

Second Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux
of the UN Environment Assembly and
the Committee of Permanent Representatives
9 – 10 June 2017
Hotel Villa Caletas (Pacífico Central)
Puntarenas, Costa Rica

**Note by the Secretariat on the High-level Political Forum on
Sustainable Development**

The Secretariat submits a note on the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which shall take place from 10 to 19 July in New York under the theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”. It will support discussions under Agenda item 7: Visibility of the UN Environment Assembly, at the Second Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to be held on 9 – 10 June 2017.



Update on the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

1. The 2017 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (the Forum) is taking place from 10 to 19 July in New York (with a 3-day ministerial meeting from 17 to 19 July) under the theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”.¹
2. The UN Environment plans to engage actively in the Political Forum with a view to: 1) assessing the extent to which Member States are effectively integrating the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and identify opportunities for the UN Environment to help Member States in bridging any gap in implementation; 2) exploring ways to strengthen the contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the Forum, including to its outcomes and to the monitoring of the progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals; and, 3) supporting the President of the UN Environment Assembly in his engagement with the Forum.
3. At the request of the President of the Economic and Social Council to the President of the UN Environment Assembly, the UN Environment has submitted the inputs of the UN Environment Assembly to the Forum in consultation with Member States (attached). Among others, the inputs stressed the importance of effective governance for tackling major environmental challenge such as illegal trade in wildlife and marine pollution, which are also addressed through respective resolutions adopted at the second session of the Environment Assembly. The inputs further shed light on emerging issues of environmental concern, including zoonoses – diseases that can be passed on between animals and humans – and toxic accumulation in crops due to climate change, as presented in the 2016 UN Environment Frontiers Report.
4. In the margins of the Forum, the UN Environment plans to organize various side events. In response to the call made by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretariat has submitted 4 side event proposals on the following topics. The selection of proposals is expected to be communicated by mid-June.
 - Resource smart food systems: from science to policy action
 - Are resilience and poverty eradication mutually reinforcing?
 - Advancing the human rights and environment nexus: putting the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the right to a healthy environment
 - Five years from Rio+20: how has environmental governance evolved to sustain the 2030 Agenda?

¹ In particular, the 2017 session will focus on:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

