

**Agenda Item 4.3: Briefing note - Update on the development of the UNEA-3  
Implementation Plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”**

**Background**

1. Member States adopted a Ministerial Declaration as a key outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) in Nairobi, Kenya from 4-6 December 2017 under the overarching topic “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”. Paragraph 14 of the Ministerial Declaration calls for the “Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to submit a plan for implementation in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, for [member States] consideration by no later than the next United Nations Environment Assembly”.
2. To respond to the request in the UNEA-3 Ministerial Declaration and keep the momentum generated at UNEA-3, a draft of the Implementation Plan is being developed to be submitted to member States review through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and its subcommittee.
3. A broad consultation process is ongoing to ensure that the Implementation Plan has the level of ambition required to have an impact on pollution and to catalyze synergies across existing initiatives and partners. As part of these consultations, a small informal brainstorming session was organized in mid-June, gathering representatives from key UN agencies, private sector and civil society as well as member state representatives from regional groups.

**Key elements of the Implementation Plan**

4. The Implementation plan’s **vision**, in line with the UNEA-3 theme, is to accelerate action “towards a pollution-free planet”.
5. **Key objectives** of the Implementation Plan are:
  - 1) to facilitate the implementation of UNEA-3 Ministerial Declaration and resolutions addressing pollution;
  - 2) to accelerate and upscale actions addressing pollution, raising the level of ambition from member States, business and stakeholders and mobilizing leaders at all levels to act;
  - 3) to sustain and increase global awareness of pollution and its consequences on ecosystems and human health and well-being; and
  - 4) to monitor and report on progress towards a cleaner planet.
6. **Main outcomes** of the Implementation Plan include:
  - 1) **Knowledge** on pollution, environment and health linkages is available and shared, enabling informed decision-making and awareness of all, including of the most vulnerable;
  - 2) the enabling **regulatory and policy environment** at all levels is strengthened to address pollution, environment and health linkages in an integrated and effective manner and good and best practices are shared;

- 3) **Locally suitable solutions, technologies, innovations and infrastructure** to address environment and health linkages are demonstrated, and deployed;
- 4) **Capacity across sectors** is enhanced through coordinated action and **partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels**;
- 5) **Awareness** of pollution impacts on environment, health and the economy and of **available solutions** is raised, to drive behavioural change;
- 6) **Leaders** from national and local governments, business and financial sectors, international community and non-governmental organisations **are mobilised to act**.
7. **Timeframe:** To be fully in line and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Pollution Implementation Plan's **horizon** will be 2030. However, activities will be articulated initially for a 4-year period (by 2021) to enable concrete results and adjustments, based on progress made.
8. **Scope:** The Implementation Plan will look at pollution that affects citizens in their home, at work and in their communities. It will cover all the pollution dimensions: air, water, land/soil, marine and coastal, and will also consider chemicals and waste in a cross-cutting manner. It will aim at key actions to prevent pollution, while also supporting more effective pollution emission control and pollution management in order to minimize exposure.
9. **5 main action areas** are proposed: 1) Science and data for evidence-based policy; 2) Implementation, incentives, and integrated policy and regulatory development; 3) infrastructure, technology and innovation; 4) communication, education and consumer information, and 5) mobilizing stakeholders' leaders and partners.
10. For each action area, **a number of high-impact solutions are being identified**. As the Implementation Plan does aim at avoiding duplication, they aim at leveraging and accelerating action across pollution dimensions and do not address single pollution dimensions.
11. **Each high impact solution** will include: 1) a summary of the challenges they aim at addressing or the added value they bring; 2) while highlighting one or 2 key deliverables by 2021, which is the first milestone for the Implementation Plan; 3) Reference will also be made to lead and partner organizations as well as to; 4) the existing initiatives and projects it is building up on.
12. **Key elements of the UNEA-3 resolutions** – mandates provided to UN Environment Programme and invitations to other stakeholders including member States to act - will be summarized for each action area. **A mapping of current UN Environment Programme activities, which are contributing to each action area, will also form part of the Plan.**
13. To enable the Implementation Plan to provide a platform to harness synergies across pollution areas, the need for **2 main cross-cutting flagship deliverables is emerging, in particular:** 1) a knowledge-sharing platform aimed at stimulating exchanges of good practices and innovative technologies and solutions, and 2) a regular synthetic report to track progress.
14. The Implementation Plan will develop an integrated **monitoring and reporting** framework for tracking progress made based on 3 pillars: 1) gather existing pollution related data to indicate existing pollution levels, trends, and identify data gaps; 2) collect information on regulatory and policy progress in preventing and managing pollution, including through voluntary commitments; 3) integrate reporting on progress made to tackle pollution from existing mechanisms and initiatives including the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

## **Way forward**

15. A draft of the Implementation Plan will be submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for review through Committee of Permanent Representatives subcommittee meetings in October, to be finalized by mid-December. Consultation/feedback on key elements of the plan will also take place in the context of the regional preparatory UNEA-4 meetings. Further feedback and inputs from UN Agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and stakeholder groups will also be gathered in parallel.
16. The final version of the Implementation Plan will be presented at UNEA-4 in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2018, as requested by the UNEA-3 Ministerial Declaration.