

## A. Key messages from the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

5 December 2017

The multi-stakeholder dialogue focused on the topic of “People and Pollution”. The session was introduced by five panelists speaking on how pollution affected their lives and on how to identify relevant solutions for various situations and regions. The dialogue focused on root causes for different aspects of pollution, and made connections to poverty, rule of law, women’s rights and human rights. Respondents included Ministers and different stakeholders.

The key messages from the dialogue include:

- The implementation of multilateral environmental agreements is critical.
- There is a need for improved multi-stakeholder and multi-level collaboration.
- Countries need to develop and improve mechanisms to enhance coherence and efficiency.
- Too often environmental laws are ignored in countries – increased capacity support is needed in many developing countries to support the implementation of national laws.
- Governments can do a lot more to incentivize sustainability, for example by introducing a carbon tax. They can also establish recycling targets and support innovation.
- Green public procurement needs to be applied at all levels of government.
- Circular economy is an important approach, for example to minimize negative effects from chemicals.
- Data and monitoring underpins all approaches to addressing pollution and should be at the core of multi-level partnerships.
- Building public awareness of the problem will mobilize political will.
- Voluntary commitments are a good first stage. But it is not enough. More regulation is needed at both the international and national level.
- Extended producer responsibility should be built in to all products.
- We need to make sustainable products more affordable with government incentives.
- Clean industry and other stakeholders should work together in Multi Stakeholder partnerships to promote innovative solutions and help build local capacity to address pollution.
- Addressing corruption in public and private sectors will support all approaches to address pollution.

- The UN Environment Assembly should provide relevant input to the High-Level Political Forum – including from the fourth session of the Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum in 2019 which will convene Heads of State.