



United Nations  
Environment Programme

## **Fourth Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

### **Implementation of the Resolutions of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

**[ 6-9 March 2017]**

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## **Major themes covered by the Assembly**

The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which took place in Nairobi on 23 – 27 May 2016, under the theme “Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda,” adopted 25 resolutions that address twelve specific themes. These included: implementing the Paris Agreement, promoting sustainable consumption and production, food waste, safeguarding ecosystems, combating illegal trade in wildlife, advancing natural capital management, mainstreaming biodiversity, monitoring and preserving air quality, protecting the environment in areas of conflict, preventing marine litter, and promoting sound management of chemicals and waste (See Annex 1 for the full list of resolutions).

UN Environment operates under seven thematic priorities: climate change; disasters and conflicts; ecosystem management; environmental governance; chemicals, waste and air quality; resource efficiency; and environment under review. Plans have been developed to implement the 25 resolutions within these thematic areas.

This report is organized by these thematic priorities, with a section on resolutions that fall outside of the themes. It summarizes the key facets of each resolution and shows the links to the Sustainable Development Goals and other major international commitments. A summary of the implementation plan, initial progress, intended partners, and challenges is provided for each resolution.

# Climatic Change

In the resolution on “**Supporting the Paris Agreement**” (2/6), the Assembly asks the UN Environment Executive Director to contribute to the implementation of the pre-2020 global efforts to address climate change. This is to be done by, *inter alia*: strengthening efforts in education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and cooperation.

Also by reinforcing and stepping-up UN Environment's participation in partnership programmes and initiatives, and strengthening collaboration between UN Environment and other relevant stakeholders; and accelerating support to countries for building national readiness capacity to implement the Paris Agreement and to access finance and technology.

It also calls for strengthened support for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and for contributions to global climate-change related assessments. This resolution addresses SDG 13 on climate change directly, but is linked to the majority of the goals in that the achievement of sustainable development is severely undermined if climate change is not adequately tackled.

Member States highlighted the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. They also took note of the Sendai Framework for Disaster and Risk Reduction, and acknowledged that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the main international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and that the global nature of climate change calls for international cooperation while avoiding duplication of work.

## [2/6] Overall Assessment: On track

## Issues facing implementation

### Implementation Plan

1. UN Environment will:
  - i) Support and expand the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) network of universities with the view of integrating climate change into their curricula;
  - ii) Develop guidance and training materials on inclusion of climate change into their curricula;
  - iii) Integrate climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation, access to information and cooperation into its projects and programmes;
  - iv) Engage with UNFCCC secretariat and active partners in this focus area.
2. UN Environment is a full and active member of the UN Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness and will explore new partnerships on education, training on climate change, etc.
3. UN Environment has identified a set of post-Paris CoP21 priorities, which are incremental to the existing Programme of Work and are seen as a bridge to the new MTS which include: (i) National Determined Contribution (NDC) analysis and support; (ii) NDC - Capacity Building for Transparency, Measuring and Reporting; (iii) Pre-2020 action; non-state actors; and taking forward the Global Climate Agenda.
4. The implementation of these priorities will be supported by new research, policy and analytical work such as emission and adaptation gap reports, tracking and communicating NDC implementation through UN Environment LIVE, analysis of what it will take to reach 1.5 °C etc. These priorities will be implemented in partnerships with relevant organizations and institutions are expected to increase.
5. Designing an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change library facility to support the sixth Assessment Report, including a knowledge repository for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as a component of the UN Environment's Knowledge and Research Centre.
6. Will continue supporting the development to the Gap Reports (Emissions and Adaptation gap) and integrated assessment of short-lived climate pollutants in the Asia and the Pacific region. Will finalize the scope, structure, outline and implementation plan for the Emission Gap Report for 2017.

- To have a substantial impact on global knowledge and capacity with regards to climate change, education and training, components will need to be mainstreamed across UN Environment's portfolio of projects. This requires the strong participation of country partners as well as support from the financial mechanisms. As such, more remains to be done in terms of building political will for climate change education, training, awareness raising and public participation.
- Additional resources are needed to accelerate the transition from INDC to NDC implementation.
- Need to identify resources required to take the joint collaboration on the IPCC library facility forward and start fundraising for such resources.
- Funding yet to be secured for the emission gap report and the subsidiary assessment of impacts of the Kigali Amendment

### Main Partners

- UN Alliance on climate Change Education;
- Member States Universities,
- (GUPES),
- UNFCCC secretariat.
- UNDP,
- WRI,
- Member States,
- NDC partnership,
- CTCN partners,
- CCAC partners,
- SE4ALL,

## Update on progress

1. UN Environment co-organized with other members of the UN alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness, a side event held at COP22 on "climate change education for all. An action plan on ensuring the effective participation of indigenous peoples in UN Environment's climate change education work was developed. At the request of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation a submission was made on the 5th Doha Dialogue on climate change education, which will be held in May 2017 during SBI 46.
2. To match the scale of the global climate change mitigation challenge and enable systematic, focused capacity development to deliver REDD+ on the ground, UN Environment developed the REDD+ Academy. Regional and national learning sessions have already provided training to over 400 national stakeholders in basic design and implementation elements of REDD+.
3. UN Environment has reviewed the portfolio of GCF projects under development to provide country partners with guidance on how climate change education, training and public awareness could be included in project proposals. Thus far a request for the inclusion of a climate change education component has been received from the Government of Mozambique while discussions continue with the governments of Guinea and Mongolia.
4. UN Environment continues to support countries transition from the INDC-NDC. The support consists of the development of their NDC implementation readiness plans for Nationally Determined Contributions implementation; and identification of optimal institutional arrangements for coordinating the implementation of NDCs.
5. Building on the GEF support, UN Environment is also developing a new UN Environment-NDC Implementation Support Programme.
6. UN Environment and the UNFCCC Secretariat have agreed to work together to provide the necessary support to a group of partner countries to advance the implementation of Paris Agreement. The objective of the collaboration is to transform nationally determined contributions into implementation plans consisting of a portfolio of concrete actions, programmes, and projects which demonstrate the links between climate and development goals. Both agencies have agreed to establish a joint UN Environment and UN Climate Secretariat task team to move from ideas to action starting with the identification of the countries and potential partners.
8. UN Environment is playing a leading role within the UN's Climate Resilience Initiative known as A2R. This initiative addresses three key aspects of adaptation: establishing early warning - early action systems; extending climate risk transfer and social protection mechanisms; and strengthening the shift to climate resilient development pathways.
9. UN Environment has made good progress in supporting countries advance the National Adaptation Plans. 30 countries (LDCs and non-LDCs) have been supported so far with 2 countries having received support from GEF (Rwanda) and GCF (Nepal).
10. UN Environment is working with UN agencies in drafting a UN Strategic Approach on Climate Change as mandated by the Chief Executives Board.
11. UN Environment is supporting 15 countries in getting ready to access Green Climate Fund in collaboration with WRI, UNDP and GCF. To date, out of the total 68 requesting countries, requests for technology support have been completed in 9 countries, the design of technology assistance is ongoing in 27 countries, with 23 countries in implementation phase.
12. Work is ongoing on the design of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change library facility.
13. Substantial support was provided to the Emissions Gap Assessment 2016 including the assessment design, development and outreach. The assessment report was successfully launched in time for the Conference of Parties in November 2016.
14. The scope, structure, outline and implementation plan for the Emissions Gap Assessment 2017 is being discussed. The scope, structure, outline and implementation plan for the integrated assessment of short-lived climate pollutants in the Asia and the Pacific region agreed. The assessment is now at the implementation stage.

- Sub-national climate action hub,
- Global Alliance for Buildings,
- Green Climate Fund,
- Global Environment Facility,
- UN Environment collaborating center;
- Governments

## Information Sources

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## isasters and Conflicts

The resolution on “**Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict**” (2/15) is a significant step showing widespread recognition among Member States of the damage conflict causes to the environment and the need to better protect the environment during times of armed conflict. Of the Sustainable Development Goals, none specifically covers the need to better protect the environment before, during or after armed conflict. However, insecurity, and armed conflict and its aftermath, are key factors that influence the delivery of sustainable development targets. UN Environment is encouraged to work with a range of stakeholders, including civil society, to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries affected by conflict, and in the post-conflict phase through post-crisis assessment and recovery.

UN Environment is also called on to provide assistance to countries hosting United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Natural World Heritage Sites; and to continue to interact with the International Law Commission by, among other things, providing relevant information to the Commission at its request in support of its work on this issue.

### [2/15] Overall Assessment: on track

### Issues facing implementation

#### Implementation Plan

1. Extend offers of support to the International Law Commission and UNESCO, developing joint work if appropriate and requested.
2. Conduct awareness raising events on importance of environmental protection in conflict zones.
3. Continue providing support to countries affected by the environmental impacts of armed conflict.

#### Update on progress

1. On-going work to address the environmental causes and consequences of conflict and providing assistance to countries affected by armed conflict and the unintended collateral impact of human displacement.
2. Supported the Special Rapporteur on the Protection of the Environment in the preparation and presentation of her third report, presented to the Commission in July 2016 (available here: <http://legal.un.org/docs/?symbol=A/CN.4/700>).
3. Partnering with Environmental Law Institute, Columbia University and the University of California Irvine, and others to develop a massive open online course on environmental peace-building. Partnering with Environmental Law Institute, Columbia University and the University of California Irvine, and others to develop a Massive Open Online Course on environmental peace-building.
4. Participated in UNESCO consultations over summer and fall 2016 and provided input on "Role of the United Nations in the promotion of peace: past, present and future perspectives" (to be published).
5. On World Heritage Sites and the impacts of conflict specifically, the proposed ILC draft principles on protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts features two draft principles on the importance of protecting “areas of major environmental and cultural importance” (available in the 2016 ILC Report at pages 323-327).
6. Links to work on environmental crime (see section on resolution on illegal trade in wildlife).

- Financial and staffing challenges

#### Main Partners

- International Law Commission and the United Nations Educational,
- Scientific and Cultural Organization,
- Interpol,
- Department of Political Affairs,
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and others

#### Information Sources

- <http://legal.un.org/docs/?symbol=A/CN.4/700>

The Resolution on “Investing in human capacity for sustainable development, through environmental education and training” (2/3) requests the Executive Director continue to provide technical assistance and capacity building through access to environmental education, training and capacity-building opportunities, including increased capacity development to help Member States to integrate the environmental dimension into their relevant curricula. It also asks the Executive Director to promote cooperation and interaction between UN Environment and the higher education community in mainstreaming environment and sustainability across education and training and enhance cooperation with UN bodies and other international institutions for better implementation of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development.

This resolution is linked to the SDG 4.7, which is focused on ensuring that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development by 2030.

## [2/3] Overall Assessment: on track

## Issues facing implementation

### Implementation Plan

1. Continue to support and expand the [Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability](#) network of universities.
2. Explore new partnerships including with the private sector on training, and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements secretariats on education, etc.
3. Ensure that massive open online courses and other education materials developed by UN Environment and partners are coordinated, screened for quality, and supported by accompanying material to expand the reach and scope and improve cost-effectiveness.

### Update on progress

1. Components on environmental education have been included in a number of projects under development in countries such as the Maldives, Mongolia, Mozambique, Guinea and South Sudan. Support is being offered to other countries on a demand-driven basis.
2. In strengthening university engagement, a strategic planning meeting was held with leaders from the UN Environment-led Global Universities Partnership. This meeting identified a number of priority actions that will be further elaborated and implemented over the coming years.
3. National engagement has been strengthened with the launch of the Morocco Green University Network aimed at enhancing campus sustainability, promoting strengthened curricula and supporting the role of universities in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Kingdom of Morocco.

- Financial challenges - whilst some staff costs are covered by the Environment Trust Fund, additional funding will be needed to ensure full implementation.

### Main Partners

- UN Environment’s Science Division and Communications Division;
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
- United Nations University;
- United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization; and
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

### Information Sources

- [Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability](#)

Three resolutions focused on the marine environment: “oceans and seas” (2/10), “marine plastic litter and micro-plastics” (2/11) and “sustainable coral reefs management” (2/11). Collectively these resolutions address effective conservation of marine and coastal zones and the contribution to achieving SDG 14 through the regional seas conventions and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Along with calling upon both UN member states and various regional agencies to take steps toward implementing the oceans-related Sustainable Development Goals and related targets in Goal 14 in particular and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi targets, the resolution on **Oceans and Seas** urges UN Environment to continue its efforts in support of the General Assembly-led process of reaching an international, legally-binding instrument on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The planned agreement is to fall under the existing UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The issue of how to govern marine biodiversity beyond their national jurisdiction has long proven difficult to navigate, including how such a global deal will operate given other regional efforts in this area.

Other provisions of the resolution include encouraging Member States to designate and actively manage marine protected areas along with advocating for the contracting parties to existing regional seas conventions to consider the possibility of increasing the regional coverage.

Member States also ask UN Environment to step up its work, including through its Regional Seas Programme, on assisting countries and regions in the application of the ecosystem approach to managing the marine and coastal environment, including through enabling inter-sectoral cooperation in integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning.

## Implementation Plan

1. UN Environment is moving towards the implementation of the Regional Seas Directions.
2. Synergies discussion will be organized between UN Environment and key conventions, e.g. on Biological Diversity, Migratory Species and the International Whaling Commission and Basel Convention.
3. Will continue participation in UN-Ocean, and the Advisory Panel for the Fiji-led Conference through convening and participation in the informal working groups, including submission of an official paper to the Prepcom and main conference. A side event on the regional seas to be organized.
4. Implementation of the MOU with FAO, International Maritime Organization, UNESCO, World Maritime University, International Atomic Energy Agency
5. Collaboration in International Coral Reef Initiative and Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. Collaboration with CBD (MSP, mainstreaming and marine debris), CMS (marine debris and connectivity) and IWC (marine debris)
6. Regional coordination mechanisms of SDG14 implementation (under the EC project) Marine Spatial Planning guidelines to be published; MSP experience sharing platform possibly combined with Blue Solution platform ICZM and governance work
7. Ecosystem based Management pilot activities (Mekong Delta); MSP pilots (Western Indian Ocean, Adriatic, West Africa).
8. Marine Protected Area governance work is being developed
9. GCRP: exchange of tools and approaches for coral reef planning and management (e.g. replication of Green Fins, regional approach to GCRMN reporting, economic instruments)
10. Sharing of climate change resilience data and planning tools through coral reef theme on UN Environment-Live.
11. Implementation of the MOU between UN Environment and FAO.
12. Implementation of the blue carbon project manual Ocean acidification monitoring
13. Internal process for review of the 2011 strategy to be started

## Update on progress

1. Cooperated with the CBD secretariat and FAO in the organisation of the global dialogue between Regional Seas programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies in September 2016 to discuss cooperation for the implementation of Aichi Targets and SDGs relevant to Oceans.
2. Assisted Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Secretariats in running joint Pacific CBD and CITES pre-COP to prepare Pacific delegations for CITES and CBD COPs.
3. The SPREP Council (19-22 September 2016) endorsed oceans as underlying focus of UN Environment –SPREP partnership.
4. Sustainable ocean initiative regional capacity development workshop was organised for the south Pacific Apia, 31 October to 4 November 2016.
5. Discussion is ongoing on the cooperation between the regional seas and CMS daughter agreements.
6. Committed as part of the Pacific Ocean Alliance to assist Pacific Delegations in preparations for the SDG 14 Conference. Formed "Blue Team" with SPREP to work on environmental dimension and prepare topical Pacific briefs and communications materials for Pacific island delegations.
7. In several regions, cooperation between regional seas conventions and action plans and regional fisheries bodies are ongoing for the purpose of Aichi Target and SDG reporting and implementation.

- Some funding has been secured but additional funding is required to fully implement the resolution

## Main Partners

### Internally:

- Science division on assessment related activities;
- Law Division on regional seas governance issues and
- Economy Division on private public partnership.

### External partners:

- UNESCO-IOC,
- FAO,
- IMO,
- GRID Arendal.
- Biodiversity-related conventions.

### Ongoing partnerships such as:

- Global Change Research Program,
- Global Partnership on Marine Litter,
- Global Partnership on Nutrient Management,
- Global Wastewater Initiative,
- Global Programme of Action,
- Regional Seas,
- 10YFP

## Information Sources



8. The Regional Seas Indicator Working Group conducted an exercise for aligning the regional seas indicators with SDGs. The Group also carried out alignment of the regional goals and targets with SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. A new project supported by European Commission was initiated to develop guidance on area-based management and governance arrangements to support implementation of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals.
9. Provided inputs to the Secretary-General's background note for the preparatory meeting of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, through co-convening or participation in Informal Preparatory Working Groups
10. Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment started the development of a Regional Ecosystem-based Management Strategy for the ROPME Sea Area. Capacity building effort on marine spatial planning has been developed and included in the Blue Solution.
11. A pilot activity on ecosystem-based management in Mekong Delta is ongoing. Analysis is being made on the practical experiences of area-based management measures including integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning.
12. New training course, "Blue Planning in Practice", has been launched to support coastal management for sustainable development.
13. A global online knowledge platform, 'PANORAMA' has been launched by UN Environment, GIZ and IUCN providing practical solutions to marine and coastal management.
14. Marine spatial planning pilot activities are under preparation for Western Indian Ocean, and Adriatic Sea.
15. Published Pacific Regional EIA Guidelines with SPREP through ACP MEAs Capacity Building Project.
16. A project is being prepared to develop an MPA toolbox.
17. A number of donor funded and GEF funded projects are under implementation on development of MPA management capacity. Guidance document on MPA governance is under finalisation.
18. Regular meetings are being organised among the Regional Seas programmes. Good practices of cross sectoral cooperation at the Regional Seas level are being collected for sharing of them among them.
19. InforMEA pilot activities are ongoing involving three Regional Seas programmes.
20. Ran a south-south exchange on best practice in blue-green economy and SDGs for 7 Pacific countries 4-6 October 2016. A second exchange workshop for remaining 7 countries focusing on SCP and SDGs but also with oceans focus is planned in Palau Feb/Mar 2017.
21. A project is being developed to support two regional seas programmes in carrying out a study of ecological connectivity between ABNJ and EEZ and a legal study to expand the activities for ABNJ.
22. Results of downscaled climate model projections for coral bleaching conditions are being compiled.
23. A new UN Environment Oceans Strategy is being developed

## Information Sources

- [Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics: Global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy](#)

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