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**International environmental policy and governance
issues: coordination across the United Nations system on
environmental issues**

**Information supplementing the report of the Executive Director
of the United Nations Environment Programme on coordination
across the United Nations system in the field of the
environment, including the Environment Management Group
(UNEP/EA.2/10)**

Summary

The report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group (UNEP/EA.2/10), prepared in response to decision 1/11 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP, describes how UNEP has worked to enhance its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement with key United Nations coordination bodies, leading efforts to formulate system-wide strategies on the environment, and strengthening its regional presence to better serve the needs of Member States.

The present note supplements the above-mentioned report and focuses on how UNEP works through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its related mechanisms; multi-stakeholder partnerships and issue-based coalitions; thematic inter-agency coordination mechanisms; and bilateral United Nations partnerships to enhance United Nations system-wide policy coherence in addressing environmental matters.

* UNEP/EA.2/1.

Annex I

Working through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its related mechanisms

1. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination comprises the executive heads of United Nations funds, agencies and programmes, as well as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General, it draws together the disparate parts of a decentralized system of specialized bodies, each with its own constitution, mandate, governing body and budget, into a cohesive and functioning whole. As is called for in the Charter of the United Nations, it works on the basis of coordination through consultation and recommendation in pursuit of common goals. While the endorsement of policies and initiatives by the Chief Executives Board is not binding on its members, collective action by the leadership of the United Nations system creates the political will and a moral imperative for coherent and coordinated action across its various organizations.

2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), an active member of the Chief Executives Board, chairs the Board's High-level Committee on Programmes, which promotes policy coherence and system-wide cooperation, coordination and knowledge-sharing in strategic programme areas. The High-level Committee on Programmes is one of three subsidiary mechanisms of the Chief Executives Board, the other two being the High-level Committee on Management, which identifies and analyses administrative management reforms with a view to improving efficiency and simplifying business practices, and the United Nations Development Group, which is responsible for coordinating operational activities at the country level. UNEP engages closely with, and contributes actively to, the work of all three mechanisms to ensure that environmental concerns are strongly reflected across the full spectrum of issues considered by the Chief Executives Board.

3. At its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions, held in 2015, the High-level Committee on Programmes prepared information for the Chief Executives Board on a number of interrelated issues to foster strategy and policy coherence and coordination, with higher levels of integration, collaboration and accountability, across the entire United Nations system and to develop a "whole-UN" approach to global challenges in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related processes.

4. At its November 2015 session, the Chief Executives Board endorsed the Global Initiative for Decent Jobs for Youth, which was developed through a High-level Committee on Programmes process led by the International Labour Organization. Involving 19 United Nations organizations, the Global Initiative is aimed at increasing the impact of youth employment policies and expanding country-level action to create decent jobs for young people through multi-stakeholder partnerships, the dissemination of evidence-based policies and the scaling-up of effective and innovative measures.

5. As an active member of the core group that developed the Global Initiative, which is considered an exemplary United Nations system-wide effort contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, UNEP contributed to the knowledge facility stream and multi-stakeholder alliances, focusing on the urgent need to equip youth with the knowledge and skills needed to be part of the transition towards a green economy and, in collaboration with the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, on green jobs for youth.

6. Consensus is emerging among members of the Chief Executives Board that multi-stakeholder partnerships focused on one or more nexus (cross-cutting) issues will become the preferred operational modality for implementing the 2030 Agenda, responding as they do to the interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the need to engage multiple stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels. UNEP plays a leadership role in such partnerships and issues-based coalitions, as demonstrated by its portfolio of initiatives, which, in addition to the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, includes the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants, the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, the Global Wastewater Initiative, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction and the Higher Education for Sustainability Initiative.

7. UNEP was actively engaged in the High-level Committee on Programmes process on developing a common United Nations approach to addressing inequalities and discrimination as an integral part of a human-rights-based approach, which was also endorsed by the Chief Executives Board at its November 2015 session. A common approach to addressing inequalities is at the centre of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and supports the key imperatives of leaving no one behind and reaching those furthest behind first. The inputs by UNEP, now well integrated into the approach, focused on fair and equitable access to, and control over, natural resources, including genetic resources, underscoring the relevance of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. They also focused on an inclusive green economy, intergenerational equity, access to environmental justice, gender-differentiated and socially determined impacts of environmental degradation, and universal access to information and technology. Addressing inequalities is closely linked to the collaboration of UNEP with the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

8. In November 2015, UNEP provided inputs for the High-level Committee on Programmes and Chief Executives Board discussions on United Nations system-wide integration across the pillars of peace and security, humanitarian action, human rights and development, which recognized the 2030 Agenda as a catalyst for the adoption by the United Nations of a new, more holistic, prevention-focused and risk-informed approach that integrates efforts across all pillars of United Nations mandates. UNEP also provided substantive inputs and guidance for a discussion paper by the Department of Political Affairs for the thirtieth session of the High-level Committee on Programmes, entitled “Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies and preventing conflict”. The paper, which bridges the recommendations of the three peace reviews – those by the High-level Panel on Peacekeeping Operations, the Advisory Group of Experts on Conflict Prevention and the review of Security Council resolution 1325 – and Sustainable Development Goal 16, reiterates that conflict prevention, as a theme cutting across all the Goals, is a shared objective and responsibility of the entire United Nations system. Efforts to address challenges in advancing conflict prevention and peacebuilding – or, as the review reports put it, “sustaining peace” – and to channel United Nations support towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda will require the peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development actors of the United Nations to work together closely and coherently. UNEP, emphasizing the importance of integrated analysis and comprehensive risk assessments, has pledged to support efforts to sustain peace with technical expertise on natural resources management, environmental rule of law, early-warning systems and environmental governance, and has offered examples of good practice in successfully integrating the environmental dimension.

9. UNEP is a core member of the Working Group on Climate Change of the High-level Committee on Programmes, which brings together, under the Chief Executives Board, more than 40 United Nations system organizations in support of Member States’ efforts to respond to climate change in the context of sustainable development. The Working Group on Climate Change facilitates a coherent United Nations system approach and joint action on climate change and coordinates the system’s position and presence at United Nations climate conferences, including through joint outreach and communication tools. The engagement of the United Nations system in the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was coordinated through the Working Group with a view to highlighting actions in support of countries’ efforts to understand and manage opportunities and challenges related to climate action and to maximize the development co-benefits of low-carbon, climate-resilient growth. The Working Group organized a series of United Nations system side events and technical briefings, as well as the One UN Exhibit Area, designed by UNEP, where delegates could explore the system’s expertise and services in key thematic areas. That expertise is also showcased in a virtual library of documents on climate change hosted on the website of the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership, which is a collaborative multi-agency initiative to support countries in designing and implementing results-oriented, sustainable learning to address climate change.

10. It was agreed by the Chief Executives Board that the Working Group on Climate Change would, after the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, develop a system-wide approach to coordinated climate change action, focusing initially on a system-wide policy and on high-level programmatic coherence and coordination.

11. Another High-level Committee on Programmes work stream in which UNEP is closely engaged is that on urbanization and sustainable development, which aims to develop United Nations system input to a New Urban Agenda. UNEP has provided environment perspectives throughout the process, which will culminate in a common United Nations system paper and Chief Executives Board statement for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

(Habitat III). UNEP has advocated for a comprehensive strategy to promote sustainable consumption and production, resource efficiency and a circular economy at the city level, as well as greater consideration of local and global environmental concerns. That work is also contributing to a system-wide, issue-specific coalition to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to the above-mentioned Global Initiative for Decent Jobs for Youth.

12. UNEP is an active member of UN-Water, the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism on All Freshwater Related Issues, Including Sanitation. Its work complements and adds value to joint programmes and projects to maximize system-wide coordinated action and provide coherent and effective support to Member States in achieving agreed Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 6. Within UN-Water, UNEP leads the Task Force on Wastewater Management and the Task Force on Integrated Water Resources Management and chairs the thematic priority area on water quality. UNEP has supported a shift towards sustainable economic policies in which ecosystem-based approaches take into account the interconnection of ecological systems to address human impacts and meet the need for healthy and productive ecosystems. UNEP has provided policy and technical support, contributing to key UN-Water outputs, such as an analytical brief on wastewater management, which includes options for Sustainable Development Goal indicators and target 6.3 on wastewater and water quality; the *Compendium of Water Quality Regulatory Frameworks: Which Water for Which Use?*, alongside its work on the development of international water quality guidelines for ecosystems; and the Global Environmental Management Initiative, promoting integrated monitoring of water- and sanitation-related Sustainable Development Goal targets.

13. UNEP is a core member of UN-Energy, the United Nations inter-agency mechanism promoting system-wide collaboration in the area of energy through sharing information, encouraging and facilitating joint programming and developing action-oriented approaches to coordination. UNEP reported through UN-Energy on its activities in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024) and participated in the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group technical support team for the energy-related Sustainable Development Goal (Goal 7), which was led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and coordinated within UN-Energy.

14. Catalysed by UN-Energy, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, established by the Secretary-General in 2011, is a multi-stakeholder partnership between Governments, the private sector and civil society working to achieve three interlinked objectives by 2030: ensuring universal access to modern energy services; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. The Sustainable Development for All initiative has given the energy issue a central platform in the United Nations system and adheres closely to the Sustainable Development Goals logic of addressing multiple issues with a view to achieving significant and measurable impacts and results.

15. The Executive Director of UNEP is a member of the Sustainable Energy for All Advisory Board and co-chairs its Energy Efficiency Committee. UNEP is leading activities related to four of the six active energy efficiency “accelerators” – on lighting, appliances and equipment, vehicle fuel efficiency and district energy – through thematic multi-stakeholder partnerships. Each partnership undertakes advocacy, develops methodological guidance and provides assessment support for countries and, in some cases, cities; develops and implements sectoral policies and standards, including monitoring and evaluation frameworks; and disseminates knowledge. The Copenhagen Centre for Energy Efficiency, a partnership between UNEP, the Government of Denmark and the Technical University of Denmark, is the Sustainable Energy for All energy efficiency hub and hosts the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform. With regard to the initiative’s objective of ensuring universal energy access, UNEP is chairing the clean energy mini-grids programme. Its convening power under the partnerships is valued.

16. UNEP is also a member of UN-Oceans, the United Nations inter-agency mechanism seeking to strengthen and promote the coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to oceans and coastal issues. UN-Oceans members, including UNEP, played an active role in the preparation of indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 14 through the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, led by the United Nations Statistical Commission. Their input included a comprehensive joint UN-Oceans submission, coordinated by UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the initial proposed indicators, with further input from agencies provided – in liaison with UN-Oceans – for the Inter-Agency and Expert Group consultations.

17. UNEP is a member of the United Nations Development Group, which is responsible for coordinating United Nations operational activities to achieve internationally agreed development goals at the country level, and now for supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is positioning the United Nations development system to contribute optimally to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. The General Assembly, in resolution 67/226, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, expressed an interest in a strong and relevant United Nations development system that helped countries deliver on their sustainable development priorities, guided by universal human rights and international norms and integrating United Nations normative frameworks into their operational activities in ways responsive to their differentiated needs. The United Nations Development Group standard operating procedures for countries adopting the “Delivering as one” approach enable the United Nations system to collectively support countries in developing integrated United Nations development assistance frameworks in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, and encourage the adoption of the “Delivering as one” approach with a view to improving development assistance frameworks as strategic frameworks in all countries.

18. UNEP, welcoming the strengthening of normative-operational linkages, has supported the United Nations Development Group working groups in developing approaches to integrating the environmental dimension into a range of normative and operational guidance materials, such as the thematic annex on the environment-human rights linkages provided by UNEP for its guidance note on human rights for resident coordinators and United Nations country teams. UNEP, as a member of the Sustainable Development Working Group of the United Nations Development Group, contributed to the development of a mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support toolkit in support of the 2030 Agenda. UNEP also co-chairs the Programme Working Group and has been active in the revision of United Nations development assistance framework programming guidance, including the environmental sustainability programming principle, to respond to the requirements of the 2030 Agenda.

19. UNEP contributes to the work of the High-level Committee on Management, which is responsible to the Chief Executives Board for coherent, efficient and cost-effective management across the United Nations system. Its leadership in United Nations system environmental sustainability management over the past year has been widely recognized. The system-wide road map for a climate-neutral United Nations by 2020, which was approved by the Committee and the Chief Executives Board in April 2015, includes a series of steps towards the shared objective of achieving climate neutrality, for which each United Nations organization must determine its own emissions reduction objectives reflecting its needs and circumstances. UNFCCC and UNEP continue to support knowledge exchange and capacity-building through the Sustainable United Nations initiative, collaborating with the International Civil Aviation Organization with regard to the use of the latter’s travel calculator. UNEP has also engaged in various aspects of the High-level Committee on Management discussions on how to reposition the United Nations system strategically from a management and operational standpoint in support of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee has emphasized that the system requires business models for attracting and retaining a multi-sectoral workforce and developing innovative and sustainable solutions for delivering high-quality, efficient and cost-effective operational services. UNEP is a member of the High-level Committee on Management working group that is developing a United Nations system data catalogue.

Annex II

Working through multi-stakeholder partnerships and issue-based coalitions

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Poverty-Environment Initiative involves United Nations agencies and partners. The Initiative galvanizes multi-stakeholder partnerships to support country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment objectives into development planning, assisting in policy and strategy development, training and learning, capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation, and promoting knowledge. Since 2005, the Initiative has successfully supported the integration of pro-poor, environmental sustainability, climate and gender objectives into sectoral, subnational and national development policies, plans and budgets to contribute to poverty alleviation and an inclusive green economy. Working in 28 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Latin America and the Caribbean, the Initiative has influenced economic decision-making processes led by ministries of finance, planning and local government and supported by ministries of environment.
2. UNEP and UNDP jointly lead the Initiative in a strong example of the “Delivering as one” approach and are working through partnerships with other United Nations bodies, Member States and non-State agencies. Through its collaboration with UNDP and, in particular, the UNDP network of global policy centres and regional and country offices, UNEP has extended its reach at the sub-national and country levels to deliver sustainable development benefits to marginalized, hard-to-reach communities. In support of those efforts, Poverty-Environment Initiative country, regional and global teams have produced economic studies, guidance, and tools for managing climate, fiscal and other investments, tools that have had a transformative influence on policy and budgeting in countries. *Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development: A Handbook to Strengthen Planning and Budgeting Processes* encapsulates 10 years of experience and has rapidly become a sourcebook for countries and agencies seeking to apply integrated approaches to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
3. Recent achievements of the Poverty-Environment Initiative, set out in *Sustainable Resources, Improving Lives: Annual Progress Report 2014*, include the integration of poverty-environment objectives and related gender-sensitive indicators in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; a revision of Peru’s National Solid Waste Management Plan to integrate objectives addressing social, youth and gender issues; and the adoption of measures to ensure that foreign direct investment in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic abides by national development goals aimed at reducing poverty and creating inclusive green growth.
4. The Partnership for Action on the Green Economy brings together the expertise of five United Nations organizations (UNEP, the International Labour Organization, UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research) that are working closely with Governments to offer a comprehensive and coordinated package of technical assistance and capacity-building services to transform economic policymaking. The Partnership is supporting nations and regions in reframing economic policies and practices related to sustainability with a view to fostering economic growth, creating income and jobs, reducing poverty and inequality, and strengthening the ecological foundations of their economies.
5. UNEP leverages its key partnerships and networks to accelerate efforts on ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2015–2030. One important platform is the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, a global alliance of 21 United Nations and other entities, including UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations University, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Wetlands International. The Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction has developed a number of policy briefs, discussion papers and capacity-building packages relating to ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, which contributed to the inclusion of the role of environment and ecosystems in the Sendai Framework. UNEP has worked to maximize policy linkages on disaster risk reduction, climate change and biodiversity by facilitating synergies among the multilateral environmental agreements. Two processes that benefited from UNEP technical inputs were the adoption by the Convention on Biological Diversity of decision XII/20 to link biodiversity, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, and the adoption

by the Ramsar Convention of resolution XII.13, on wetlands and disaster risk reduction, which called for ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction in wetlands management. UNEP will collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention to develop implementation guidance that supports Member States in embedding ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction into national biodiversity strategic action plans and national wetland management plans. UNEP is also supporting the Principles for Sustainable Insurance initiative, representing the largest-ever collaboration between the United Nations and the insurance industry, which strengthens insurance industry commitments to support climate and disaster resilience.

6. The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. The Programme was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNDP and UNEP. The Programme supports nationally led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation. UNEP provides technical expertise to national REDD+ readiness efforts in partner countries spanning Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, offering direct support to the design and implementation of UN-REDD national programmes and complementary support to national REDD+ action through common approaches, analyses, methodologies, tools, data and best practices developed through the UN-REDD Global Programme, which has prepared a new strategic framework for the period 2016–2020.

7. The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants is a 100-member partnership that includes multiple United Nations organizations. The Coalition is working on 16 key measures that, if implemented by 2030, can reduce global warming by 0.6°C by 2050. Complementary to mitigating CO₂ emissions, the Coalition acts as a catalyst to create, implement and share immediate solutions for addressing near-term climate change with a view to rapidly improving people's lives and ensuring sustainable development for future generations.

8. The Green Growth Knowledge Platform is a global network of international organizations and experts that identifies and addresses major knowledge gaps in green growth theory and practice. By encouraging widespread collaboration and world-class research, the Platform offers practitioners and policymakers policy guidance, good practices, tools and data to support the transition to a green economy. The Platform was established in 2012 by the Global Green Growth Institute, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNEP and the World Bank.

9. UNEP is tasked with facilitating and promoting the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) through international, regional and national action. UNEP, through the GPA Coordination Office, has sought to engage strategically with key actors working in the area of nutrient management by taking a leadership role in the creation and management of a Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) in order to promote the sustainable consumption and use of nutrients, notably nitrogen and phosphorous, and to trigger high-level strategic interest and engagement among countries and stakeholders on the issue of addressing the “nutrient challenge”. GPNM is emerging as a unique public-private partnership to address the economic, environmental and social effects of intensifying food production.

10. The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office established the Global Wastewater Initiative in 2013 as a multi-stakeholder partnership aimed at sharing knowledge and enhancing collaboration among different players in the wastewater arena. Working with partners, UNEP has engaged in several demonstration projects on the ground. Joint initiatives have been developed to apply the knowledge generated to address wastewater challenges, including through projects in the Black Sea, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, China and the Caribbean. “Wastewater Management: A UN-Water Analytical Brief”, prepared in 2015 on behalf of the Task Force on Wastewater, which is co-chaired by the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, contributed to discussions on a possible Sustainable Development Goal for water and wastewater. UNEP has published *Good Practices for Regulating Wastewater Treatment: Legislation, Policies and Standards* and *Economic Valuation of Wastewater, the Cost of Action and the Cost of No Action*, as well as a wastewater treatment technology matrix.

11. Significant attention has been devoted to the problem of marine litter by the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office with the establishment of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). The main goal of the Global Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment through the reduction and management of marine litter. It is a voluntary open-ended partnership for international agencies, Governments, businesses, academia, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and individuals that provides a platform for increased collaboration and coordination and promotes

dialogue on marine litter and in particular the issue of plastics and microplastics management.¹ An analysis of socioeconomic aspects of marine litter at the global level, which pinpointed current issues and research findings, gaps in current knowledge and priority actions, and the main costs of non-action and action, was prepared as an input for the Group of Seven in June 2015. The Group of Seven recognized the work by UNEP and in particular the role of the GPA and supported the use of existing platforms and tools for cooperation, such as the GPA and the GPML, as they would reduce duplication and take advantage of progress.

12. The Higher Education for Sustainability Initiative, to be chaired by UNEP in 2016, and the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development aim to enhance capacity to respond to various environmental and sustainable development challenges. The Global Action Programme was the outcome of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014, and UNEP as a member of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee connected its Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability, a network of more than 700 universities. That enabled UNEP to provide its technical expertise to Sustainable Development Goal 4 and three massive open online courses (MOOCs) on ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, marine litter, and climate change adaptation and small island developing States.

13. UNEP partnered with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations University, the International Organization for Migration and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel to analyse and understand climate trends and to identify at-risk populations in the Sahel. The technical depth of the data and analysis featured in *Livelihood Security: Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel* was valued by the peace and security constituency and helped to inform the United Nations integrated strategy on the Sahel.

14. UNEP has established partnerships with United Nations agencies to increase knowledge about the role of natural resources in conflicts and in peacebuilding opportunities. United Nations peace and conflict practitioners in the field have requested guidance on dealing with the complexities of natural resource management conducted in the context of conflicts. Since 2008, UNEP has drafted joint policy reports on peacebuilding, peacekeeping, international law, gender, disarmament, demilitarization and reintegration, and in 2015 it launched a natural resource mediation guide with the Department of Political Affairs. Those joint reports have drawn on real-life examples to articulate the environmental and natural resource management issues linked to peace and security. Such joint policy work combines the political know-how of United Nations Secretariat entities with the technical expertise of UNEP.

15. UNEP participated in an informal coalition between the European Union and six United Nations entities that combined economic, social, political and environmental expertise. The coalition mapped existing tools and developed thematic notes on conflict prevention linked to extractive industries as well as land, water and other natural resources. Subsequently, UNEP led a task team under the United Nations Working Group on Transitions to prepare a compilation of the guidance that was then formally endorsed by the United Nations system.

16. Since 2014, UNEP has helped the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)² to analyse the illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources that benefit armed groups and organized criminal networks. Given its technical expertise, UNEP can play a catalytic role in field contexts in connecting various aspects of natural resource issues into a coherent analysis.

¹ The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly mandated UNEP, and by extension the GPA (through GPML), to undertake a study on marine microplastics, focusing on possible measures and best available techniques to prevent and reduce the level of microplastics in the marine environment.

² As per Security Council resolution 2147.

Annex III

Additional information on the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to thematic inter-agency coordination mechanisms

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a member of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus (ECESA Plus), which since 2010 has been convening United Nations system agencies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Rio Convention secretariats on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). ECESA Plus meets regularly to discuss the follow-up to Rio+20, including matters related to small island developing States. Coordination of United Nations system actions for the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, takes place through ECESA Plus. Its members developed a matrix for the follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway, focusing on mandates specifically directed at the United Nations system, as well as on areas where the United Nations system is already engaged through its programmatic work. The United Nations implementation matrix for the Samoa Pathway, to which UNEP contributed, serves as an accountability framework and as a tool for promoting and monitoring progress. UNEP also contributes to maintaining the small island developing States partnership platform by providing information on UNEP-led and related partnerships registered in the context of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.
2. UNEP contributes to the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Small Island Developing States, derived from ECESA Plus and led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the technical level, as a mechanism of information exchange on activities related to small island developing States undertaken by United Nations agencies and other regional and international intergovernmental organizations. In order to integrate the environment into sustainable development discussions on small island developing States, UNEP participates in Inter-Agency Coordination Group discussions on enhancing coordinated actions and seeks synergies with the activities of other members. It shares information on activities and key issues related to small island developing States; on developments in forums convened by UNEP, including at the regional level; and on its knowledge products, such as the publications *GEO Small Islands Developing States Outlook*; *Guidance Manual on Valuation and Accounting of Ecosystem Services for Small Island Developing States*; and *Emerging Issues for Small Island Developing States: Results of the UNEP Foresight Process*, written in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
3. The Joint UNEP/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Environment Unit assists Member States in preparing for and responding to environmental emergencies in an integrated manner. By pairing the technical expertise of UNEP with the humanitarian response coordination structure of OCHA, the Environment Unit ensures an integrated approach in response to environmental emergencies. For example, in the wake of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, UNEP responded promptly by contributing to the post-disaster needs assessment and immediate recovery work. UNEP worked with OCHA to provide advice on environmental considerations during the humanitarian phase; provided hands-on support on waste management and green housing reconstruction; and led initiatives on landslide prevention.
4. UNEP is a core member of the United Nations Task Team on the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and coordinates system-wide preparations for the Conference. The Task Team has prepared a series of 22 issue papers that provide in-depth review and analysis of specific issues that are relevant to the discussions of Habitat III. UNEP has played a leading or contributing role in the development of the issue papers, particularly those on the theme of urban ecology and environment. The issue papers have been a starting point for work of the Habitat III policy units, which bring together high-level expertise to explore state-of-the-art research and analysis; identify good practice and lessons learned; and develop independent policy recommendations on sustainable urban development issues. UNEP co-leads the policy unit on urban ecology and resilience with the Rockefeller Foundation. That support to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Habitat III preparatory process draws on the urban partnerships and initiatives of UNEP, including the Global Initiative for Resource-Efficient Cities and the Greener Cities Partnership, which mainstream the environmental perspective into urban policymaking and incorporate urban perspectives into environmental policymaking, focusing on resilient, resource-efficient cities; sustainable transport and mobility; and waste and wastewater management.

5. UNEP is an active member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, which aims to strengthen inter-agency cooperation with a view to promoting the human rights and well-being of indigenous peoples. With environment as one of the five mandated areas of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the participation of UNEP is crucial to supporting discussions on sustainable development and environmental issues. Collaboration with partner agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Land Coalition, has focused on land rights for indigenous peoples, the introduction of the concept of "pastoralism and the green economy" and the creation of indicators in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. Through the Inter-Agency Support Group, UNEP works to strengthen inter-agency collaboration on thematic issues of common interest, the implementation of UNEP guidelines on indigenous peoples' issues and more broadly the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. UNEP also contributes the environment perspective to papers and briefs produced by the Inter-Agency Support Group and has contributed to the development of the United Nations system-wide action plan on indigenous people's issues, which the Inter-Agency Support Group endorsed in October 2015 and then brought to the attention of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in November 2015. UNEP was part of the working group to develop the *United Nations Development Group's Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues*.
6. UNEP is a core member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), which works to increase the effectiveness of United Nations work on youth development. UNEP has actively contributed to the work of IANYD, in particular to the development of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, which focuses on employment and entrepreneurship, youth engagement in all aspects of development, inclusion in decision-making processes, and education. Through IANYD, UNEP aims to strengthen mechanisms for promoting green entrepreneurship among young people, in particular young women; increase the capacities of stakeholders to establish inclusive policies and mechanisms that support civic engagement; enable youth leaders to participate in the General Assembly and other decision-making forums; and strengthen the capacity of countries to develop high-quality inclusive education, learning and training policies and programmes.
7. UNEP also works through a number of other standing and ad-hoc United Nations inter-agency mechanisms on a range of important issues. Such mechanisms include the technical working group of the High-level Advisory Group of the Secretary-General on Sustainable Transport; the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group; the United Nations Evaluation Group; the United Nations Communications Group; the Global Compact Inter-Agency Team; the inter-agency consultative groups on least developed countries and landlocked least developed countries; and the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs.

Annex IV

Working through bilateral United Nations partnerships

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) works closely and very effectively with many United Nations organizations on a bilateral basis, enhancing those collaborative partnerships by focusing on specific deliverables. A good example from the past year is the collaboration of UNEP with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Significant progress has been made on a number of fronts since UNEP and UN-Women signed a memorandum of understanding in April 2015 with the aim of providing a framework for and facilitating cooperation between the two organizations.
2. In June 2015, UNEP and UN-Women initiated the joint flagship programme Women's Sustainable Energy Entrepreneurship and Access, the overarching objective of which is to enable women to play a leadership role in promoting and benefiting from sustainable energy for economic empowerment and climate resilience. The joint programme was launched in December 2015 in the margins of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
3. The joint project on empowering women in peacebuilding through natural resource management builds on recommendations from a 2013 report entitled *Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential*, which UNEP published in collaboration with UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Peacebuilding Support Office. In October 2015, Finland confirmed seed funding for the project, and a meeting of the partners (UNEP, UNDP, UN-Women and the Peacebuilding Support Office) took place in November 2015. Among other issues, the meeting secured agreement on project implementation and governance mechanisms and endorsed the proposal of a joint programme administered through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, with UNEP acting as the convening agency responsible for project management.
4. UN-Women is also contributing actively to the *Global Gender and Environment Outlook*, to be launched at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Some 40 leading experts on gender and environment issues and United Nations experts in those fields are preparing the report, and assessments are being carried out in collaboration with United Nations agencies, including UN-Women, UNDP, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations University and the World Health Organization.
5. Another key area of collaboration is the role of women in food security. A joint study by the UNEP/UNDP Poverty-Environment Initiative, UN-Women and the World Bank measuring the cost of the gender gap for agricultural productivity in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda provided further evidence that reducing the gender gap translates into significant poverty reduction and improved nutritional outcomes. The report was launched in October 2015 during the forty-second session of the Committee on World Food Security and provided a quantification of costs in terms of lost growth opportunities and an estimate of what societies, economies and communities would gain were gender gaps in agriculture to be addressed.
6. Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa and the UN-Women Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office published a working paper entitled "Empowering women for sustainable energy solutions to address climate change", which set out experiences of the Poverty-Environment Initiative and UN-Women. The paper emphasized that gender, environment and climate change are cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed jointly in order to advance sustainable development and the empowerment of women.
7. UNEP works closely with the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Food Programme and International Fund for Agricultural Development on the nexus between ecosystems and agriculture and food security. For example, UNEP, FAO and the Global Environment Facility launched the multi-country Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use for Improved Nutrition and Well-Being Initiative, led by Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Turkey and coordinated by Biodiversity International. It is working through national environment and agriculture sectors to establish an enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity for improved nutrition into relevant national policies, strategies and actions.

8. UNEP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have also taken steps to enhance their collaboration in a number of areas, including children's environmental health, in the context of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. As a first step, UNEP provided guidance and input on data and policy aspects for the report entitled *Unless We Act Now: The Impact of Climate Change on Children*, published by UNICEF ahead of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The report looked at how children, and in particular the most vulnerable, are affected by climate change, and at the steps needed to protect them.

9. UNEP and the Department of Field Support (DFS) are stepping up collaboration to improve the environmental performance of United Nations peace operations through a UNEP-managed facility to support DFS and peace operations in managing their energy, water, waste and carbon footprint. Activities include reducing the risk of waterborne diseases, addressing water use in water-scarce regions and reducing operational costs through fuel savings, as well as leaving a post-mission legacy of good environmental practices and technologies in host countries.
