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Conference Room 1

Report by the Secretariat on UN Environment Programme's Private Sector Engagement

The Secretariat has the pleasure to submit a report on the United Nations Environment Programme's strengthened engagement with the private sector through partnerships and collaboration in areas of common interest. This engagement comes at a time when the private sector is becoming more engaged in finding adequate solutions for pressing global environmental challenges responding to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This report is prepared for consideration at the 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to be held on 10 May 2018.

The Secretariat looks forward to receiving your initial views or any comments on this report. Any comments are to be submitted to the Private Sector Unit of UN Environment Programme at UNEnvironment-Business@un.org. In addition, the Secretariat intends to make an update on 24 May 2018.

1. Background and Relevant Mandates

1.1. The United Nations Environment Programme's engagement of the private sector is grounded in Governing Council Decision 22/7 "Engaging business and industry", which was approved during the 22nd Session of the Governing Council in 2003. In response to Decision 22/7, taking into account proposals contributed by Governments, and based on the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the business community, issued by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in July 2000, guidelines for cooperation between the Organization and business and industry were developed for use by staff members when undertaking partnership activities and cooperation with business and industry. A document entitled "Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and Business" was finalized in March 2004. These Guidelines are reviewed and updated regularly.

1.2. The UN Environment Programme's approach has evolved to reflect the call to enhance the business engagement for sustainable development and the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals in terms of collaboration with the private sector. The 2030 Agenda, adopted by the General Assembly in 2015¹, recognizes that the scale and ambition of the new Agenda requires a revitalized Global Partnership to ensure its implementation, bringing together governments and the private sector. Member States also acknowledged the role of a diverse private sector with geographic balance, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, all of which can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1.3. The UN Environment Assembly's resolution 2/5 on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2016 sets out the parameters in which the Organization is to revitalize its work with the private sector. The Resolution (paragraph 12) "Requests the Executive Director to initiate new multi-stakeholder partnerships, where appropriate, and within available resources, and strengthen existing ones, including with the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to promote activities that contribute to delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

1.4. Against this backdrop, the UN Environment Programme aims to be at the forefront for collaborating with the private sector in constructive and result oriented partnerships that will result into the needed the innovations, technological solutions and financing to tackle our most pressing global environmental challenges. The private sector will also be instrumental in contributing to the implementation of the relevant resolutions decided upon by 193 Member States at the UN Environment Assembly.

1.5. The purpose of this update is to inform Member States on progress made in engaging the private sector through partnership initiatives, multi-stakeholder dialogue, including in the context of the work of the Governing Bodies and overall advancement in terms of responsible corporate citizenship in private sector support to the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Organization.

1.6. The update includes an Annex of the list of partnership initiatives concluded by the Organization since March 2017.

¹ Adopted by General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled, "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

2. Definition of the Private Sector

2.1. Following the 2030 Agenda, the UN Environment Programme regards the private sector as ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals. It includes for-profit enterprises; companies or businesses regardless of size, ownership or structure; as well as private financial institutions, businesses trade associations and organizations that represent private sector interests. It also includes corporate philanthropic foundations.

3. Highlights of Private Sector Engagement across Sub-programmes

3.1. The UN Environment Programme has been working with private sector representatives and associations in the following areas: *finance, oil and gas, waste, water, food and beverages, agriculture and fisheries, forestry, electric power, heating and cooling, tire and transport, mining and metals, tourism, building and construction, chemicals including plastics and cosmetics, manufacturing including textile and leather, information and communication technology, and retail.* We also have regular engagement with networks of professionals, such as lawyers, whose work can positively contribute to addressing environmental issues.

3.2. This cooperation has targeted progress towards more resilient supply chains, new green investment opportunities, and increased availability of environmentally sustainable goods and services in the global market, thereby advancing towards the realization of an inclusive Green Economy and more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

3.3. Most efforts undertaken by the Organization --through Divisions and Regional Offices--on engaging the private sector cut across several Sub-programmes and support various Sustainable Development Goals. This section provides highlights of relevant activities undertaken by the Organization:

Sub-programme 1: Climate Change

3.4. The UN Environment Programme has initiated several innovative models of public-private partnerships to enhance financing for the dissemination of low-carbon technologies to tackle climate change and promote clean energy. The following initiatives aim to scale-up ambitions and impacts of climate actions by delivering support through unified processes and systems on the ground:

- The *Seed Capital Assistance Facility (SCAF)* partners with private investment structures in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa to address the current finance gap in the early development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and ventures. The Facility uniquely works through private actors, supporting on a cost-sharing basis those investors who provide local project developers and entrepreneurs with the enterprise development services and early stage risk capital they need to develop sustainable energy businesses and projects. By supporting the development of “bankable projects” SCAF increases the scale and scope of clean energy investment opportunities available to commercial financiers and capital mobilization into the clean energy sphere in the least developed countries. Since 2010 the Facility has partnered with 12 investment funds and companies, brought more than 160 opportunities in their investment pipelines, and co-supported the early development of 42 of them.
- Setting up a *Seed Capital Assistance Facility for Forest and Landscape Restoration* which builds on the experience of the Seed Capital Assistance Facility in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Facility unlocks private sector financing in forest and landscape restoration by working directly with investors focusing on funding projects in developing countries.
- *Mediterranean Investment Facility* helps establish innovative financing mechanisms to support renewable energy and energy efficiency systems, as well as allow end-users to invest in renewable energies. The Facility works in concert with electricity utilities, policy makers, technology suppliers, installers and local banks. The Mediterranean Investment Facility uses a country-driven approach to develop projects that catalyze the creation of sustainable energy finance and the expansion of the market

for low-carbon technologies in the Mediterranean region. The aim is to support each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

- *Women's Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Energy*: a joint UN Environment Programme and UN Women initiative which aims at increasing women's productive use of sustainable energy through capacity-building and skills development; engendering of energy policies; and increasing women's access to finance.
- *Tropical Forest Finance Facility* which supports development of a pipeline of bankable projects in Indonesia for sustainable forests and landscape management. It brings long-term financing to projects and companies that stimulate green growth and improve rural livelihoods. The Facility will use public funding to unlock private investment in renewable production, sustainable landscape management that reduces deforestation and forest degradation. This Facility also supports the Ecosystems Sub-programme.
- *United for Efficiency (U4E)* is a global public-private partnership led by UN Environment supporting developing countries to save up to 20% of their electricity usage and corresponding emissions, by transforming their markets to higher efficiency appliances and equipment. U4E works to inform policy makers of the significant environmental and economic savings and benefits available which are up to \$1 trillion by 2030, promotes global best practices and supports the implementation of strategic energy efficiency programmes in over 40 countries, working with more than 30 global partners, including the leading global appliance and equipment manufacturers such as Arçelik, B/S/H/, Gree, Electrolux, MABE, Sanhua, Whirlpool and ABB: <http://united4efficiency.org/accelerating-the-transition-to-high-efficiency-products/>. The activities also contribute to the Chemicals, Waste, Air Quality, and Resource Efficiency Sub-programmes.
- *District Energy in Cities* is a multi-stakeholder partnership led by UN Environment. It helps national and municipal governments adopt district energy systems that provide efficient and renewable heating and cooling services and reduce pollution. 33 cities and 12 countries are involved. The Initiative has over 43 global partners – including leading technology and service providers and financiers such as Danfoss, Thermax, Johnson Controls, ENGIE, Empower, Moon Group, and the International Finance Corporation (www.districtenergyinitiative.org). Partners: increase awareness on the multiple benefits of district energy (cleaner air, climate change, reduced use of hydrofluorocarbons), showcase good practices; strengthen enabling environments to attract investment; and build local know-how through demonstration projects. The activities also contribute to the Chemicals, Waste, Air Quality, and Resource Efficiency Sub-programmes.
- The UN Environment Programme, together with nine investors from six countries – representing close to US\$3 trillion – have formed a leadership group to promote climate transparency by the investor community. The group, including Norges Bank Investment Management, Aviva, Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec, Desjardins Group, Nordea and Storebrand Asset Management, will pilot the recent recommendations of the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures. The outputs and conclusions of this group will stimulate and ease the adoption of these recommendations by the wider industry, including the 1,900 investor members of the Principles for Responsible Investment. This follows the work of an equivalent group of 16 banks, launched in 2017 and also convened and facilitated by UNEP FI, that will conclude its work and deliver its outputs in the second quarter of 2018.
- *The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles*, which brings together 72 organizations from both developing and developed countries representing vehicle industries, governments and civil society. The Partnership – which operates globally as well as in countries - also contributes to the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality Sub-programme.
- *The District Energy in Cities Initiative* is a multi-stakeholder partnership led by UN Environment. It helps national and municipal governments adopt district energy systems that provide efficient and renewable heating and cooling services and reduce pollution. 33 cities and 12 countries are involved,

including China and India. The Initiative has over 43 global partners – including leading technology providers and service operators such as Danfoss (Denmark), Thermax (India), Johnson Controls (US), Moon Group (China), ENGIE (France), Empower – a PPP of Dubai (UAE) and the world’s largest district cooling services provider; regional and global industry associations including the China District Energy Association, Asia Pacific Urban Energy Association, and the International District Energy Association; and financiers such as ADB, EBRD, KfW, and IFC. Partners: increase awareness on the potential of district energy and its role in achieving multiple benefits (cleaner air, climate change, more efficient use of energy, more renewable energy, reduction of HFCs), showcase good practices and highlight successful efforts; strengthen policies and enabling environments to attract investment; build local know-how through demonstration projects; and, encourage private sector operators and investors to support modern district energy systems. The activities also contribute to the Chemicals, Waste, Air Quality, and Resource Efficiency Sub-programmes.

- *The en.lighten Initiative*, is a global public-private partnership on lighting led by UN Environment which seeks to accelerate the global market transformation to energy efficient lighting and includes the leading global lighting manufacturers such as Philips Lighting and OSRAM, as well as other partners including the Global Efficient Lighting Centre in China. *The en.lighten Initiative* has been expanded to include other high impact appliances and equipment under the *United for Efficiency* programme.

Sub-programme 2: Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts

3.5. Within countries affected by conflict, access to the best available data on natural resources and environmental risks is a critical need. To consolidate this information within a cloud computing platform, the UN Environment Programme teamed up with the World Bank and GRID/Geneva to develop *MapX*, a platform which consolidates key information about natural resources and environmental risks into an online system which permits real time analysis, visualization, and impact monitoring. It is also being expanded to service the spatial information needs of different conventions including the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Convention on Biodiversity. (www.mapx.org)

3.6. Since 1986, the UN Environment Programme has been leading the *Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL)* programme. *APELL* was developed through a multi-stakeholder partnership promoted by the UN Environment Programme, national governments and the chemical industry in order to improve community awareness and preparedness for technological hazards and environmental emergencies. It is a process designed to identify and create awareness of the hazards and risks, to initiate measures for risk reduction, accident prevention and mitigation, and to develop coordinated preparedness. Since its development, *APELL* has been successfully introduced in more than 35 countries worldwide to prepare for industrial accidents across different sectors, including in transportation, port areas, mining and tourism destinations subject to risks from multiple hazards.

3.7. *Proteus* began in 2003 as a mechanism through which business and conservation communities came together to make available global information on biodiversity. Since then, it has grown to be a unique collaboration between the leading extractive industries and the UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, providing companies with the biodiversity information needed for better informed decisions and to support the development and improvement of key global biodiversity resources. *Proteus* is currently partnering with more than a dozen of the world’s biggest extractive companies.

Sub-programme 3: Healthy and Productive Ecosystems

3.8. The following ecosystems-related activities are implemented since 2017:

- For the first time, the UN Environment Programme has been instrumental in directing significant amounts of private financing (US\$95 million as a first tranche in a total budget of US\$350 million) towards sustainable forest and landscape management. In total, BNP Paribas will consider up to

US\$10 billion of similar joint investments until 2025, and the recent partnership with Rabobank adds another US\$1 billion.

- Proactively working with businesses to unlock and scale up private capital for sustainable land use. Forests and agriculture hold more than 30% of the climate solution (in terms of providing cost-effective mitigation potential), but currently receive less than 3% of public climate finance. There is need for “business unusual” by better balancing, on the one hand, food production and economic growth, and on the other hand, the need to reduce emissions and protect biodiversity (land use accounts for about ¼ of total emissions and tropical forests are among the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world).
- Over the past months, the UN Environment Programme’s Ecosystems Division, in collaboration with key partners, has set up and facilitated a number of initiatives aimed at removing the regulatory, economic and financial barriers that currently prevent effective action. *These initiatives aim to use public funding to leverage and unlock private capital at scale for sustainable agricultural commodity production, as well as forest and landscape restoration.* Some examples include the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility in Indonesia with BNP Paribas, ADM Capital, the UN Environment Programme and ICRAF to bring long-term financing to sustainable landscape management (which is part of a broader partnership with BNP Paribas). And a recent partnership announced with Rabobank – Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture Fund – to change the way agricultural lending is channelled by reducing forest and climate impacts. Lastly, the UN Environment Programme has partnered with the Sustainable Trade Initiative and a new ‘de-risking’ facility called &Green (through an innovative Global Environment Facility funded project) that aims to work with private sector partners to use public finance for deforestation-free commodity production.

Sub-programme 4: Environmental Governance

3.9. Efforts have been developed to mainstream the role of the private sector into the different objectives of the Environmental Governance Sub-programme. The private sector has an important role to play not only in complying with policies and legal frameworks but also potentially in contributing to make environmental governance more effective. These questions will take an increasingly central role in our efforts to implement the 2018-21 medium-term strategy. This will include defining further the linkages between corporate sustainability, environmental governance and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3.10. Existing areas of work include the following:

- *Environmental Rule of Law and Business, Production of Knowledge:* The “Environmental Rule of Law Report”, which is under preparation and will be ready by mid-2018, will analyze the dynamics between environmental law and the business sector. Leading up to this publication, the Law Division is exploring further work on the topic of Environmental Rule of Law and Business.
- *Environmental law and human rights:* A partnership with the International Bar Association is currently under discussion with the objective to involve the International Bar Association and its members in the UN Environment Programme’s work, and particularly in the promotion of legal protection for individuals and groups who are defending their environmental rights, and to identify solutions to mitigate the abuse of environmental rights which affects a growing number of people in many parts of the world. The International Bar Association comprises over 4,000 individual private lawyers and 197 bar associations and law societies.
- *Sustainable Finance and Human rights:* The Law Division Director is now a member of the Finance Initiative’s Social Issues Advisory Group, which started its mandate in 2018 for a two-year period. The Groups’ role is to guide the Organization in the implementation of the Finance Initiative strategy on social issues and human rights, with representatives from industry and the UN Environment

Programme. The Law Division Director brings in the Organization's expertise on human rights and the environment.

- *Pro-bono legal support to climate legislation*: The development of a web-based portal is ongoing and will provide to developing countries pro bono legal advice by legal experts from the private sector for the review and development of climate legislation for implementing the Paris Agreement and nationally determined contributions.
- *Sustainable business*: A partnership agreement with both the Coca-Cola Foundation and the Coca-Cola Company is under review. Initiated by the Law Division, the purpose of this agreement is to provide a framework of cooperation, and to facilitate collaboration between the UN Environment Programme and the Coca-Cola (Foundation and Company) on specific programmes.
- *Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Business*: The Law Division has engaged in the preparation of Business and Biodiversity events at the next Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in close collaboration with the Convention Secretariat.
- *United Nations interagency efforts on e-waste*: United Nations entities, as part of the Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste coordinated by the Environment Management Group, have recently renewed their commitment to addressing the global challenge of e-waste, including by strengthening United Nations' system-wide engagement with other stakeholder groups, notably the private sector (electronics manufacturers and e-waste recyclers).

Sub-programme 5: Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality

3.11. The following activities are initiated under this Sub-programme:

- *The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)* is a multi-stakeholder approach to sound chemicals and waste management. Private sector companies and industry associations play a key role in the strategic approach to foster action at all levels and at all times. The work has resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between the International Council of Chemical Associations and the UN Environment Programme.
- Private-sector entities, including companies and private laboratories, have benefited from tools provided by the UN Environment Programme to improve risk assessment and address priority chemical and waste issues, including the use of *the Global Waste Management Outlook* as well as laboratory training and testing. The UN Environment Programme also works with small and medium-sized enterprises to enhance the adoption of sound chemicals management practices and promote eco-innovation.
- Organizations that represent the interests of the chemicals industry are engaged as stakeholders on project committees and in the development of knowledge products, such as *the Global Chemicals Outlook*. The second edition of this flagship report is expected to be ready by the end of 2018.
- With support from the Global Environment Facility, the UN Environment Programme is working with gold refiners on reducing mercury use and enhancing access to markets. This includes efforts to formalize the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in developing countries, bringing it into the tax regime and allowing workers to access benefits.
- Through the *Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint*, the UN Environment Programme is working with industry associations and private sector companies to eliminate lead paint.
- Collaboration with the private sector also includes work to achieve zero discharge of hazardous chemicals in the textile industry and facilitate the removal and responsible disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) with electrical distribution companies. Initiatives are also underway with the World

Economic Forum on electronic waste management, batteries and plastics - and with Crop Life International on agricultural chemicals. The alignment of areas of common interest forms the foundation for private sector partnerships

- The *Chemicals in Products Programme* is a global initiative aimed at managing chemicals in products to ultimately reduce the risk to humans and the environment. The UN Environment Programme, industry and other stakeholders are joining forces to reduce risks from hazardous chemicals in products by aligning government and corporate goals on chemicals.

Sub-programme 6: Resource Efficiency

3.12. The unsustainable use of resources has triggered critical scarcities and caused climate change and widespread environmental degradation – all of which have negative impacts on the well-being of the planet and its people. Responding to this dual challenge will require innovative policies, redirected investment, environmentally-sound technologies, international cooperation, and capacity development to support countries to transition to inclusive green economies.

3.13. The UN Environment Programme’s work on resource efficiency focuses, amongst others, to foster partnerships with business and industry for cleaner production and green investments; influencing consumer information and choice for sustainable lifestyles; and strengthening and communicating the knowledge and scientific base for resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.

3.14. *United Nations Environment Programme – Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)* is a partnership between United Nations Environment and the global financial sector created in the wake of the 1992 Earth Summit with a mission to promote sustainable finance. More than 200 financial institutions, including banks, insurers, and investors, work with UN Environment to understand today’s environmental, social and governance challenges, why they matter to finance, and how to actively participate in addressing them.

3.15. One of UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative’s key sub-initiatives is the *Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI)*. PSI serve as a global framework for the insurance industry to address environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities. More than 100 organizations worldwide have adopted the four Principles for Sustainable Insurance, including insurers representing more than 25 per cent of world premium volume and \$14 trillion in assets under management.

3.16. Another UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative sub-initiative is the *Positive Impact Finance Initiative* that mobilises banks, investors, corporations and governments to co-create commercially viable, impact-based solutions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Principles for Positive Impact Finance launched in 2017 help financial institutions adopt a holistic, impact-based approach: from the very first stages of identification and analysis, to those of product structuring, distribution and, finally, monitoring and reporting.

3.17. UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative co-convenes the *UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Initiative* with UNCTAD, UN Global Compact and the Principles for Responsible investment. The Initiative has more than 70 partner exchanges representing over \$60 trillion in market capitalization and 38,000 listed companies from all corners of the world which are committed to promoting sustainable and transparent capital markets. For example, since 2015 it has campaigned for stock exchanges to provide listed companies with guidance on sustainability reporting. To date the campaign has mobilized nearly 40% of the world’s exchanges to take action with 24 exchanges publishing such guidance and a further 10 exchanges committing to it.

3.18. Sustainable consumption and production is a key focus of our work. The *10-Year Framework of Programmes* generates impact through multi-stakeholder programmes and partnerships, which develop, replicate and scale up Sustainable Consumption and Production policies and initiatives at all levels. Business organisation represent 19% of the membership 700+ organisations in the multi-stakeholder partnership which also includes national governments, civil society, scientific and technical organisations,

and international organisations The annual reporting across the network highlights that the adoption of new or improved practices on sustainable consumption and production has primarily been led by business organisations, representing 40% of the total changes reported across the network. Changes in practices offer tangible solutions for the shift to sustainable consumption and production that address both environmental and social impacts.

3.19. The *Life Cycle Initiative* is a public-private, multi-stakeholder partnership enabling the global use of credible life cycle knowledge by private and public stakeholders. UN Environment Programme also supports businesses to make their operations more sustainable and resource efficient.

3.20. Other key partnerships include the following:

- *Sectoral partnerships for sustainable consumption and production*, including the *Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative*; the *Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism*; the *Sustainable Rice Platform and Finance Initiative*.
- *The global network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production* with its 68 members in more than 60 countries, is supporting the adoption of sustainable business practices in companies. These service providers, mainly based in developing countries, accompany companies in the area of cleaner production, resource efficiency and eco-innovation. Through the eco-innovation project, they supported transformation of 44 small and medium sized enterprises and their respective value chains, and the uptake of eco-innovation in countries' policies.
- The UN Environment Programme is co-chairing the *Partnership for Accelerating Circular Economy (PACE)*, together with the Global Environment Facility and Philips. The PACE platform is a global public-private collaboration, hosted by the World Economic Forum.
- The UN Environment Programme collaborates with the private sector on promoting sustainable food systems and agriculture in three distinct workstreams: (1) *Food waste* – As co-Chair of Champions 12.3 in collaboration with inter alia Tesco and Consumer Goods Forum including a partnership with the largest retailer and food producer in Saudi Arabia, Savola Group; (2) *Sustainable Rice Platform* - UN Environment Programme is the founder and co-convenor of this public-private initiative that promotes sustainable and climate-smart rice production and counts upwards of 30 companies as members ranging from for example large multi-nationals like Mars (Uncle Ben's, Louis Dreyfus Commodities, Kellogg's and Olam) to Asia-based SME's from inter alia Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Vietnam and Myanmar; (3) *One Planet Sustainable Food Systems Programme* which collaborates with Nestle and other private sector stakeholders on food systems issues. UN Environment Programme also collaborates with World Business Council for Sustainable Development on broad food and agriculture project development and joint research.
- *Savola Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security Project "Negaderha"* in Saudi Arabia, is a partnership between Savola Group of Saudi Arabia, the UN Environment and WRAP. This partnership is the first in the region between UN Environment and the private sector focusing on the transfer of knowledge and best practices in reducing food waste. The partnership approach aims to form coalitions and community-based initiatives in addition to multi-stakeholder collective initiatives and activities.
- In November 2018, the *Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)*, a joint initiative of UN Environment, the Global Green Growth Institute, the OECD, and the World Bank, will be relaunching the Green Industry Platform. The Green Industry Platform was initially launched by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), a GGKP Knowledge Partner, at the Rio+20 Conference and has developed a strong network of businesses, industry associations, and international organisations. The new Green Industry Platform will engage with business associations from around the world to deliver and share the latest green business knowledge, case studies, tools, and policy information. The aim will be to build global momentum for greening the business sector by providing a platform where cutting-edge knowledge can be developed, mapped,

collected, and shared. The platform will ensure the private sector has seamless access to the latest knowledge and data produced by UN Environment its partners.

- *The SWITCH-Asia Programme*, which is running the Asia-Pacific Low Carbon Lifestyles Challenge, engaging Asia-Pacific’s startup community to develop goods and services that enable low carbon lifestyles.

Sub-programme 7: Environment Under Review

3.21. The work on keeping the environment under review aims to bridge the gap between the producers and users of environmental information, empowering policymakers and other stakeholders to act on the latest science. By keeping the environment under review, the UN Environment Programme aims to link science with policy making and foster sustainable development.

3.22. The UN Environment Programme has entered a partnership with *ADEC Innovations* in 2017. Three core joint initiatives are under development contributing to keep the environment under review and toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The first concerns the support *ADEC* will provide to the Data and Information Unit in the Science Division in strengthening data and indicator frameworks for monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda by developing a corporate sustainability platform. Under the UN Environment Programme’s guidance, this platform will bring together Corporate Sustainability Reports from global, regional and national platforms into a common platform and allow simple reporting options for companies, including small and medium enterprises.

3.23. The second important activity of the partnership refers to supporting developing countries in their efforts to collect environmental data and use them for reporting purpose through the implementation of the Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) platform. This partnership with the Country Outreach, Technology & Innovations Branch, should:

- a. Help build capacity for the Member States for reporting, research, programme development and policymaking;
- b. Provide real-time access to the recent environmental information on a global, regional, and country level;
- c. Allow sharing of best practices and gauge the level of achievement based on the UN Environment Programme’s set criteria through country-to-country benchmarking.

3.24. Finally, the third component of this partnership concerns the development of the *GEO-6 Business*, a derivative product of the UN Environment Programme flagship assessment: *The Global Environment Outlook*. The *GEO-6 Business* will show how “Business as Usual” practices are unsustainable and a new relationship with Nature through practice and policy is imperative for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and Sustainability 2050.

3.25. The *GEO-6 Business* aims to deliver a strong message that global partnership (SDG-17) is a means of implementation in the achievement of identified New Methods, Agenda 2030, and Sustainability 2050. *GEO-6 Business* endeavours to provide a clear pathway ahead for the private sector to take part in the call for achieving a “healthy people, healthy planet” by conducting market analysis (factors shaping the industry) and identifying market potential (in terms of investment and business potential), including related social impacts.

4. Private Sector engagement in the work of the UN Environment Assembly

4.1. The UN Environment Programme engaged the private sector as never before around the second session of the UN Environment Assembly in the 2016 Sustainable Innovation Expo with 600 participants attending. A year later, the number of participants from the private sector nearly doubled as events for their engagement also grew with the 2017 Sustainable Innovation Expo; Leaders' Luncheon; as well as the Science Policy and Business Forum; and four Leadership Dialogues. The 2017 Assembly provided a platform for Governments, private sector and civil society to bring actions to achieve a pollution-free planet. The following activities were organized on the margins of 2017 UN Environment Assembly:

- *Science-Policy and Business Forum* which brought together scientists, senior policy-makers and business leaders to identify and promote opportunities to grow green technology markets driven by advances in science and technology. The *Forum* aimed to strengthen the wider interface among science, policy, business and society by building consensus around key issues and by tearing down traditional barriers between these sectors.
- The *2017 Sustainable Innovation Expo* which showcased the latest in innovation and technology of 43 public and private sector groups.
- *Leaders' Luncheon* which brought together Heads of State, Ministers of Environment, leading policymakers and private sector leaders to discuss pollution in a way that would go beyond the normative narrative. The objective of this *Luncheon* was to find solutions to the impacts of pollution and to share best practice information and generate innovative ideas about how private sector and government can work together to tackle different kinds of pollution.
- The *#BeatPollution* Campaign gathered more than 2.4 million pledges on web and social media from Governments, civil society, private sector and citizens.
- The Business and Industry Major Group organized the *Business Symposium* to mark the growing recognition of the role of business for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Four *Leadership Dialogues* that brought together Heads of State, Ministers of Environment, and leaders of private sector and civil society for collective attention to the multifaceted theme of pollution. The *Dialogues* generated critical discussions on tackling pollution and sharing solutions.
- The *Clean Seas tent* held several sessions around the theme of marine plastics litter during the three days of the Assembly. The sessions included participation and presentations from private sector and initiatives lead by the private sector.
- The *Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum* that brought together all the nine Major Groups, including Business and Industry to prepare their input into the Assembly and to enhance the governmental decision-making process.

5. Highlights of Private Sector Engagement Work in 2017

5.1. The UN Environment Programme organized the following events engaging the private sector in the run-up to the 2017 Assembly with the aim of promoting partnerships in tackling pollution - the theme of the third session of the Assembly:

(i) Leaders Breakfast: Moving Towards a Pollution-Free Planet

On 28 March 2017, a *Leaders Breakfast* meeting was held in Berlin, Germany, on the margins of the Second Ministerial Conference of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy. The *Breakfast*

brought together over 40 leading policymakers, including ministers and deputy ministers, as well as leaders from the private sector. The *Breakfast* meeting, which was organized by the Governance Affairs Office of the UN Environment Programme in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, focused on partnering to tackle the most pervasive forms of pollution. The key messages from this meeting included that sustainability calls for action of all stakeholders and cannot be achieved by governments or the private sector alone. Governments should provide the required enabling environment (public policies, infrastructure, awareness raising, among others). The private sector needs to make sustainability an integral part of its business models and supply chains. Consumers should be encouraged to make responsible choices in their lifestyles.

(ii) Consultative Global Dialogue for engaging the private sector on protecting the ocean and tackling land-based pollution

The *Consultative Global Dialogue* for engaging the private sector on protecting the ocean and tackling land-based pollution was held on 8 June 2017 in Costa Rica. The *Dialogue* was organized by the Governance Affairs Office, in close collaboration with the Ecosystems Division (Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch), Economy Division, Regional Seas Programmes and the Latin America Office of the UN Environment Programme. It included ministers of environment, other relevant ministries and leading private sector entities that contributed to or addressed marine pollution. It also linked up with the work of the International Maritime Organization, CARICOM members and ensured high-level representation from the region.

The outcome of this *Dialogue* included commitments from Governments to engage in the Regional Seas Programme, specifically the North East Pacific Regional Sea Programme, the Wider Caribbean, the South-East Pacific and support the South West Atlantic Sea. The outcome also included inputs and renewed commitments from the private sector and governments to the 4th Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of marine environment from land-based activities.

(iii) Leaders' Breakfast CMS COP-12: Moving Towards a Pollution-Free Planet

The *Leaders' Breakfast* meeting was held on 22 October 2017 on the margins of the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP-12) in Manila, the Philippines. The *Breakfast* brought together over 40 leading policymakers, including ministers and deputy ministers, as well as leaders from the private sector and regional and global treaties. The *Breakfast* meeting, which was organized by the Governance Affairs Office, in close collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, focused on governments and the private sector cooperating to address the most pervasive forms of pollution, concentrating on marine debris, and pesticide and lead ammunition pollution, as well as their impact on migratory species. The meeting gathered several commitments from governments, civil society and the private sector towards a pollution-free planet.

5.2. #Clean Seas Marine Litter Campaign: The following activities were conducted by Clean Seas Marine Litter Campaign in 2017:

- The Campaign has been engaging private sector partners to collaborate in reducing marine plastics litter and increasing awareness of the topic.

- One of the flagship partnerships is with the Volvo Ocean race, and includes a boat in the race called “Turn a tide on plastics”, as well as several events and seminars in the ports stops along the route of the race.
- Other partnerships include collaboration with companies such as DELL, 11th Hour Projects, Musto, as well as the Associations of Zoos and Aquariums and Phuket Hotels.
- The Clean Seas Campaign lead by the Ecosystems Division, is continuously reaching out to companies and brands to find ways to collaborate in reducing plastic use and plastic waste that poses a threat to the marine environment.
- The UN Environment Programme’s Clean Seas Campaign receives regular enquiries from the private sector regarding possible cooperation around the theme of marine plastics litter.

6. Recent institutional Developments to Consolidate Engagement with the Private Sector

6.1. In January 2018, the UN Environment Programme reinforced its commitment to work with the private sector by consolidating the organization’s engagement into a coordinating unit, housed in the Governance Affairs Office. This strengthened Private Sector Unit, will ensure that the UN Environment Programme has an integrated approach towards the private sector in all Divisions and Offices and that it works in a cohesive and interactive manner so that partnerships are strategically aligned with the Programme of Work and are results-oriented.

6.2. The Private Sector Unit will fulfil the following objectives (i) empowering and promoting effective coordination within the organization; (ii) leading the UN Environment Programme’s private sector engagement in key UN platforms and other international initiatives; (iii) adding value and promoting transparency in private sector engagement vis-à-vis the Governing Bodies and other partners; and (iv) positioning the UN Environment Programme as a cutting-edge and open organization in dealing with the business community.

6.3. The Private Sector Unit will engage with businesses that are frontrunners on sustainability in their fields of work, while taking into account geographic balance.

7. Private Sector Portal

7.1. The UN Environment Programme has created an online Portal which streamlines engagement with the private sector across the organization and supports the creation of partnership agreements. The Portal also includes a due diligence and approval process which is designed to assess the relevance of a partnership, evaluate risk and ensure that the partnership criteria is met – as per UN Guidelines and Regulations.

8. Guidelines on Cooperation between the UN Environment Programme and the Business Sector

8.1. To ensure system-wide integrity and adequate risk management in the development of partnerships with the Private Sector, the UN Environment Programme has developed Guidelines on Cooperation with the Business Sector. These Guidelines are based on the established United Nations Guidelines on Cooperation between the UN and the Business Sector that were developed by the Secretary General at the

request of the UN General Assembly and that serve as a common framework for UN offices, agencies funds and programmes and were first issued in 2000, revised and reissued in 2009, and revised in 2015 in pursuance to General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/234 of 2013. These guidelines have been adjusted to be applicable to the UN Environment Programme and also reflect the best practices of other UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes. UN Environment Programme's Guidelines will be issued as an information document of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly for appropriate information of all stakeholders.

9. Priorities in 2018 for Private Sector Engagement

9.1. The following are the UN Environment Programme's priorities for 2018:

- Increasing transparency and simplifying processes for creating public-private partnership agreements.
- Improving risk management for the organization in partnership with the UN Global Compact and in accordance with UN rules and regulations.
- Broadening the partnership base in sectors and regions, including areas where there has been limited engagement (such as Africa, Latin American and the Caribbean, and West Asia regions).
- Scaling up partnerships in support of the implementation of the Environment Assembly's mandates (pollution, clean seas, environmental education, and extractive industry, among others).
- Promote the engagement of the private sector in support of the theme of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (Innovative solutions to environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production).

10. Suggested recommendations to the Committee of Permanent Representatives

10.1. It is recommended that the Secretariat continues to inform on an annual basis to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on progress in the engagement with the private sector.

Annex 1

Highlights of Memoranda of Understanding signed in 2017 and 2018 as of 19 April 2018

	Company	Themes and Areas of Cooperation	Lead Division	Date MOU Signed	Sub Programme
1.	ADEC Innovations Corporation	The overarching theme of this partnership is on scientific data. The partners are collaborating to facilitate the interpretation of sustainability trends in response to the changing natural environment.	Science Division	20-04-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Under Review • Resource Efficiency • Climate Change
2.	Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators	This partnership aims to provide promotional support activities related to tackling marine litter issues; technical support in the prevention and reduction of marine litter; and support on events.	Ecosystems Division	Finalised and pending signature only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment under Review • Resource Efficiency • Ecosystems Management
3.	Beijing Mobike Technology Co. Ltd	There are four main areas of cooperation for this partnership: 1) Communications and outreach activities to raise awareness on the challenges and solutions to air quality and pollution; 2) Support sustainable transportation; 3) Promotion of green technology; 4) Scientific assessment of emerging issues and challenges.	Economy Division	13-09-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency • Environment under Review
4.	BNP Paribas SA	The partnership between BNP Paribas SA and the UN Environment Programme will work together with interested stakeholders to establish Sustainable Finance Facilities to leverage private finance for public good across the planet. The partnership will endeavour to collaborate on projects that conserve biodiversity, especially endangered species, improve protection of forests and advance local efforts on sustainable landscapes management to promote the building of resilient ecosystems and save natural wealth and heritage for future generations. The partners will work on improving practices in agriculture to reduce its carbon footprint.	Ecosystems Division	12-12-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems Management • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency

5.	Braskem	This partnership will contribute to the Life Cycle Initiative of the UN Environment Programme. The collaboration will focus on, for example, greenhouse gas and emissions reduction, sustainability and eco-labelling, capacity building for policy makers in Brazil, and analysis of emissions reduction techniques.	Economy Division	Finalised and pending signature only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency • Environmental Governance
6.	Build Your Dreams (BYD)	This partnership focuses on the promotion of cleaner and greener economics through renewable energy with low and no emissions mobility globally. The aim is to tackle air pollution.	Economy Division	25-07-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency
7.	Cataratas Group	This partnership will promote awareness raising campaigns and activities related to sustainable tourism and sustainable consumption and production; developing capacity building activities related to sustainable tourism in National Parks; dissemination of best practices on sustainable tourism to tourists visiting natural; develop joint activities to celebrate World Environment Day.	Ecosystems Division	21-07-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems Management
8.	China Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection Group	This partnership promotes the integration of energy efficiency solutions for cities in China and to facilitate environmental protection progress and best practices.	Ecosystems Division	12-09-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency
9.	Clarity Movement	This partnership will explore the development of public-private partnerships pertaining to the BreatheLife City Campaigns.	Communication Division	Finalised and pending signature only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency • Ecosystems Management
10.	Coca-Cola Company	The Coca-Cola partnership with the UN Environment Programme will support projects aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those focused on clean water and sanitation; gender equality; green jobs and economic growth; and climate action. It also focuses on responsible consumption, conservation and the protection of the oceans. The partnership also looks to enhance environmental education and awareness, encourage environmentally-sound technologies and approaches, protect the marine environment, and educate and	Law Division	23-04-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Ecosystems Management • Resource Efficiency • Environment under Review

		motivate consumers through awareness-raising campaigns.			
11.	Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A.	The partners will collaborate on the creation of a new US\$1 billion Facility to finance sustainable agriculture using a combination of public and private funding. The scope of the Facility includes creating demonstrable environmental and social 'additionality', for example, forest protection and remove/reduce emissions.	Ecosystems Division	22-01-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems Management • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency
12.	Covestro AG	The partners will work to raise the profile of the UN Environment Programme's "Champions of the Earth" award and to create a high-profile component – the "Youth Programme".	Communication Division	07-02-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change
13.	Discovery Communications, LLC	This partnership will work on producing content on raising awareness related to environmental protection. The Partners will provide mutual technical advice. Discovery Communications will share content, including experiential content, with the UN Environment Programme to support communication initiatives, announcements, campaigns and events.	Communication Division	19-09-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Efficiency • Environment under Review • Climate Change
14.	Ethiopian Airlines	This partnership supports the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of modalities and operationalization of the 'Plant one tree for every passenger flown' project within UN Environment Programme's ongoing REDD+ programme in Ethiopia; • greening the Ethiopian Airline business and develop environmental awareness raising materials for in-flight entertainment; • collaboration between the Ethiopian Aviation Academy and the UN Environment Programme for trainings and sustainable consumption and green economy programme. 	Africa Office	20-03-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Efficiency • Climate Change
15.	Formula E Operations Limited	Global partnership in the fight to improve inner-city air quality – continuing to boost the profile of alternative energy solutions and the increased uptake of electric vehicles.	Communication Division	06-04-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment under Review • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency

16.	Honeywell International Middle East	This partnership works to raise awareness, experience sharing, capacity building, promotion of the concepts and best practices of sustainable production and consumption in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 13.	West Asia Office	01-03-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency
17.	International Business Machines Corporation (“IBM”)	Both partners will endeavour to collaborate on joint activities to further the science-policy-business agenda, including events targeting diverse markets and specialized Science-Policy Expositions.	Science Division	20-11-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment under Review • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency
18.	Majid Al Futtaim Holding (L.L.C)	This partnership will focus on three areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resource efficiency and sustainable development. To include areas of energy efficiency; green buildings and construction; food waste and others. 2. Hold regular meetings on matters of common interest, with a view to developing, implementing and monitoring their collaborative activities in areas of cooperation under the agreement. 3. When mutually acceptable, use the services of the institutions, such as universities, governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop and conduct activities under the agreement. 	West Asia Office	01-03-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Efficiency • Climate Change • Environmental Governance
19.	Nederlandse Financierings – Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V. (“FMO”)	This partnership will join the Memorandum of Understanding created with Coöperative Rabobank U.A. (see item 11). As part of this collaboration, FMO will share its knowledge and expertise in the field of blended finance and endeavor to mobilize its own funding sources.	Ecosystems Division	22-01-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems Management • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency
20.	Nippon Television Network Preparatory Corporation	The partners will collaborate to rebrand “Original Sorajiro” for a North America audience to be expanded to a global audience (the “New Sorajiro”) in order to support environmental awareness and climate action. This will also promote North American cooperation with a focus on outreach and communications platforms to raise awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals by developing Public Service Announcements	North America Office	12-03-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change

		targeting an 8-12 years old audience which will feature the UN Environment Programme branding.			
21.	One 97 Communications Limited ("PayTm")	<p>This partnership will contribute to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication campaigns that improve understanding and motivate action on pollution, in particular air and plastics pollution. • Research and evidence to support policy-making and investment on pollution, in particular through science, data, information and knowledge. This could include studies, air quality measuring mechanisms in select cities, amplifying outreach and engagement on findings. • Strengthen private sector engagement on environmental issues, particularly pollution. • Through their collaborative efforts, the partnership will endeavor to promote UN Environment Programme's campaigns and targets, through its mobile platforms. • Collaboration will take place when relevant. For example, in the run up to World Environment Day celebrations 2018 in India on the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution". 	India Office	20-02-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment under Review • Resource Efficiency • Climate Change
22.	Philips Lighting B.V.	<p>This partnership will work towards accelerating the adoption of energy-efficient LED street lighting globally; promotion of comparable city data for building more sustainable, resilient, smart, prosperous and inclusive cities; advocating for local green building activities to deliver carbon emission reductions; and connecting governments, private entities and investors in the field of sustainable infrastructure with a focus on LED street lighting.</p>	Science Division	05-12-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment under Review • Resource Efficiency • Climate Change • Environmental Governance
23.	Red Moon Music	<p>This partnership is working towards harnessing the universal power of art and music to promote solutions for the planet; inspiring positive social and environmental change through storytelling and creative</p>	Communication Division	29-11-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resource Efficiency • Ecosystems Management

		communications in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals with a specific focus on Goals 12, 14, and 15; the promotion of UN Environment Programme campaigns; and leveraging content for educational purposes.			
24.	Safaricom	This collaboration is focusing on environmental policy, public advocacy and technical support to Member States in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.	Africa Office	16-08-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Environment under Review • Environmental Governance
25.	Sina Weibo	This partnership will explore content creation focusing on environment-related challenges, solutions, innovations and successes. It will also support UN Environment Programme campaigns and environment-related activities. Resource mobilization using Weibo app and other Weibo family platforms and products will be used to support the UN Environment Programme campaigns and environment-related activities.	Communication Division	04-12-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment under Review
26.	Schmidt Family Foundation	This partnership is working to promote the Clean Seas Campaign by addressing the environmental challenges facing the sailing and marine communities. It will also promote the health of oceans through the Foundation's grant making programme.	Communication Division	20-12-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem Management • Resource Efficiency
27.	Thomson Reuters Corporation	UN Environment Programme will contribute submissions to Thomson Reuters Corporation on an ongoing basis promoting transparency of thought leaderships and best practices in sustainability. There will also be joint activities to further the science-policy-business agenda, inclusive of events targeting diverse markets and specialized Science-Policy Expositions.	Science Division	26-11-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Governance • Resource Efficiency • Climate Change
28.	Volvo Ocean Race	The partnership focuses on combating marine litter, and supporting the Clean Seas Campaign.	Ecosystems Division	18-05-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem Management