



## Key Take Away Messages – Practical solutions towards a pollution free planet at the 2017 UN Environment Assembly

<b>Title of your session:</b>	Practical solutions towards a pollution free planet
<b>Date and Venue:</b>	Tuesday, December 5, 2017, Conference room 2
<b>Organizer:</b>	Ecosystem Division
<b>Speakers:</b>	USA, MoBike, Cuba, FAO, Ramsar Convention, Morocco, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Israel, Singapore, Finland, Belgium, Estonia, Sri Lanka, Marchica Med Board, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, UN Environment
<b>Please summarize the key messages from your event or session (maximum of 350 words):</b>	<p>The session discussed practical solutions on addressing pollution challenges and how those are supported by science, business, and innovation. Speakers were invited to share their experiences and lessons learnt, highlighting what they considered success factors. The discussions focused on air, land and soil, freshwater, marine and coastal, and waste. The key messages include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partnerships, not only public-private partnerships but multistakeholder partnerships across levels – from federal to state, local and tribal levels, including transboundary collaboration, i.e. the Global Soil Partnership;</li> <li>2. Data collection and analysis are needed for science-based decision making and for establishing the economic and social costs of pollution;</li> <li>3. Communication and working from a common knowledge base; and use the language of scientific evidence;</li> <li>4. Using the potential for innovation and technology to transform old technologies, such as bicycles, using new technologies</li> </ol>



	<p>such as the Internet and the Internet of Things, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and smartphones to come up with new modalities of public transportation, such as bike sharing;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Education of and commitment to all citizens;</li> <li>6. Involvement of the private sector in finding options for de-risking through farming insurance and other financial instruments;</li> <li>7. Cheaper, more affordable and accessible technologies;</li> <li>8. In the context of land and soil pollution, proven practical solutions include rapid and cheap assessments to guide fertilizer use, and bringing evidence of the costs of our actions;</li> <li>9. Food can be produced without polluting our agriculture base, safeguarding the health and vitality of our land;</li> <li>10. Use natural infrastructure as an approach to pollution management, i.e. sustainable use of wetlands to be included as part of pollution and waste management strategies, to restore ecosystems, recycle and re-use wastewater. The use of bio-remediation was also discussed;</li> <li>11. Inclusive participation of all stakeholders to build a greater sense of ownership; electronic government, relieving the need to travel to access public services;</li> <li>12. Using holistic approaches – looking at regulation, pricing of freshwater, creating economic incentives for technologies development – and bringing responsible ministries to the table (e.g. ministries of agriculture, energy, environment and finance);</li> <li>13. Harnessing the innovative power of the private sector by using demonstration projects, but “the best has not yet been seen”; and keep under regulatory control;</li> </ol>
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	<p>14. Regulation and economic incentives such as eco-taxes to support waste management; guidance for public procurement.</p>
<p><b>Please highlight and specify any voluntary commitments made from Government/private sector/civil society during your session:</b></p>	<p>These were not expressed as commitments but were worth noting:          USA: Megacities partnership to be announced as part of the US commitments for UNEA.          FAO: Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (published earlier this year).          Israel: Created a special interdepartmental framework to address water pollution and scarcity issues</p>