABTTF), and other appropriate fora, in which many EMG members, as well as several non-UN entities, already participate.

Suggested Action II: **The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Green Economy**

In view of the time-bound and issue-focused nature of the IMG and accomplishment of its tasks, the senior officials decide to conclude the work of the IMG on Green Economy. The work of the IMG can be followed up by partnership-based approaches, including through the ongoing work of PAGE (Partnership for Action on Green Economy) or GGKP (Green Growth Knowledge Platform) for better coordinated support to member states on green economy and the facilitation of information sharing on existing and emerging policy options, methodologies and technical advice.

Suggested Action III: **The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste**

The senior officials:
1. welcome the progress made by the IMG and its contribution to the Open Working Group on SDGs and the UN Task Teams on possible targets and indicators for sound management of chemicals for the SDGs.
2. decide to extend the IMG to undertake and complete the remaining tasks as listed in the ToR, including mapping of the expertise, activities and initiatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes and how these contribute to the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal and identifying possible synergies and areas for cooperation with the view to provide a contribution to the 4th International Conference on Management of Chemicals (ICCM4) in 2015.

Suggested Actions IV: **Consultations on Advancing the Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system.**

The senior officials:
1. welcome the progress made by the Consultative Process and the Interim Guide prepared for UN agencies to implement the Sustainability Framework;
2. decide to extend the Consultative Process to:
a) approve the Pilot Concept Note and support piloting the use of the Interim Guide as a tool in individual volunteer agencies, with the view to share lessons learned, better understand the practical implications of implementing Sustainability Framework, improve the Sustainability Framework and the Guide .
b) identify linkages between the Sustainability Framework and the various 'fit for purpose' discussions in the UN system held in relation to the post-2015 development agenda and enhance communication around this issue, to enable further consideration in the EMG after the Post 2015 Development Agenda has been adopted.
c) propose that the Consultative Process make recommendations to the next EMG senior officials meeting on steps to enhance resilience and business continuity in the face of shocks in the UN system.

***Suggested Action V*: System-wide commitments on Environmental Sustainability Management**

The senior officials:
1. endorse the above report on activities of the IMG on environmental sustainability management and invite the EMG to present a progress report to the fall session of the HLCM, as agreed and in due form;
2. welcome the call of the Secretary General urging the UN system to become climate-neutral and agree to intensify their actions in moving their agencies toward climate neutrality, starting by providing data on their organizations' GHG emissions from this year onward;
3. propose to the IMG to make recommendations to support the UN agencies to become climate neutral by 2020 at the latest and report on progress to the next senior officials meeting.

***Suggested Action VI:* Environmental Peer Reviews of the EMG members**

The senior officials:
1. welcome the Peer-Review reports of WMO, UNIDO (VIC), and UNEP and thank these agencies, as well as other contributing UN entities, including the peer review expert teams and the PRB, for taking part in the pilot phase;
2. decide to extend the peer reviews process into a second phase and take note of the potential interest that has been indicated by UPU, IMF, UN Women, WIPO and OECD to be peer reviewed during 2014-2015;
3. invite the EMG members participating in the peer review process to consider how the process can be sustained going forward, including possible options for sustainable financing of the peer-review activities;
4. invite the reviewed agencies to consider sharing with other EMG members their peer review reports, as well as information on the progress made in their agencies in implementing the recommendations of their Peer Review reports.

Suggested Action VII: **Contribution of the EMG to a UN System-Wide Strategy on Environment**

The senior officials take note of paragraph 88 (c) of the Rio+20 outcome document, and of the UNEA resolution 1/11 setting out UNEP's mandate to "lead efforts to formulate a System-Wide Strategy(s) on the Environment". They agree to provide feedback through the EMG Secretariat on the draft outline for the SWS and in response to the questions posed in the Strategic Directions note (Working document: EMG/SOM.20/04), and on any other relevant issues as set out in the support document 2, by the end of [October 2014]. Based on the feedback and views of EMG members, UNEP will provide a proposal on the further development of the System Wide Strategy(s) on the Environment for consideration by the EMG. They agree to review this process at their next meeting.

Suggested Action VIII: Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in coordinating the environmental work in the United Nations in the context of the post 2015 development agenda

The senior officials agree to establish a task team to identify options for furthering the effectiveness of the EMG, including its contribution to the post 2015 development agenda. They agree to consider the outcome of the task force at their next meeting, with a view to providing their input to the report of the Chair of the EMG to the Second Session of the UNEA.

Suggested Action IX: **Addressing new issues for future work of the EMG**

The senior officials take note of the suggested new issues proposed by WFP and WMO and invite further consideration by the EMG focal points to define the specific role and contribution of the EMG to these issues, [including through a time-bound interagency contribution to the work of the Secretary-General's Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development], for further consideration of the senior officials.

Suggested Action X: **Approval of the work plan for EMG for the period 2015–2016**

The senior officials approve the work plan for EMG for the period 2015–2016 based on the understanding that the EMG secretariat will revise the plan presented in document EMG/SOM.20/05 to ensure that the plan fully reflects the actions agreed by the 20th senior officials meeting of the EMG. The work plan will be implemented on the basis of in-kind contributions from members and is subject to availability of resources.

Suggested Action XI: **Reporting to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP**

The senior officials welcome the opportunity to inform the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP of its work. The senior officials note their appreciation for the guidance received from the 1st session of UNEA, and request the Chair to continue the practice of circulating a draft of the report by EMG on its work to members of the Group for their comments, and to submit the final report to the second UN Environment Assembly of UNEP.

Suggested Action XII: **Date and venue of the next senior officials meeting**

The senior officials request the EMG secretariat to circulate to the members of the EMG the date and venues for the 21th meeting of the senior officials, and consult with members on its agenda.