



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO POLLUTION IN SOUTH EAST AND SOUTHERN EUROPE

4-5 December, 2018 Belgrade Serbia

Concept note

Rationale:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment Programme) and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with the support from the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, are convening a Ministerial Conference on *Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe* on 4-5 December 2018. The Conference will focus on the topic of pollution and explore innovative solutions to tackle it, emphasizing the numerous challenges and risks it poses to the region. The Conference will bring together high-level governmental representatives from South East European and Southern European countries other interested members of the European Union, the European Union Commission, development agencies, international organizations, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders.

The Conference is part of the implementation process of the 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly in which countries agreed to an ambitious vision entitled "[Towards a Pollution-Free Planet](#)". The Conference is also an important milestone for the 2019 Assembly that will take place in March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya which will gather the international community around the identification of innovative solutions to environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.

The insights and analysis presented in the framework of the Conference will provide a critical cornerstone for the discussion of a pollution-free environment for South East Europe and provide a strategic platform for the development of a joint approach and vision for South East European countries to be presented at the Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly.



Objectives:

- To engage countries in the region to sustain actions to achieve the vision set out in the declaration “*Towards a pollution-free planet*”;
- To identify innovative solutions and suggested interventions to address pollution using the following areas: policy interventions; environmentally sound technologies; sustainable financing schemes; education, research and development and capacity-building; and private and public partnerships.
- To provide a high-level platform for Ministers from the South East European and Southern European Countries to identify a common approach to pollution in the region and development of a “*Joint Regional Vision on Innovative Solutions to Pollution*”;
- To engage Ministers in the process of defining the Ministerial declaration and draft resolutions for the 2019 UN Environmental Assembly which will focus on “*Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production*”;

Date and venue

The Ministerial Conference on “*Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe*” will take place on 4-5 December 2018. The venue for the Conference is Palace of Serbia in Belgrade, Serbia. The language of the Conference will be English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for Serbian.

Contacts for further information

The UN Environment Programme will serve as Secretariat of the Conference. In this regard interested stakeholders can contact Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of Office – UN Environment – Vienna Programme Office (harald.egerer@un.org) and Mr. Filippo Montalbetti (filippo.montalbetti@un.org).

For Conference registration: <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/node/41383>