

1<sup>st</sup> Joint Preparatory Retreat of the  
Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly and of the  
Committee of Permanent Representatives  
22-23 March, 2018  
Tribe Hotel, Nairobi Kenya

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**Report from the informal working group on the theme for the fourth session of the  
UN Environment Assembly**

Following initial discussions on the theme for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly at the Joint Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Bureaux agreed to establish an ad hoc informal working group with a mandate to explore options on the framing of a compromise proposal for a theme.

The Working group was chaired by the Special Envoy of the President, and was composed of representatives from Eritrea and Egypt, representing the African Group; the European Union; Ethiopia, representing the Group of 77 and China; and South Africa, Switzerland and Brazil representing members of the Bureau of the Assembly.

The working group considered the existing proposals with widespread support amongst Member States:

- 1. Innovative solutions for environmental challenges*
- 2. Sustainable Consumption and Production*

The discussions took place in an open and constructive atmosphere, with several new proposals tabled to identify common ground for a possible compromise. Following an in-depth discussion, the group succeeded to identify one compromise proposal which sought to combine both proposals without merging or revising them, which met with general acceptance among all members of the group.

The proposal reads as follows: **“Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”**.

Based on the informal agreement on a possible theme within the working group, the Chair of the informal working group recommends to the joint Bureaux the following way forward:

1. To consider the above proposal for possible decision by the Bureau of the Assembly.
2. To request the Secretariat to develop a concept note that would outline a rationale and a set of key objectives and potential outcomes relating to the theme.
3. To request the Secretariat to develop a communication plan relating to the theme, including the development of media-friendly slogans.
4. To invite the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 142<sup>nd</sup> meeting to provide i-depth guidance to the Secretariat with regard to the concept note and communication plan in view of further consideration by the Bureau of the Assembly.