

Second Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux
of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
9 to 10 June 2017
Hotel Villa Caletas (Pacífico Central)
Puntarenas, Costa Rica
Agenda item 2

**Note by the Secretariat on the Leadership Dialogues of the
2017 UN Environment Assembly**

The Secretariat is pleased to present for members consideration the revised concept note on the Leadership Dialogues of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly. It will support discussion under Agenda item 2: Stocktaking on Preparations for the Assembly, at the Second Joint Preparatory Retreat of the bureau of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to be held on 9 to 10 June 2017.

Members of both bureaux are invited to provide comments to the Secretariat on the revised concept note on the Leadership Dialogues following the sub-committee meeting which held on 24 May 2017.

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Concept Note on the Leadership Dialogues of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly (Version of 28 May 2017)

Introduction

The 2017 UN Environment Assembly will gather in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4-6 December under the overarching theme “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”.

A key feature of the Assembly’s structure is the launch of a series of high – level, interactive *Leadership Dialogues* designed to provide participating Ministers, private sector leaders, and other leading personalities with an opportunity to intensify high-level engagement and discuss and articulate solutions and contributions towards a pollution – free planet, providing strategic direction and setting the foundations and accelerating action on the pollution agenda. The Assembly’s keynote report – “Towards a Pollution - free Planet”- will provide the latest scientific information on how pollution impacts ecosystems, human health and well-being. It will also identify key transformative recommendations for solutions. The *Leadership Dialogues* will be guided by these recommendations to overcome the pollution challenges, bringing the world closer to a firm path towards a pollution-free planet.

The *Leadership Dialogues* will take place for about 6 hours on Tuesday, 5th December 2017 and will be assigned the following time slots:

- Morning sessions : from 10.30 to 13.00
- Afternoon sessions : from 15.00 to 18.00

From a general organizational perspective, there could be potential room for a sequence of 4 interactive high – level dialogues throughout the designated day.

The Concept

Informed by the diagnostics and the latest scientific information provided in the Assembly’s keynote report, the Dialogues will be interactive, professionally moderated and designed to facilitate exchange of information, best practices, challenges and ambitions among Ministers, political leaders, business and finance sector leaders, scientists and key stakeholders. In engaging with each other, they will be able to address the full spectrum of issues related to the multifaceted theme of pollution and to inject political momentum and direction towards addressing key policy and action gaps and identifying principles and transformative, concrete actions at the global, regional, national and local levels on key pollution risk areas. These thought-provoking discussions will be professionally moderated and possibly structured around four *Dialogues*, where Ministers will take the specific challenge of pollution to the national level, with an opportunity for sharing “real life” narratives, best practices and technology for overcoming the challenges and scaling up solutions.

At the end of each *Dialogue* --which will be streamed live-- there will be an opportunity to engage and take questions from actual and virtual audiences.

The Format

The Assembly's "Keynote Report" provided by UN Environment's Secretariat will form the substantive anchor for the dialogues, providing leaders with scientific evidence and information on concrete challenges and articulating relevant recommendations for action. Upon this foundational basis, the organization of the interactive dialogues may be built around different scenarios / options.

1. Option 1

Each *Leadership Dialogue* addresses pollution through a specific cross-cutting issue:

- **Citizens' Awareness:** education and public awareness on pollution;
- **Pollution and the Rule of Law:** law enforcement and compliance;
- **Alliances to Combat Pollution:** partnerships and actions on pollution; and
- **Solutions towards a Pollution-free Planet:** finances, economics and technology to reduce pollution.

2. Option 2

The *Leadership Dialogues* to be organized around four sequential cross-cutting areas:

- **Science and evidence on pollution:** The first Dialogue should set the scene on what are the drivers that impact policymaking. Science is the source of impact evidence, facts and figures; but also drives innovation and solutions, and makes them real-time and accessible.
- **Pollution in Real Time:** will address the different facets of the pollution challenge at the national level. For example, at the urban level, waste / plastic waste is a significant source both of hazardous pollution and of business opportunity. Air pollution too. This Dialogue can bring together mayors, private sector and consumers/general public.
- **Legislation:** will focus on how legislation can help or hinder innovation, trigger or halt solutions. This could address how regulations can be a safeguard (i.e. against hazardous waste) and incentivize innovation (i.e. tax reforms, subsidies, etc); it can also address law enforcement challenges.
- **Financing innovation:** will speak to the sources of innovation and the innovators and what makes financial institutions / private sector invest (or not invest) in transformative technologies.

Dialogues' plenaries could be therefore organized along the following path:

- An introductory general "curtain raiser" (setting the scene), based on the pollution report:
 - presentation of the highlights of the pollution report
 - framing challenges and solutions
- Moderated dialogues (modelled around the 2 scenarios provided above);

- A consolidated set of “Conclusions and recommendations” emerging from the moderated dialogues (*Leadership Dialogues* summary), presented by a designated high – level Rapporteur.