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**United Nations  
Environment Assembly of the  
United Nations Environment Programme**

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**United Nations Environment Assembly of the**

**United Nations Environment Programme**

**First session**

Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Scenario note for the first session of the United Nations  
Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment  
Programme**

**Note of the Executive Director\***

The present note, prepared with inputs from the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), especially its Bureau with participation of the chairs of the Nairobi-based regional groups and economic/political integration entities, and the Bureau of the UNEP governing body elected at its first universal session held in February 2013, sets out the plans and general expectations for the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the UNEP. This note is intended to assist delegations and observers in preparing for a successful inaugural session of the Environment Assembly.

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\* Issued without formal editing.

## **I. Dates and duration**

1. Pursuant to decision 27/15, adopted at the first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council on 22 February 2013, the first session of the Environment Assembly will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 23 June 2014, by the current President of the Environment Assembly, H.E. Mr. Hassan Abdelgadir Hilal, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development of the Republic of Sudan. The session will be held for five days and is expected to conclude at 6 p.m. on Friday, 27 June 2014.
2. The opening plenary on Monday will be preceded by informal consultations of the UNEP Executive Director with all regional groups on Sunday, 22 June, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
3. The Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 21 and 22 June, with approximately 180 participants.
4. On Tuesday, 24 June, and Wednesday, 25 June, a Symposium on Environment Rule of Law and a Symposium on Financing a Green Economy will also be organized, respectively, by UNEP and its partners, with interpretation to English, French and Spanish. The morning session of the Symposium on Financing a Green Economy will also offer Chinese interpretation.
5. Meeting rooms have been allocated to all regional groups and economic/political integration entities to hold their consultations as necessary on Saturday and Sunday, 21 and 22 June, and outside the official working hours of the UNEA session (10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday).
6. Proceedings of the UNEA plenary, including the high-level segment, will be webcast to the public. In addition, the Earth Negotiations Bulletin will cover and publish reports on the first session of the Environment Assembly, including the Committee of the Whole, if established, Symposia and side events.
7. Detailed information on the first session, including documents and calendar of meetings can be found at the official UNEA website: <http://www.unep.org/unea/>. Daily Journal will also be issued online to provide participants with updated information on the organization of the session.

## **II. Preparation by the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

8. Pursuant to the mandate given by Governing Council decision 27/2, the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) has engaged in intensive preparatory work for the first session of the Environment Assembly, including through the first open-ended meeting of the Committee held from 24 to 28 March 2014. The CPR Bureau, represented by its Chair, has held regular consultations with the UNEA Bureau, with the latter providing further guidance on UNEA preparations. The inaugural session builds on the results of this work by the Committee, in terms of the organization and structure of the session, draft resolutions/decisions before the session, various substantive reports by the Executive Director, and potential outcomes of the high-level segment. H.E. Mr. Sunu Soemarno, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Indonesia to UNEP and Chair of the CPR, will report on the work of the Committee to the Environment Assembly at its first plenary meeting on Monday, 23 June.
9. Major Groups and Stakeholders have also engaged in preparatory work leading up to the Environment Assembly, including through regional consultation meetings and participation in the open-ended meeting of the CPR in March 2014.

## **III. Nomination and election of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly**

10. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2, paragraph 6, the Bureau of the governing body of UNEP will be “composed of 10 members to reflect the universality of the governing body, in accordance with equitable geographical distribution, and will assist the governing body and perform the functions as set out in the rules of procedure of the governing body”.

11. To provide the parameters for the Bureau composition, the Environment Assembly may consider and adopt, at its first plenary meeting on Monday, 23 June, the proposed decision entitled “Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development”, which “decides that each of the five regions shall be represented by two members in the 10-member Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP”.

12. Pursuant to rule 18 of the current rules of procedure,<sup>1</sup> the Environment Assembly will elect the following officers at the beginning of the session: a President nominated by the Asia-Pacific Group, eight Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur nominated by the Latin American and the Caribbean Group (in accordance with the principle of regional rotation).

13. There is growing support by the CPR and the UNEA Bureau to have officers for the Environment Assembly elected at the end of each regular session of the Environment Assembly so that these officers would preside over the session for which they oversee preparations.

14. In this context, the Environment Assembly may consider making relevant amendments to the rules of procedure and elect officers for the next session at the closing of the first session on Friday, 27 June. These officers will constitute the UNEA Bureau and work until the end of the next session of the Environment Assembly. Officers elected on Monday for the first session of the Environment Assembly may thus be re-elected at the closing of the first session on Friday, 27 June.

15. Given the critical roles played by the UNEA Bureau in the conduct of business, it is important for the regional groups to nominate officers as early as possible, before the start of the Environment Assembly, so that the nominees would have sufficient time to prepare for the session with support from the Secretariat.

#### **IV. Adoption of agenda**

16. The Environment Assembly may wish to adopt its agenda at the first plenary meeting on Monday, 23 June. The provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/EA.1/1), as drawn up on the basis of the contributions made by the CPR, was distributed in advance and is available at: <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.

#### **V. Organization of work**

17. At the first plenary meeting, UNEP Executive Director will deliver his policy statement after opening remarks by a representative of the host country.

18. Following the consultations that took place with the UNEA Bureau as well as the CPR Bureau and the chairs of the Nairobi-based regional groups and economic/political integration entities, it is recommended that the Environment Assembly establishes on Monday, 23 June, several sessional committees, pursuant to rule 60 of the rules of procedure<sup>2</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 18

(1) At the commencement of the first meeting of its regular session, the [Environment Assembly] shall elect a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the [Environment Assembly]. The Bureau shall assist the President in the general conduct of business of the [Environment Assembly]. The Chairpersons of such sessional committees or working parties as may be established under rule 60 below shall be invited to participate in meetings of the Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> Rule 60

(1) At each session, the [Environment Assembly] may set up sessional committees and working parties, from among its members, and refer to them any questions on the agenda for study and report.

(2) The sessional committees and working parties may set up sub-committees and sub-groups of working parties. The member of such sub-committees and sub-groups of working parties shall be nominated by the committee or working party concerned.

- Committee of the Whole
- Drafting Group to work on draft decisions that do not require special technical expertise
- Friends of the President of the Environment Assembly to support the preparation of the outcome of the UNEA high-level segment under provisional agenda item 8. The modality for the work of this group is expected to be defined and communicated by the President once constituted.

19. The Committee of the Whole may wish to discuss substantive reports of the Executive Director prepared pursuant to the mandates of the previous sessions of the governing body as well as other matters of importance to the Environment Assembly.

20. It is suggested that the Drafting Group takes up, among others, the draft resolution/decision on illegal trade in wildlife, which, in accordance with the agreement reached at the open-ended meeting of the CPR on 28 March 2014, would support or validate the President's summary of the ministerial plenary on this theme. Having the Drafting Group work on this resolution/decision would allow for the incorporation of key elements that may emerge from the ministerial dialogue on illegal trade and wildlife since the Drafting Group can continue its work until the convening of the UNEA closing plenary on Friday, 27 June, at 3 p.m.<sup>3</sup>

21. Under provisional agenda item 4, the Environment Assembly may wish to adopt further amendments to the rules of procedure, to complement the amendments made by the Governing Council decision 27/1 of February 2013. Pursuant to rule 71,<sup>4</sup> the Environment Assembly may wish to establish, at the opening plenary meeting on Monday, 23 June, a Working Party on this item which may submit a report for adoption by the Environment Assembly on Friday. In support of the deliberations by the Environment Assembly in this regard, the CPR is expected to submit a report on the result of its work on facilitation of amendments of the rules of procedure (document UNEP/EA.1/L.2).

## VI. Committee of the Whole

22. The Committee of the Whole is expected to conduct its work under provisional agenda items 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10, beginning from the afternoon of Monday, 23 June, through to the afternoon of Wednesday, 25 June. While the Committee is recommended to endeavour concluding its work by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, it may need to reconvene in the margins of the high-level segment on Thursday and Friday, 26 and 27 June, in case some items remain outstanding. Interpretation into the six official UN languages will be offered for the scheduled meetings of the Committee.

23. Pursuant to rule 61 of the rules of procedure,<sup>5</sup> the Committee of the Whole will elect its own Chair and Rapporteur. While the annotated provisional agenda (document UNEP/EA.1/1/Add.1) provides a list of documents and substantive topics to be taken up by the Committee of the Whole, the elected Chair of the Committee may wish to propose at its first meeting on Monday afternoon, a detailed calendar of work for approval by the Committee.

24. To optimally use the limited time available for the Committee of the Whole to achieve meaningful results, the Committee may wish to establish thematic Contact Groups to negotiate relevant draft decisions. It is expected that a Budget Group and a Contact Group on Chemicals and Waste will be formed. Additional Contact Groups may be established as deemed necessary by the Committee. Moreover, the Committee may wish to agree to transmit some draft resolutions/decisions for consideration by the Drafting Group. The work of these sessional groups will be conducted in English only.

<sup>3</sup> If the negotiation of the draft resolution/decision on illegal trade in wildlife is taken up by the Committee of the Whole, it may not be able to reflect inputs from the ministerial dialogue, since the Committee is expected to complete its work by Wednesday, 25 June, evening.

<sup>4</sup> Rule 71

These rules may not be amended until the [Environment Assembly] has received a report on the proposed amendments from a committee or a working party of the [Environment Assembly] established for that purpose.

<sup>5</sup> Rule 61

Each sessional committee or working party shall elect its own officers, unless otherwise decided by the [Environment Assembly]. In electing its officers, each sessional committee or working party shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation.

25. As per the practice of the UNEP governing body, Major Groups and Stakeholders will be allocated seats to observe the proceedings of the Committee and will be invited to make interventions as appropriate, subject to permission by the Chair. The Committee may wish to discuss the issue of strengthened stakeholder engagement in the work of UNEP and negotiate a draft resolution/decision on this matter, if proposed by Member State(s).

26. On Wednesday afternoon, 25 June, the Committee of the Whole is expected to receive reports from the Drafting Group and other Contact Groups and approve draft resolutions/decisions for submission to the UNEA plenary, which is scheduled to meet in the afternoon of Friday, 27 June, to adopt these resolutions/decisions as appropriate. The Committee of the Whole is also expected to adopt its own report for submission to the plenary on Wednesday afternoon, unless otherwise decided during the Environment Assembly.

27. In sum, establishment of the following groups are envisaged during UNEA:

To be established during the UNEA opening plenary on Monday morning, 23 June (as per rule 60.1)	To be established by the Committee of the Whole on Monday afternoon, 23 June (as per rule 60.2)
Committee of the Whole	Budget Group
Drafting Group	Contact Group on Chemicals and Waste
Working Party on the Rules of Procedure	Other Contact Groups as necessary
Friends of the UNEA President	

28. As of the first week of June 2014, the following resolutions/decisions are expected to be negotiated during the Environment Assembly:

- 1) Decision 1: Revised biennial programme of work and budget for 2014-2015
- 2) Decision 2: Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2016–2017
- 3) Resolution/Decision 3: Enhancing the coordinating role of the UNEP in the UN system on environmental matters: A process to prepare a UN system-wide strategy on the environment, including the Environment Management Group
- 4) Decision 4: Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (likely to be taken up at the opening plenary on Monday, 23 June)
- 5) Resolution/Decision 5: Omnibus decision on science-policy interface
- 6) Resolution/Decision 6: Omnibus decision on chemicals and waste
- 7) Resolution/Decision 7: Ecosystem-based adaptation (draft submitted by Uganda and Zimbabwe at the open-ended meeting of the CPR)
- 8) Resolution/Decision 8: Promoting air quality through UNEP (draft submitted by the United States of America at the open-ended meeting of the CPR)
- 9) Resolution/Decision 9: Marine plastic debris and microplastics (draft submitted by Norway in June 2014)
- 10) Resolution/Decision 10: GEMS/Water (draft expected to be tabled by the European Union and its Member States)
- 11) Resolution/Decision 11: Illegal trade in wildlife (draft expected to be tabled by a group of countries)
- 12) Decision 11: Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility
- 13) Decision 12: Trust funds and earmarked contributions;
- 14) Decision 13: Stakeholder engagement
- 15) Decision 14: Amendments to the rules of procedure
- 16) Decision 15: Date, venue and provisional agenda of future sessions of the UNEA

## VII. High-level segment

29. Pursuant to decision 27/2, paragraph 5, the Environment Assembly will hold a high-level segment on Thursday and Friday, 26 and 27 June, with participation of Ministers of Environment, heads of delegations, representatives of the UN system, heads of Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Major Groups and Stakeholders.

30. Following the recommendation by the open-ended meeting of the CPR and subsequent approval by the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, the high-level segment will focus on two themes that have global resonance: (i) *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)* and (ii) *Illegal Trade in Wildlife*. Information notes of the Executive Director on the two themes are available for reference (UNEP/EA.1/INF/18, UNEP/EA.1/INF/19). A guidance note, containing guiding questions for the Ministers and other participants, is provided in annex and additional relevant documents may be issued prior to UNEA.

31. The high-level segment is expected to open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 26 June. The President of the Environment Assembly will welcome all delegates and preside over the opening ceremony, which will consist of remarks by key dignitaries. To date, the Secretariat has received confirmation to deliver remarks from HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and H.E. Mr. John Ashe, President of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly. Invitations have been sent to H.E. Mr. Uhuru M. Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, and Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General. A group photograph of high-level dignitaries and Ministers will be organized to mark the first session of UNEA.

32. After the opening ceremony, the Executive Director of UNEP will make a presentation which will highlight the latest global environmental challenges and science-policy interface. The President of the Environment Assembly will then open the floor for an interactive discussion among Ministers, heads of delegation and other participants. Given the limited time, it is recommended that each intervention does not exceed three minutes. Participants who take the floor will be assisted in keeping time with a «traffic-light» timer.

33. During lunch time, from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m., a briefing on the two themes of the high-level segment will be organized for Ministers and heads of delegations plus one. Lunch will be provided during this briefing, which is scheduled to take place outside the main conference rooms, with simultaneous interpretation in all UN languages.

34. During the briefing, the Executive Director will set the scene and facilitate discussion with the following prospective speakers, with a view to enhancing delegates' background understanding on the two themes:

### *SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including Sustainable Consumption and Production*

- Co-Chair of Open Working Group on SDGs: H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the UN in New York
- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning

### *Illegal Trade in Wildlife*

- An eminent international expert (to be confirmed) who will provide an overview of the latest available information on the scope and scale of the illegal trade in wildlife and its environmental, economic and social consequences.
- Mr. John Scanlon, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Mr. Aldo Lale-Demoz, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Operations of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

35. In the afternoon (3 to 6 p.m.) of Thursday, 26 June, the ministerial plenary on the theme “SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including SCP” will be held. This plenary is expected to be chaired by the President of the Environment Assembly or a Vice-President designated by the President, and moderated by Mr. Erik Solheim, Chair of Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and former Minister of the Environment and International Development of Norway. Following a brief introduction by the President and the moderator, respectively, Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) is expected to deliver remarks in her capacity as the Chair of the UN Development Group, which brings together the heads of 32 UN funds, programmes and agencies to work on development issues.

36. In the evening of Thursday, 26 June (6 to 6.50 p.m.) immediately following the conclusion of the aforementioned ministerial plenary, a cocktail reception will be hosted by the President of the Environment Assembly and the Executive Director of UNEP for Ministers and other heads of delegations.

37. From 7 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, the ministerial plenary on “Illegal Trade in Wildlife” will convene, chaired by the President of the Environment Assembly or a Vice-President designated by the President, and moderated by H.E. Ms. Sheila Abed, Minister of Justice and Labor of the Republic of Paraguay. Following brief introductory remarks, Ministers, other heads of delegations and Major Groups and Stakeholders will be invited to exchange views *inter alia* on gaps and progress towards addressing the illegal trade in wildlife, on the role of UN system, and on effective measures towards ensuring an integrated response by the UN and other stakeholders to the illegal trade in wildlife (see guidance note for further information on the anticipated scope of discussion).

38. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, 27 June, the plenary discussion on “SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including SCP” will continue, chaired by the President of the Environment Assembly or a Vice-President designated by the President and moderated by H.E. Mr. Rolph Payet, Minister for Environment and Energy of the Republic of Seychelles.

39. During these three ministerial plenary sessions, the Chair will give the floor to Member States in the order in which they signal their preference to speak in the conferencing system. In accordance with Governing Council decision 27/2 on the participation of relevant stakeholders, Major Groups and Stakeholders and representatives of the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations will be invited to speak at the discretion of the President. The Chair may invite the moderators to summarize the main points raised after a set of interventions and to guide the discussions as appropriate.

40. In order to promote a truly interactive dialogue, Ministers are encouraged not to read speeches but to make concise interventions that fit in the flow of discussion at hand. In this regard, delegates may wish to carefully review the guidance note on the two themes of the high-level segment, with a view to ensuring that Ministers and other heads of delegations are well prepared to engage in an interactive dialogue. All participants are urged to make interventions that are concise (maximum three minutes) and, where possible, responding to the interventions made by others.

41. Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders are invited to submit their written statements, if any, for each of the two themes of the high-level segment to <uneal@unep.org>. If submitted in advance, ideally before Friday, 20 June, written statements will enable the Chair and the moderators to effectively prepare for their roles in leading the dialogues and help the Secretariat provide more informed support to the proposed Friends of the President in their work on drafting the outcome of the UNEA high-level segment. These statements will be posted on the official UNEA website for public access. Statements should not be more than three pages in length (approximately 600 words). Where relevant and desired, participants may wish to provide courtesy translation of their statements in English.

42. Due to time constraints, especially on Thursday, 26 June, participants are kindly requested to cooperate in observing the hours indicated in this scenario note (changes to the schedule will be announced in Daily Journal).

## VIII. Closing plenary meeting

43. It is recommended that on Friday, 27 June, from 3 to 6 p.m., the closing plenary consider and adopt the outcomes of the first session of the Environment Assembly, as prepared during the preceding five days, including the resolutions/decisions submitted by the Drafting Group and the Committee of the Whole. The plenary may also want to consider items 3 (Credentials of representatives), 10 (Other matters) and 11 (Adoption of the report).

44. Additionally, high-level speakers are expected to deliver remarks at the closing plenary, including H.E. Mr. John Ashe, President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Carlos Enrique Garcia, Vice-President of the UN Economic and Social Council and a representative of the host country.

45. Pursuant to rule 17 of the rules of procedure,<sup>6</sup> the credentials of representatives of Member States shall be submitted to the Executive Director before the first plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on Monday, 23 June. A copy of the credentials can be submitted in advance of the meeting to <unea1@unep.org>. The credentials should be issued either by the Head of State or Government, Minister of Foreign Affairs or other governmental authorities with mandate to issue credentials in accordance with respective national rules and legislations.

## IX. Potential outcomes of the first session

46. The first session of the Environment Assembly is expected to result in a set of resolutions/decisions that would guide the work of UNEP in the coming years and also approve the programmes of work and budget for biennia 2014-2015 and 2016-2017.

47. The ministerial plenary on “SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including SCP” may also produce an outcome in a format to be determined by Member States. As per the agreement reached at the open-ended meeting of the CPR among the members of the CPR Bureau and the chairs of the Nairobi-based regional groups and the economic/political integration entities, the ministerial plenary on “Illegal Trade in Wildlife” will have a President’s summary as its outcome, supported by a resolution/decision.

## X. Other events during the Environment Assembly

48. A number of associated and side events will be organized by UNEP, Member States and other organizations during the first session of the Environment Assembly. These events are intended to bring diverse actors to Nairobi to discuss environmental issues of global significance and to find concrete pathways toward sustainable development. The outcome of these events will take the form of summaries and will be posted on the UNEA website for reference. All delegates and Major Groups and Stakeholders are invited to participate in these events at their convenience. The Secretariat will also organize, in collaboration with various partners, high-level press conferences and media roundtables. The full list of these events can be found at: <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.

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<sup>6</sup> Rule 17

(1) The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting which the representatives are to attend.

Annex

**UNEA High-level Segment Ministerial Plenary  
Interactive Dialogue on Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015  
Development Agenda, including Sustainable Consumption and Production**

Thursday, 26 June 2014, 3 to 6 p.m.  
Friday, 27 June 2014, 10 am to 1 pm

During the High-level Segment of the first session of the UNEA (HLS), Ministers, high-level heads of delegation, major groups and stakeholders are invited to exchange views and experiences on the interlinkages between the environmental dimension and the social and economic dimensions. They are also invited to share views regarding both the setting of the Post-2015 agenda and its implementation at global, regional, national and local levels, including aspects such as monitoring and accountability. Particular insights and recommendations relevant to UNEP's Programme of Work, as well as on the interface between UNEA and the wider institutional framework for sustainable development, including the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), could also contribute to the discussion.

The Information note by the UNEP Secretariat entitled *Environmental sustainability for human well-being in the post-2015 development agenda (UNEP/EA.1/INF/18)*, and UNEP's Post-2015 Notes (<http://www.unep.org/post2015>) provides additional references for participants in the dialogue.

The Post-2015 development agenda promises a historical opportunity to shift from development in siloes to a more integrated approach; a view reinforced by the Rio+20 Outcome, MDG Summit Outcome, and the UN Secretary-General's report 'A life of dignity for all'. A new development agenda would carry forward the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, build on their lessons and respond to the challenges of the twenty-first century. An integrated approach can generate multiple benefits and minimize or manage trade-offs, through three overarching and interlinked principles:

**Leave no one behind by sustainably meeting basic environmental and social standards.** Affordable, innovative and sustainable technologies can simultaneously increase employment, foster better use of science and traditional knowledge, upscale provision of basic services, and at the same time protect the environment.

**Live within the Earth's safe operating space, while promoting equitable prosperity and sustainable growth.** The continued well-being of humanity ultimately depends upon responsible management of the planet's finite natural resources. Changing production systems, employment patterns and technologies, as well as accompanying behaviors and lifestyles, can enable a universal transition towards sustainable consumption and production and an inclusive sustainable economy.

**Build up assets for the benefit and prosperity of future generations.** Investment in building and restoring natural capital, and the associated social capital (i.e. knowledge, societal systems), and resource efficient economic capital (i.e. infrastructure, buildings and commodities), will sustain long-term development and increase the capacity of our planet from its present degraded state.

## Session 1: Eradicating poverty and achieving prosperity, within the earth's safe operating space, through sustainable consumption and production

Thursday, 26 June 2014, 3 to 6 p.m.

*Participants are invited to discuss the opportunities offered by sustainable consumption and production to eradicate extreme poverty and provide decent employment, livelihoods, and prosperity, while also protecting and improving the Earth's natural resources.*

Achieving sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns is about maintaining the natural capital and hence productivity and capacity of our planet to meet human needs and sustain economic activities. Ending poverty and ensuring sustainable prosperity can be achieved if sustainable economic growth, social protection, and environmental health and stewardship are considered together. Profound changes in economic and financial globalization, rapid urbanization of poverty, increasing inequality within nations, and ever more visible threats to human development and security from degradation of natural capital and environmental hazards call for a paradigm shift in planning for sustainable development. Actions by nations to advance their economies in a sustainable way (also referred to as green economy), and actions to promote resource efficiency, lower material intensity of industry, and investment to deliver more output per unit of input, convey a growing realization that our US\$70 trillion global economy needs a refit.

**Poverty and the environment.** Poverty is a challenge of the developed and developing world. Evidence suggests that global economic growth of the last few decades and trade liberalization has helped to pull people out of poverty. But it is estimated that by 2015, one billion people, most of them in developing and transition economies, will be living below the extreme poverty line of \$1.25/day. Successes in alleviating poverty have not always been permanent, and sometimes achieved by overlooking and under-valuing environmental externalities.

The majority of the extreme poor continue to live in rural areas, where their primary source of income is from agriculture, forests, fisheries, animal husbandry, other nature-based activities and non-farm rural employment such as the service and tourism sectors, post-harvest processing, marketing and shipping. Ecosystem services and other non-marketed goods make up between 50 and 90% of the total source of livelihoods among poor rural households – the ‘GDP of the poor’. For example, the net benefits from coral reefs in Haiti’s Main Islands can be valued at \$360 million per year, or \$22,000 per hectare per year. Common property resources contribute some US \$5 billion a year to the incomes of poor rural households in India, or about 12% to household income of poor rural households.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in 2005 estimated that approximately 60% of the ecosystem services that support life on Earth are changing, being degraded or used unsustainably, and not just by the poor. The rural economies’ overall ability to keep people on the land (or sea) is diminishing, and profound imbalances are increasing pressures on ecosystems to satisfy a growing demand for food (its quantity, quality and diversity). The poor have been urbanizing even more rapidly than the population as a whole; during 1993-2002, the count of the “\$1 a day” poor fell by 150 million in rural areas but rose by 50 million in urban areas. On the other hand, investing in sustainable agriculture has been shown to increase farm productivity by 59 to 179%. In Tanzania, investment in sustainable forestry has increased incomes of the rural poor as well as the urban poor. A diversified and sustainable rural development could mean protection of existing livelihoods, balanced rural-urban development, and prevention of accelerated rural to urban migration. Harmful subsidies, unequal access and rights to natural resources, unequal access to infrastructure, and trade barriers also need to be addressed so as to empower smallholders and rural women as critical agents for food security.

1. Are there best practices of investment in rural economies that have simultaneously supported sustainable and healthy food systems, eradicated rural poverty, empowered women and vulnerable groups, and helped protect the ecological foundation of societies?

**Poverty alleviation through sustainably-derived basic services.** Poverty can be self-perpetuating if its multiple dimensions are not addressed. One of these is the provision of basic services, such as water and energy. Over 1.3 billion people continue to live without access to electricity and 2.6 billion people are without clean cooking facilities – most of them in sub-Saharan African or developing Asia. Some 783 million people are also living without access to water and 2.5 billion without access to sanitation. An increasing world population will make it even more challenging to provide basic services and food security to the poor. There is a serious gap in equitable access to basic, and sustainable, services. But conventional approaches to service provision have left many behind and further damaged the environment.

2. Which examples of innovative sustainable water and sustainable energy technologies, practices and activities, have addressed the “service gap” between the rich and the poor, and promoted universal access for all vulnerable groups, at the same time ensuring sustainability of service provision?

**Employment and SCP.** Living within the safe operating space of the planet can be a constraint, or an opportunity. Many different examples exist where investments, approaches or technologies have spurred innovation in production and consumption patterns that bring us closer to living within our global means. Urgent reforms of wasteful subsidies, including fossil fuels, are needed to provide a level playing field for transformative change. Some countries have strong policies that support local capacity for innovation, and enhance competitiveness of enterprises investing in innovative environmentally sound technologies. Stronger investment in decent and meaningful employment, including of youth and women, that also enhances environmental sustainability can ensure long term prosperity for all. However, a severe shortage of skills has been evident in some fast growing economic sectors, such as renewable energy, waste management and energy efficiency. Renewable energy resources still remain largely unexploited, supplying only 19 per cent of global energy use, and employing 5.7 million people. Improving energy efficiency is a proven, cost-effective near-term option to reduce projected primary energy supply requirements in all countries, representing 70 per cent of the reduction in projected global energy demands in 2035. There is a need for better defining education policies, training teachers, and encouraging public-private partnerships to build skills and capacities. Nations will also need to invest in re-skilling their populations to meet several emerging challenges, such as climate change, technological intensification and robotization.

3. What policy incentives can affect a transformation that would leverage significantly increased private and public investments in sustainable sectors and activities (e.g. ecological restoration, renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management and eco-innovation) and help to reskill the workforce towards decent and meaningful employment?

**Sustainable consumption.** The International Resource Panel estimates the consumption of natural resources will triple by 2050. A major shift towards sustainable diets and consumption could minimize environmental impact, increase nutritional value of food and sustainability of products, and ensure fair trade and sustainable livelihoods for producers. Addressing the significant issue of food loss and food waste, a universal problem that manifests itself differently in developed and developing countries, can reduce global water consumption by an estimated 173 billion cubic meters a year, save an area the size of Mexico from unnecessary habitat destruction, and feed the estimated 842 million undernourished people in the world today. Promoting responsible consumption patterns and changing lifestyles can influence jobs, markets, the incentives for technological innovation, the allocation of financial savings to alternative activities, and overall human health, including malnutrition and obesity. Mainstreaming environmental and human health issues into policy-making, and raising awareness among consumers and the business community on sustainable lifestyles can help achieve the shift.

4. How can consumption patterns be shifted so as to consume better and in a safer manner while sustaining economic growth? How can the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP be an effective implementation means for promoting sustainable consumption and production as one of important integral parts of sustainable development?

**Session 2: Ensuring a healthy environment, restoring natural assets, and enhancing durability of infrastructure, for the needs of today's and future generations**

Friday, 27 June 2014, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*In Rio+20, member states and civil society asked what would be the legacy of our children and their children's children. Participants are invited to discuss how the root causes of unhealthy environments, inefficient roads and other infrastructure, and degrading natural assets, can be addressed and, if done with longevity in mind, can also ensure intergenerational equity, and resilience to environmental and socio-economic shocks and disruptive change.*

**Health and the environment.** It is estimated that nearly one-quarter of all diseases and deaths are due to hazards from unhealthy living and working environments. Air pollution, inadequate management of chemicals and wastes, poor water quality, marine pollution and other ecosystem degradation, climate change and ozone layer depletion all pose significant threats to human health both individually and combined. Air pollution affects the rich and the poor - almost 4.3 million premature deaths in 2012 were attributed to indoor pollution (inefficient use of solid fuels), and another 3.7 million premature deaths were attributed to outdoor air pollution of which transport, energy production and industry were major sources. Air pollution is the number one environmental factor in global mortality rates. It causes even more deaths than HIV/AIDS (1.5 million deaths in 2012), tuberculosis (1.3 million deaths), road injuries (1.3 million deaths), and malaria (670,000 deaths) combined.

Water-borne diseases are the second leading cause of death in children under the age of five. Today almost one fifth of cropland is degraded resulting in malnutrition of rural families. Salinization of over-exploited aquifers can lead to hypertension and other diseases, including maternal deaths, stillbirths and long-term neurological disabilities. Climate change affects concentrations of fine particulate matter and ozone in the air, which contributes to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases with the latter affecting particularly children, elderly and people with vulnerable immune systems. Depletion of stratospheric ozone has led to heightened exposure to UV-B radiation increasing the risk of skin cancer, cataracts and suppression of the immune system, as well as damage to terrestrial plant life, single-cell organisms and aquatic ecosystems. Studies have shown that prenatal exposure to methylmercury has resulted in brain toxicity and mental retardation in children, and new research is pointing to marine plastics as a further unexpected source of mercury contamination in coastal areas.

1. How can exposure to chemical and other hazards be reduced so as to ensure a safe, clean and healthy environment for all? How can the chemicals and waste agenda be accelerated?

**Restoration of natural assets.** Today the effects of over-exploitation of natural resources, including through illegal trade, are compounded with increasing pollution and waste, to create new forms of crisis and shortages – with increasing inequality of access, ownership and other rights. A major effort is needed over the coming decades to develop policy and fiscal incentives, innovative technologies, and community-led campaigns to repair and restore the Earth's life support systems for today's needs and for future generations - the world can no longer afford to ignore the destruction of its ecological infrastructure or to leave it as a negative legacy for future generations. Investment in restoration can be very costly, and has therefore been daunting for public or private entities to undertake. However, evidence is mounting that the cost of restoration is much lower than the long-term costs of the alternative, and can generate a positive return and multiple benefits. For example, the cost of reducing thermal pollution in rivers in western United States of America by means of mechanical chillers, cost 15 to 30 times more than establishing riparian forests to shade the water and augmenting stream flows with releases from upstream reservoirs. In South Africa, investment in restoring wetlands has led to increased employment, higher crop and reed productivity, more grazing for livestock and more water for domestic use. Restoration of the Manalana wetlands in South Africa generated benefits more than twice the cost of the investment.

Sound stewardship of the resources, including access to information, inclusive decision-making, equitable benefit sharing, and the rule of law are essential to mitigate these risks, help create resilient and peaceful societies, and restore natural assets. The data revolution and citizen action make it possible to support sound stewardship with strong management and accountability tools.

2. What examples and best practices show that effective management of natural resources can protect, enhance and restore natural assets, and also generate economic growth?

**Investing in long-lasting infrastructure, buildings and consumer products** increases resource efficiency, reduces material intensity, and secures resources for future generations. Infrastructure choices made today will have critical implications for future sustainability across the world. Investing in low-carbon, climate-resilient, chemically benign, and long-lasting infrastructure, entails constructing or renovating infrastructure systems (power, road/rail and ocean/sea transport, domestic water, buildings, etc.), while simultaneously making these systems, and the societies they serve, more resilient to extreme weather conditions and rising sea levels. Long-lasting and non-disposable consumer products, can, if properly designed, increase resource efficiency, and reduce material intensity. Buildings present a huge potential for energy efficiency, which saves money and resources, and the use of recycled and alternative local building materials, spurs local economic development and could address emerging evidence of the global over-exploitation of sand and gravel. Economic and material savings from efficient, durable and long-lasting products can be transferred towards alternative investments in sustainability sectors, in securing universal coverage of basic services, and other pressing needs.

3. How can incentives towards greater longevity and durability of assets and products be made an integral part of economic policy, consumer behavior, and business decisions?

## UNEA High-level Segment Ministerial Plenary Ministerial Dialogue on Illegal Trade in Wildlife

Thursday, 26 June 2014, 7 to 10 p.m.

The Ministerial Dialogue on Illegal Trade in Wildlife will provide a high level forum, building on previous and on-going initiatives, to exchange views and experiences on the challenges of - and progress towards addressing - the illegal trade in wildlife<sup>7</sup>. The session will be the largest Ministerial gathering to consider illegal wildlife trade convened in the current poaching crisis.

An Information Document (UNEP/EA.1/INF/19) has been made available to support discussions, which summarizes the findings from a UNEP-INTERPOL Rapid Response Assessment, « *The Environmental Crime Crisis; Threats to Sustainable Development from Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Wildlife and Forest Resources* ». The document stresses the global and diverse nature of the challenge of the illegal trade in wildlife, supporting that the scope of the ministerial dialogue might encompass and move beyond the current attention provided to the poaching crisis facing African elephants and rhinos, addressing a wider range of threats from illegal harvesting and trafficking of wildlife, including of timber and other forest products, fish, tigers, great apes, and a broad range of other taxa. The rapid response assessment provides the latest evidence based on the scope and scale of the illegal trade in wildlife, and the environmental, social and economic consequences of the trade. The report also highlights the evidence that links the illegal trade in wildlife to threat finance and organized crime, providing a significant contribution towards better informed policy responses.

Building on the Information Document, this guidance note provides additional guidance that might be considered to support participation in the session.

The consequences of the illegal trade in wildlife span environmental, social (including security), and economic impacts. This theft of sovereign natural capital affects the resource base for local communities. The illegal trade in wildlife is therefore a barrier to sustainable development, involving a complex combination of weak environmental governance, unregulated trade, loopholes and laundering systems used to conduct serious transnational crime, and undermining government institutions and legitimate business. The illegal trade in wildlife involves a wide range of flora and fauna, with impacts across all regions - it is estimated that \$48-153 billion of natural capital is lost through illegal trade of wildlife including forest products globally each year.

Despite increases in the response, the pace, level of sophistication, and globalized nature of the illegal trade in wildlife is currently beyond the capacity of many countries and individual organizations to address. In recognition of this, participants to the Ministerial Dialogue on Illegal Trade in Wildlife are invited to consider, *inter alia*, the following sets of issues and questions.

### 1) National and international action

The illegal trade in wildlife constitutes not only a very significant criminal sector, but also entails poverty, development and governance challenges. Of particular relevance is the increasing involvement of transnational organized criminal networks in the illegal trade of wildlife, as well as the significant impact to the environment and sustainable development. Current trends and impacts suggest a priority attention should be focused on the illegal trade in charcoal and other forest products (including paper, timber and pulp, as well as endangered high-value species like rosewood, African cherry and wild mahogany), and the illegal trade derived from various charismatic mammals (especially, but not limited to, tigers, elephants and rhinos), in addition to many other species including sharks, manta rays and sturgeon, to mention a few.

<sup>7</sup> In this paper, « wildlife » includes terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora, and their products.

Responses to the illegal trade in wildlife need to reflect the differentiated and shared characteristics of various supply chains, and recognize that consumer demand remains the most important driver of the illegal trade in wildlife. The economic, social, and environmental impacts of the illegal wildlife trade can only be effectively tackled if both the demand and supply elements of the supply chain are targeted, encompassing elements of deterrence, transparency, legal clarity and enforcement, behavioural change, and the development of alternative livelihoods. This will require both national and international stakeholders to be engaged, including environmental, enforcement and development sectors, as well as stakeholders involved in security and peacekeeping missions.

At the national and regional level, numerous strong recent commitments have been made in relation to the many aspects of illegal trade in wildlife, and immediate, decisive and collective action is now required to narrow the gap between these existing commitments – including those made under the various multilateral environmental agreements and UN agencies – and their implementation. In particular, strengthened environmental legislation, compliance and awareness, and support to enforcement agencies is required to reduce the role of illegal wildlife trade (especially of timber and charcoal) for threat finance to non-state armed groups and terrorism. Such strengthened enforcement efforts need to be complemented by broader development and awareness raising efforts. There is a central role for civil society and the private sector in such efforts, and also to identify alternatives in some instances to consumer demands for illegally traded wildlife products.

Support from the international and bilateral donor community will be essential to recognize and address the illegal trade in wildlife as a serious threat to sustainable development, and support national, regional and global efforts for the effective implementation of, compliance with, and enforcement of targeted measures to curb illegal trade in wildlife. In particular, investment in demand reduction campaigns is urgently required, and in capacity building and technological support to national law enforcement agencies to enable them to further protect key populations of species threatened by illegal trade.

Considerable international attention has been given recently to the current poaching crisis affecting elephants and rhinos. However, many other taxa of fauna, and of flora, are also significantly affected by illegal trade, and the scale of the response remains insufficient to address the challenge. UNEA provides an opportunity for all countries across the various supply chains to convene to address the issue of illegal trade in wildlife.

*The Ministerial Dialogue might consider what are the most important gaps in the knowledge base and in the current responses to address illegal wildlife trade at national and international levels across the supply chain, and what are the most important barriers that governments face in efforts to enforce and implement national legislation to address illegal wildlife trade? Suggestions might also be made for effective measures to overcome such barriers.*

## 2) A coherent and coordinated response from the United Nations

Recognizing the current global proportions of illegal trade in wildlife, and its impact on national and regional security, sustainable development and environmental rule of law, there is a need for further strengthening effective global cooperation to address such trade. Illegal wildlife trade now represents an increasingly lucrative business for transnational organised crime spurred by significant financial gains and aided by a combination of low risk of detection and low conviction rates. Such challenges can only be effectively tackled through the unified efforts of the international community in support of national efforts.

A comprehensive and coordinated UN system-wide response, to improve coherence and collaboration amongst agencies, while avoiding duplication, and to support holistic national approaches to address the illegal trade in wildlife will be an important component of the global response. Such a response, with additional support from the enforcement sector, would further strengthen coordinated efforts in relation to coherent legislation, environmental law, poverty alleviation and development support, awareness raising and demand reduction. Strengthening coordination and coherence, including through mechanisms such as the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICWC) as well as individual programmes of the United Nations, will enable greater support to be provided to member states and other relevant stakeholders to further identify, develop and implement the most appropriate responses to illegal trade in wildlife. Recognizing the negative consequences of illegal wildlife trade on environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development, there are also significant opportunities to mobilize development, peacekeeping and security organizations of the UN.

*The Ministerial Dialogue might consider which additional tools at international level the UN could use to ensure coordination and avoid duplication between ongoing initiatives? For example, would a UN system-wide response advanced by the UN Secretary General and the UN Chief Executives Board be a useful tool to improve coordination, reduce gaps in enforcement and streamline strategies to address the illegal trade in wildlife, and how might the UN provide additional support to national efforts for the implementation of existing international commitments, including those under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)?*

### **3) Maintaining momentum – the road from UNEA**

Recently, the illegal trade in wildlife has risen fast on the international agenda. As a result, a number of international high-level political fora have addressed the issue. For example, global leaders and experts convened in Botswana, and in Paris, in December 2013, and in London in February 2014 to strengthen commitments to address the illegal trade in wildlife. Discussions of the UN Security Council have also recently addressed the links between illegal trade in wildlife and non-state armed groups in Central Africa, and a “group of friends” has been established and convenes regularly at the UNHQ in New York, following from a UNGA high level event on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking in 2013.

However, to ensure progress in delivering the actions expressed in the outcomes and declarations resulting from the above initiatives, existing commitments need to be implemented, and international momentum needs to be maintained. UNEA provides a platform for the largest Ministerial gathering to consider illegal wildlife trade during in the current poaching crisis, and is anticipated to result in a resolution on the matter from the Assembly.

*The scope of such a UNEA resolution might be reflected on during the Ministerial Dialogue, which might also consider how a relevant UNEA Resolution would support efforts to maintain and build on momentum to address the illegal trade in wildlife, and whether there are additional functions that UNEP might take forward to support governments and the international community to address the illegal trade in wildlife. Participants might also consider the options by which the illegal trade in wildlife might be addressed during the next session of the UN General Assembly, for example through a Resolution.*