

Agenda item 6: Initial discussion on the preparation of resolutions to be adopted at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2).

Compilation of possible resolutions that may be tabled by member States during UNEA-2.

At the request of H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) of UNEP and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania, the Secretariat will present a list of potential draft resolutions for consideration at UNEA-2, for initial discussion at the third annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, scheduled for 26 to 30 October 2015. To facilitate this process, on 28 July 2015, the Secretariat requested member States to provide suggestions for additional resolutions by 18 September 2015, using a template that included proposing country or countries, tentative title, objective and relevance to UNEA. This note compiles the feedback as received from member States by 29 September 2015.

1. Environmentally sound technologies in relation to waste management (Bhutan, Japan and Mongolia)
2. Role, functions and follow up to the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (Islamic Republic of Iran)
3. Investing in human capacity for sustainable development, through environmental education and training (Mongolia and other countries)
4. Role, functions and modalities for UNEP's implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (Samoa)
5. Strengthening the compensation regime for environmental sector (Sri Lanka)
6. Protection of the environment in conflict-affected areas (Ukraine)

Environmentally sound technologies in relation to waste management - Proposed by Bhutan, Japan and Mongolia
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Objective of draft resolution:

- To build the capacity of member States in the implementation of environmentally sound technologies for holistic waste management (solid waste, liquid waste and gaseous emissions), particularly in urban areas.

Relevance to UNEA and/or UNEP Programme of Work:

- UNEP programme of work 2014-15 and 2016-17 – Expected Accomplishment 5C: Countries, including major groups and stakeholders, increasingly use the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound waste management and the related multilateral environmental agreements.

Role, functions and follow up to the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific - Proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Objective of draft resolution:

- Expresses appreciation for the organization of the First Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities of Asia Pacific held on 19-20 May 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand;
- Requests the Executive Director of UNEP to hold regular sessions of the Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities of Asia-Pacific, every other year with the next one in 2017
- Further requests the Executive Director to ensure that Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities of Asia Pacific addresses the following:
 - environmental priorities and emerging issues in Asia-Pacific;

- regional implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted at the UNEA;
- Asia-Pacific inputs to decisions and resolutions of the UNEA, including inputs to the intersessional processes, inputs to UNEP medium-term strategy, et cetera.
- linkages with other regional forums such as ESCAP's Asia Pacific Forums on Sustainable Development and sub-regional forums such as SACEP, ASEAN, SPREP, ECO, et cetera.
- Also requests the Executive Director to ensure the implementation of priorities identified by its Forum within available resources, including through the establishment of appropriate secretariats and partnerships and to invite Governments and others in position to do so to provide financial support for the implementations of the resolution including hosting of meetings for Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities of Asia- Pacific.

Relevance to UNEA and/or UNEP Programme of Work:

- General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972
- General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph17) of 22 December 1992
- UNEP Governing Council Decisions 27/1 and 27/2 of 22 February 2013
- UNEA resolutions pertaining to regional work
- Paragraph 27 of the Chair's summary for the First Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities of Asia Pacific, UNEP/APEnvForum/5

Investing in human capacity for sustainable development, through environmental education and training

- Proposed by Mongolia and other countries

Objective of draft resolution:

- To promote greater awareness and capacity amongst policy makers, future leaders and the public in addressing priority environment and sustainability issues.

Relevance to UNEA and/or UNEP Programme of Work:

As a cross-cutting issue, the proposed resolution is relevant to all UNEP sub-programmes and thematic areas, aimed at enhancing the delivery of the programme of work by leveraging the educational community, and supporting its implementation through education, training and networking efforts.

Role, functions and modalities for UNEP's implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Proposed by Samoa

Objective of draft resolution:

- To define UNEP's role in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the SDGs.
- Examine the potential role of UNEA as a forum to facilitate and monitor SAMOA Pathway and SDGs implementation and to exchange experiences and lessons learnt between the small island developing States (SIDS) region.
- Request the Executive Director to clearly reflect and integrate the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs within UNEP medium-term strategy and programme of work.
- Further request the Executive Director to ensure that resources are made available for UNEP's implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs.

Relevance to UNEA and/or UNEP Programme of Work:

The Government of Samoa as the host of the third International Conference for SIDS and having given its name to the SAMOA Pathway, has the strongest possible commitment to its implementation. The Honourable Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Fatialofa Naiti Sailele Malielegaoi, as Chair of the Conference has a personal commitment to its implementation. The Government of Samoa therefore places the highest priority on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

Samoa sees UNEP as the primary UN agency responsible for overseeing the environment pillar of the SAMOA pathway and the SDGs. All of the focal areas of the UNEP's 2014-2017 medium-term strategy (MTS) and the programme of work and the draft 2018-2021 MTS are relevant to the SAMOA Pathway.

At the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forum, the Samoa delegation led by the Minister for Environment, Hon. Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Taito Dr. Faale Tumaalii, highlighted the need to clearly define and prioritise the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway within UNEP's current and new work programmes including the new 2018-2021 medium-term strategy. Samoa also called on:

- UNEP to play a key role in providing technical support and advice on key areas such as adapting the green economy approach, sustainable consumption and production patterns (identified as a gap in the SAMOA Pathway) and environmental data management into models that are suitable for the Pacific.
- UNEP to facilitate learning from other SIDS regions and developing countries in how they have implemented these approaches.
- UNEP to assist in national and regional reporting against SDGs and SAMOA Pathway linking it to UNEP's global environmental reporting platforms.
- UNEP to be an important forum to track implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway to highlight areas that need more action and directing attention and resources towards it.

Samoa is keen to follow up on the work that UNEP is able to execute on the assessment and measurement of vulnerability of SIDS.

UNEA-2 will consider the 2018-2021 MTS and UNEP needs to define clearly how it will address the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs, establish coordination and implementation mechanism and modalities and secure and establish means for dedicated resources to be made available for implementation.

Samoa also sees UNEA as a key forum for facilitating and tracking implementation and also as a means for exchange of information, lessons learnt and establish partnerships especially between SIDS regions.

Samoa will be working with other like-minded countries to further develop a draft SAMOA Pathway and SDGs resolution for UNEA 2.

<p>Strengthening the compensation regime for environmental sector - Proposed by Sri Lanka</p>
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Objective of the draft resolution:

Some incidents lead to enactment of new conventions – for example the Minamata Convention. At the moment compensation procedures are available in Basel, IMO Convention on oil pollution related issues. International Maritime Organizational Conventions such as MARPOL and several annexes include mechanisms for liability and compensation in case of oil pollution from ships. If Sri Lanka becomes party to these conventions, then the country will have all the rights to obtain compensation on those procedures through IMO. Under the Basel Convention, for all transboundary movement of hazardous waste, and other hazardous waste related issues, compensation procedures are established. Yet to obtain full benefits, the legal regime should be adjusted so as to include these conventions. There are no procedures or international regime to address in other damages/incidents i.e. POPs, heavy metal, chemicals etc. There is a greater need for developing countries to

establish a uniform and unified compensation regime which can be applicable to developing countries when such incidents occur.

Relevance to UNEA and/or UNEP Programme of Work:

This resolution is based on UNEA-1 resolution on chemicals and waste. It states:

“ “The Future we want ” endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288, in particular the aim to achieve , by 2020 the sound Management of chemicals through their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and environment”.

Under the World Trade agreements, multinational companies has invaded developing countries and implement their operations without concerning environmental regulations. [In UNEA-1 it has emphasized that existing international chemicals and waste related commitments through appropriate implementation at the national, regional and international levels. Further, UNEA resolution Annex I states that new and emerging issues and challenges of global concern should be identified scientifically through an efficient, multistakeholder and inclusive process and should be adequately and effectively addressed. Responding to those issues and challenges requires sufficient capacity at the national, regional and global level].

This resolution is following up on the above UNEA resolution.

Protection of the environment in conflict-affected areas - Proposed by Ukraine

Objective of draft resolution:

- To promote recognition by the international community on the negative impact and challenges to the environment in conflict-affected areas and areas where the conflicts are taking place.
- To invite international partners to assess environmental conditions and possible consequences of a conflict to the ecosystem of the conflict-affected regions.
- To involve efforts of Governments and international organizations aimed at reducing and preventing these consequences and at further restoration of environmental conditions in such regions.

Relevance to UNEA and/or UNEP Programme of Work:

Armed conflicts and military action affect the vulnerable natural system. Different types of the damages on the environment inflicted by conflict may vary from nuclear fallout and radiation to the intentional desertification of wetlands and pollution of air, water and soil by hazardous substances. Recognizing the crucial role of UNEP in post-crisis environmental assessment, risk reduction and recovery as well as existence of abundant international instruments in this area of activities, major accents are made on naturally invoked hazards or disasters. Underlining the need to pay considerable attention to the threats caused by military activity and realizing the risks of possible ecological catastrophe, there is a need to create an effective tool designed to early warn, manage and restore the environment in the conflict-affected areas. UNEA-2, taking into account its expected high-level mandate and its mission to address the wide scope of environmental issues of sustainable development agenda, could become the very platform of adopting such instrument.