UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP EMG

24th Meeting of the Senior Officials of the United Nations Environment Management Group 9/24/2018 New York, UNGA 2018 – Summary of Outcomes

The 24th Meeting of the UN Environment Management Group gathered 47 agencies of the United Nations System, including the Bretton-Woods Institutions, represented by 27 heads of agencies, and senior officials. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Erik Solheim, EMG Chair, and Executive Director of UN Environment, and co-chaired by Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and brought an unprecedented number of heads of agencies.

The meeting catalyzed individual agency commitments by EMG membership to partner and collaborate towards collectively addressing emerging environmental challenges. This type of engagement not only recognizes the interdependence of environmental, social, and economic sustainability by UN agencies, but also paves the way for new opportunities to create value and synergies within the UN system. This, in the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as one, efficient, and effective UN system.

The outcome of the meeting delineates the following actions:

- ✓ **Creation of a Coalition to address the threat of sand and dust storms**. The coalition can be broader than just UN agencies, and will focus on providing a common platform for technical expertise and resources for strengthening preparedness measures and strategies for risk reduction, consolidated policy, innovative solutions, advocacy and capacity building efforts, and fund raising initiatives.

  Action points

  1. Invite interested UN agencies to nominate focal points to join the Coalition;
  2. Develop the Terms of Reference of the Coalition and a plan of action for the Coalition for short and long-term measures;
  3. Approval of the plan of action and launch of the Coalition by the Task Team;

- ✓ **Broadening and ramping up of the E-Waste Coalition** established by ITU, UN Environment, BRS, UNIDO, ILO, UNU, and UNITAR. Senior Officials agreed to expand the coalition's activities to include a joint media and awareness campaign, the creation of online portal for e-waste information and statistics, capacity building for member states, and launch of awards to recognize best practice.

  Action points

  1. Develop individual project and financing plans for the E-waste Coalition's programme areas.
  2. Ensure the Coalition's involvement with the private sector including SMEs, with support from the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).
  3. Secure the relevant financial resources, for the e-waste portal and design and publishing of relevant reports.

- ✓ **Creation of a task-force on the greening of the Belt and Road Initiative**. Senior Officials committed agencies to the task-force which will identify potential contributions by UN agencies, coordinating strategies, including linkages between BRI and the SDGs to position the UN system in the best way possible to provide support to member states in a collective manner.

  Action points

  1. Establishment and nomination of the focal points of interested agencies to the Task Team;
  2. Develop the Terms of Reference and workplan of the Task Team including concrete deliverables;
  3. Report on progress to the next Senior Officials Meeting.