

CANADA'S COMMENTS

ANNOTATED DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE UNEA3 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN “TOWARDS A POLLUTION-FREE PLANET”

as of 5th October 2018

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 23 per cent of all deaths worldwide – amounting to 12.6 million people in 2012 – are due to modifiable environmental risks. Low income and middle-income countries bear the brunt of pollution-related illnesses, with a disproportionate impact on children and the most vulnerable. Member States adopted a Ministerial Declaration as a key outcome of the 3rd UN Environment Assembly which gathered 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”, “building on the outcomes of the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”.

The Implementation Plan builds on these UNEA outcomes and proposes action areas to address the gaps and challenges to address pollution and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. **It builds on existing work/initiatives and harnesses synergies across pollution dimensions - air, water, land/soil, marine and coastal, chemicals and waste. It seeks to build a generalized capacity to act across the pollution dimensions to accelerate action and scale up impact. Recognizing the different circumstances of regions, countries and cities, the Implementation Plan, through activities under the action areas, will create the enabling environment/conditions to address the gaps as per needs.**

The vision, main objectives, action areas, and expected outcomes of the Implementation Plan are summarized in the table below:

Vision	Towards a Pollution-Free Planet
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ To facilitate the implementation of UN Environment Assembly’s Ministerial Declaration and resolutions addressing pollution✓ 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 on all forms of pollution – air, water, marine, land, chemicals and waste✓ To sustain and increase global awareness of pollution and its consequences on ecosystems and human health and well-being✓ To monitor and report on progress towards a cleaner planet
Action Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Science and data for evidence-based policy2. Implementation strengthening, design of incentives, integrated policy assessments, regulatory innovations, enhanced capacity building3. Infrastructure, technologies and innovation4. Communication, education, and consumer information

	5. Mobilizing stakeholders, leaders and partners
Main expected outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Knowledge on pollution, environment and health linkages is available and shared, enabling informed decision-making and awareness of all, including of the most vulnerable ũ The enabling regulatory and policy environment at all levels is strengthened in order to address pollution, environment and health linkages in an integrated and effective manner and good and best practices are shared. ✓ Locally suitable solutions, technologies, innovations and infrastructure to address environment and health linkages are demonstrated, deployed, and transferred ✓ Capacity across sectors is enhanced through coordinated action and partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels ✓ Awareness of pollution impacts on environment, health and the economy and of available solutions is raised, to drive behavioural change ✓ Leaders from national and local governments, business and financial sectors, international community and NGOs are mobilised to act
Timeframe	To be fully in line and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Pollution Implementation Plan's horizon is 2030. However, activities are articulated initially for a 3-year period (by 2021) to enable concrete results and adjustments, based on progress made.
Scope and target audience	Focus on pollution that affects citizens in their home, at work and in their communities. It covers all the pollution dimensions: air, water, land/soil, marine and coastal, and also considers chemicals and waste in a cross-cutting manner. The Implementation Plan aims at reflecting inclusiveness and collective responsibility.
Monitoring and reporting on progress	<p>3 pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ gather existing pollution related data and identify data gaps ✓ Identify policy indicators to monitor regulatory and policy progress in preventing and managing pollution and share progress and integrate reporting on progress made to tackle pollution from existing mechanisms and initiatives including the MEAs. ✓ Monitoring, tracking and attribution of pollution actions based on voluntary commitments by Member States and stakeholders and the voluntary national reviews submitted by Member States to the high-level political forum.

Commented [C1]: The rest of the outlines suggests that the target audience is more than citizens and primarily policy makers. The Plan aims to help implement UNEA Resolutions which are for member states' governments, UNEP, other IOs and the broad range of stakeholders.

PART 1- BUILDING ON UNEA OUTCOMES TO CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Implementation Plan builds on the UNEA outcomes - mandated Resolutions, the Dialogues, the voluntary commitments of the #BeatPollution Campaign, - and proposes action areas to address the gaps and challenges to address pollution and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

1.1. UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OUTCOMES: MANDATES FROM THE RESOLUTIONS

Member States adopted nine resolutions related to the environment, health and pollution nexus. Yet, already at UNEA1 and UNEA2, some resolutions were adopted which contribute to deliver on the

environment, health and pollution nexus (figure 1). They provide mandates for UN Environment, but also invite Member States, UN Agencies, multilateral environmental agreements and stakeholders, including private sector, to act.

The Implementation Plan aims at reflecting that inclusiveness and collective responsibility. It helps deliver on the UNEA3 resolutions at scale as well as resolutions from previous Assemblies, relevant to the pollution agenda. It is also informed by key messages from Leadership dialogues, Science-Policy-Business forum and multi stakeholder dialogues.

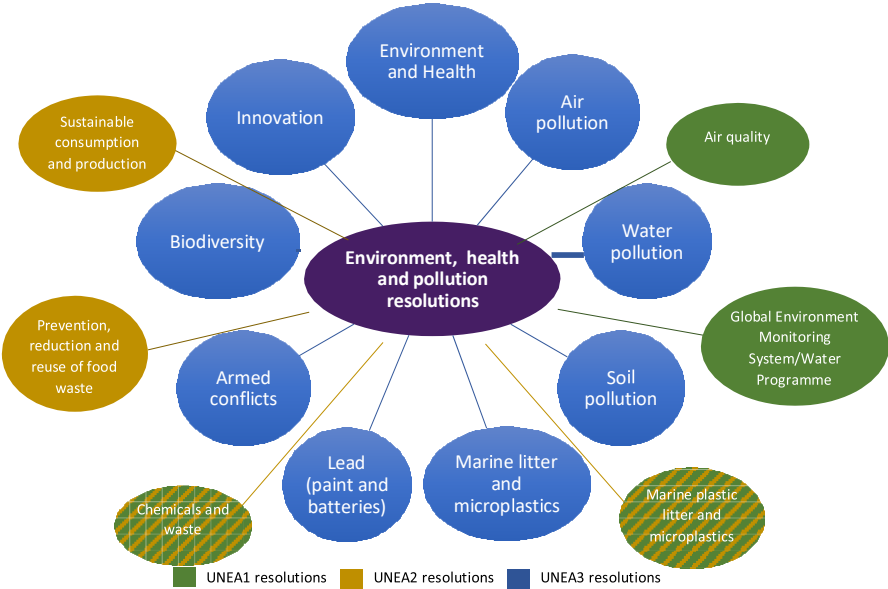


Figure 1: Environment, health and pollution relevant resolutions adopted by Member States at the UN Environment Assembly

1.2. UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OUTCOMES: #BEATPOLLUTION VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS AND PLEDGES

The #BeatPollution campaign raised awareness of the many existing forms of pollution and encouraged individuals, governments, businesses and civil society to act and save lives around the world in the run-up to the 3rd UN Environment Assembly. Almost 2.5 million pledges by citizens were made on web and social media. 405 Voluntary Commitments were submitted by the end of December 2017 from governments, civil society and business as part of UN Environment’s #BeatPollution. Tackling pollution was addressed across all pollution dimensions (air, chemicals and waste, marine/coastal, water, land/soil). The voluntary commitments fall into following categories:

- A. Expanding existing pollution reduction and control activities and policies;
- B. Removing barriers to depolluting activities;

- C. Increasing awareness through education and targeted, public awareness campaigns;
- D. Investing in research and development, monitoring & reporting

The implementation of existing and new voluntary commitments constitute an integral part of the Implementation Plan

PART 2- THE APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Part 2 sets out the ideas underlying the Plan. It recognizes that actions on pollution can contribute to addressing sustainable development goals, and is based on principles of universality, sustainability, pollution prevention, polluter pays, integration and rights to a clean and healthy environment. It highlights that good experiences/knowledge already exist and need to be shared. The Plan includes preventive and remedial aspects, for both the near and longer terms.

2.1 MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF PREVENTING AND MANAGING POLLUTION

The transition towards a healthy environment for all can yield significant benefits in terms of development, human health, ecosystems and biodiversity preservation, poverty reduction and reduced risks to human health. For example, benefits from the elimination of lead in gasoline on a global scale have been estimated at \$2.45 trillion per year, or 4 per cent of global GDP, and saving an estimated 1 million premature deaths per year. The Implementation Plan focuses on highlighting the multiple benefits of pollution action in order to support decision-making and behaviour change at all levels.

2.2 CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

By taking action to prevent, better manage and reduce pollution at regional, national and local levels, governments and stakeholders put themselves on a path to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally-agree environmental goals. To be fully in line and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Implementation Plan's horizon is set at 2030, while activities are articulated initially for a 3-year period (by 2021) to enable concrete results and allow for adjustments, based on progress made.

2.3 THE NEED FOR ACTIONS ACROSS THE POLLUTION DIMENSIONS ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF COUNTRIES

Pollution is pervasive and persistent. The Implementation Plan looks at pollution that affects citizens in their home, at work and in their communities. It aims at looking at key actions to prevent pollution, while also supporting more effective pollution emission control and pollution management in order to minimize exposure. Actions are required on all dimensions of pollution (air, water, marine/coastal, land/soil, chemicals and waste); the Implementation Plan focuses on synergies and on strengthening capacities to act across all in order to accelerate action and scale up impact. Recognizing the different circumstances of regions, countries and cities, the Implementation Plan provides the enabling conditions for regions and countries to act according to their relative and differential needs.

2.4 SYSTEM-WIDE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION: FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE TO A POLLUTION-FREE PLANET

System-wide economic transformations are required based on innovations, circularity and sustainable consumption and production, as well as green investments to reduce waste and pollution. The plan

Commented [C2]: Rather than restating generalities and the obvious, this section will need to explain in practice how this is going to be done with concrete examples and what is the value added of this new Plan (when we already have a UNEP Programme of Work and resolutions). This section should explain how duplication is avoided. The Plan should focus on the "how to".

Another important point is that the Plan needs to be based on and relay key messages from GEO 6 and others like the Global Chemicals Outlook on measures needed for the transformative change. In other words, the Plan cannot be developed in isolation of GEO 6 findings and call for action.

Commented [C3]: Explaining the benefits of action should not be the focus of the Plan. The Plan should be practical and geared towards the "how to" i.e. actions and measures to get there.

Commented [C4]: This section again mainly includes generalities. The focus instead should be on the "how" and what's next. This section should explain how which specific elements of the Plan are going to help societies induce transformative change.

seeks to engage stakeholders around changing current conditions of production and consumption through sound chemicals and waste management and innovative solutions that include creative approaches in policy, financing, science, strategic, directed investments, long-term partnership and commitments to technology development and nature-based solutions lead us towards the goal of a pollution-free planet. Circularity and life cycle approaches are key to system wide transformations towards sustainable production. In this context the work on plastic and opportunities to harness a plastics economy based on circularity is key. The focus, however, needs to be not just on recycling but enhancing value retention processes that create jobs, new sources of growth but also reduce waste.

2.5 MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS AS KEY MECHANISMS TO TARGET POLLUTION

Several multilateral global and regional environmental agreements and related frameworks provide a key opportunity to prevent and reduce pollution. These agreements are an essential component of the pollution governance framework, providing targeted and time-bound actions, while some also include compliance-related actions, monitoring and reporting. They also enable the exchange of resources and information as well as the sharing of technologies and best practices for controlled international trade. The Implementation Plan mobilizes these environmental agreements and harnesses their capacity to enhance delivery in tackling pollution. Whereas multilateral and regional environmental agreements are central to addressing pollution, gaps and challenges to their implementation exist.

Commented [C5]: We would welcome an explanation as to how the Plan is proposing to do this. MEAs have their own workplans to deliver. Have they been consulted?

2.6 VOLUNTARY COALITIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES: ESSENTIAL TO SCALE AND ENSURE OWNERSHIP OF ACTIONS

Voluntary coalitions, partnerships and alliances, business community are key for implementation and scaling up successful approaches. The Implementation Plan builds on relevant voluntary coalitions, partnerships and alliances and focuses on the added value of such a synergy, while aiming at emphasizing pollution, environment and health in the priorities of potentially related initiatives which have not yet prioritized pollution. It provides a platform for these initiatives to work better together but also to provide more visibility for their work, from a pollution, environment and health angle. The ability to mobilize and catalyze existing networks of stakeholders which can have a multiplier effect, such as the city and local authorities' network or the business associations, will be a key success factor for the Implementation Plan.

Commented [C6]: How have these been identified? How are the MEAs Secretariats involved?

PART 3. KEY ACTION AREAS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES TO ACT ON POLLUTION

Key challenges to addressing pollution were identified in the run up to UNEA3 in UN Environment Executive Director's report: science and knowledge gaps, implementation capacity, inadequate leadership, insufficient infrastructure, and need for increased awareness and communication on the environment and health impacts of pollution and on solutions available. These challenges differ by region and country. The Plan identifies action areas to address these challenges and gaps. For each action area, **several high impact solutions/accelerators are identified.** As the Implementation Plan aims at avoiding duplication, these high impact solutions/accelerators aim at leveraging and accelerating action across pollution dimensions (air, water, soil/land, marine and coastal, chemicals and waste) rather than addressing single streams.

Commented [C7]: This makes sense. An important point that is missing here is that climate resiliency and GHGs benefits/synergies should also be taken into account in a cross cutting manner across all components of the Plan. Short of that would be a counter-productive Plan.

3.1 SHARING KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND TRACKING PROGRESS

While pollution is a global issue, there are also very different priorities and capacities depending on the region, country or locality. Two cross-cutting flagship activities are therefore central to the Implementation Plan:

- 1) **A knowledge-sharing & innovation platform: stimulating exchanges of good practices and innovative technologies and solutions.** Such a platform will provide decision-makers with the various technology and policy options available in other geographies, on what works and what does not, costs and benefits, and the potential to use local solutions based on local knowledge
- 2) **A regular synthesis report on pollution.** It will provide data, trends and gaps, with a focus on key policy actions to enable tracking and monitoring of progress

By providing reliable information on data and progress made, and offering a platform for open-access information on pollution – pointing the user to existing initiatives and partnerships relevant to the various pollution streams they cover – the Implementation Plan effectively adds value in providing a bridge across pollution areas, a one-stop-shop on pollution, environment and health and effectively monitors and reports on action and progress made.

The following key action areas are identified to address the gaps (also summarized in figure 2 below).

- 1) ACTION AREA 1: **KNOWLEDGE- SCIENCE AND DATA FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY**
- 2) ACTION AREA 2: **IMPLEMENTATION- CAPACITY, INCENTIVES AND INTEGRATED POLICIES**
- 3) ACTION AREA 3: **INFRASTRUCTURE: TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION, CIRCULARITY**
- 4) ACTION AREA 4: **AWARENESS- COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND CONSUMER INFORMATION**
- 5) ACTION AREA 5: **LEADERSHIP- MOBILIZING LEADERS AND PARTNERS**

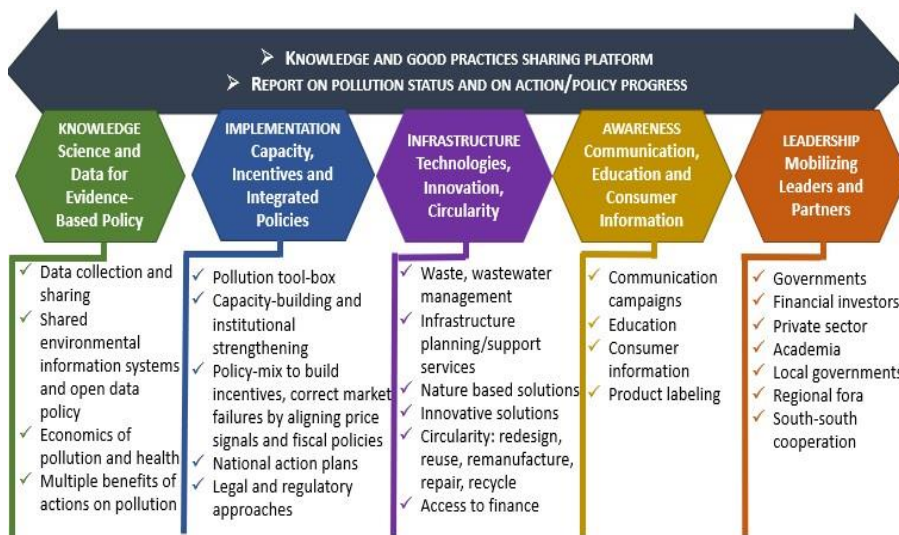


Figure 2: Implementation Plan - key action areas

Commented [C8]: Detailed Roadmaps for these two items should be developed as well (not just for each of the Action Areas as per below).

This raises important questions to be considered:

- 1) Will the Platform and Synthesis Report focus on “everything pollution” (as is implied) or just on the 5 Action Areas (which are more constrained scope)? It is one thing for a Report to report on progress for each Action Area and High Impact Actions/Accelerators. It is a completely another ambition if the idea is to report on progress on fighting pollution worldwide on all fronts and all topics. Same for the knowledge sharing platform.
- 2) How will the knowledge sharing platform be structured and designed for it to be: practical, used, populated, updated, and innovative? Many similar platforms exist. This runs the risk of being a long compilation of existing initiatives without real value.
- 3) Synthesis Report: what will be the reporting requirements?
- 4) Monitoring progress: against what? Will this be quantitative?

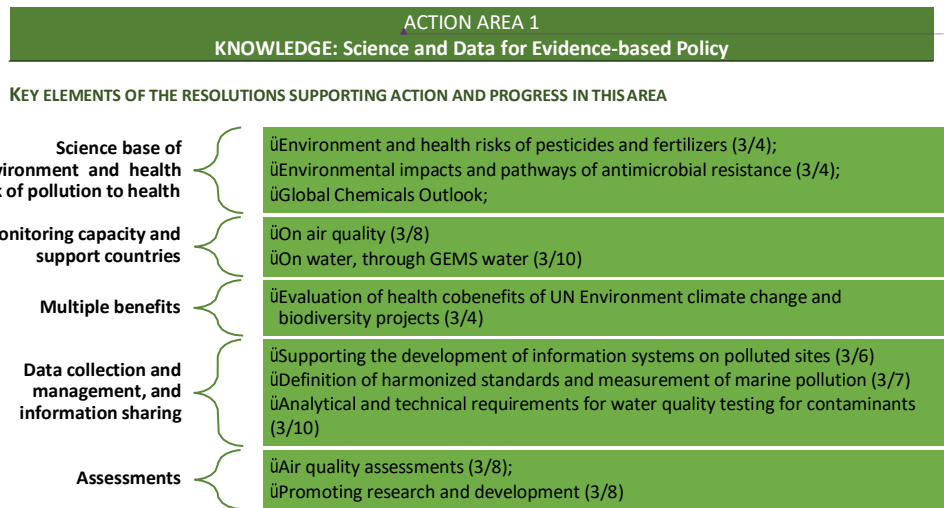
Commented [C9]: This could be explained up-front in the document. The Plan is trying to be all encompassing and is very ambitious.

Commented [C10]: While these are interesting cross-cutting components, we run the risk of repeating or duplicating what already exists by pollution medium or topic (air, water, ecosystems...) in the various MEAs or otherwise. How is the Plan proposing to address this risk?

A detailed roadmap will be provided for each action area, including:

- 1) Objectives and expected outcomes
- 2) Key elements of the resolutions relevant to each action area
- 3) Key challenges and opportunities
- 4) 3 to 4 high impact actions/accelerators for the Implementation Plan to focus on. For each high impact actions/accelerators, the following will be provided: description of key deliverables, main partners, and existing activities to build up on.
- 5) Main milestones

An example of such a roadmap is provided below for action area 1 (information reflected below is provided to solicit feedback on the type and format of information provided, it is still subject to change)



Commented [C11]: The proposed structure of the Roadmap is covering essentials. **We strongly recommend it includes two additional sections:**

- 1) **Criteria used to select the High Impact Actions/Accelerators and the Deliverables.** One of these criteria being how are they going to specifically address the needs of less advanced Member States in the fight against pollution. This goes with the idea of “bringing UNEA home”, close to the regional and local needs. The Plan should not be another academic and theoretical exercise or shopping list of pollution measures with limited use.
- 2) **Specific crosswalk/mapping with activities and deliverables in both the 2019 Programme of Work and 2020-21 PoW.** Proposed Annex 3 is not going to be sufficient. This needs to be in the body of the Plan and more detailed. We need to avoid duplication with the existing programme of work and focus on the value-added and the gaps.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

EXPECTED OUTCOME	Knowledge on pollution, environment and health linkages is available and shared, enabling informed decision-making and awareness of all, including of the most vulnerable
OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen quality and analysis of harmonized data and identify long term trends. 2. Provide open-access to data, information and knowledge on pollution, environment and health 3. Assess economic and health co-benefits of addressing pollution to inform policy 4. Stimulate integrated monitoring and reporting
KEY CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED	lack of harmonized data; lack of disaggregated data; insufficient monitoring systems, although progress is being made on some specific pollution issues in some countries and cities.
KEY OPPORTUNITIES	Earth observation to improve availability of information and monitoring; citizen science; sharing knowledge on emerging issues and new findings; strengthened accountability from decision-makers

through citizen engagement; open access to information and knowledge; integrated monitoring and reporting (including in the context of the sustainable development goals)

HIGH-IMPACT SOLUTIONS/ACCELERATORS TO ADDRESS POLLUTION

- 1) Prioritizing measures to address pollution based on the assessment of their environmental, health and economic benefits
- 2) Provision of comprehensive and open information on pollution based on geo-spatial data to identify main pollution hotspots
- 3) Economics of pollution – costs of non actions; benefits of action
- 4) Strengthening the quality and the analysis of harmonized data on pollution and long-term trends

For each high impact solutions/accelerators, the following information will be provided:

1) Prioritize measures to address pollution based on the assessment of their environmental, health and economic benefits

Rationale: There are many measures that can be taken to address pollution. To prioritize action, there is a need to assess which measures are the most effective, from an environmental perspective, but also from a health and economic perspective. The objective is to select the key actions that can bring most benefits across pollution dimensions (i.e. air, water, soil/land, marine and coastal) and across sectors (e.g. agriculture/food security, industry, transportation, residential, extractive), using a life-cycle approach. The identification of a manageable number of cost-effective measures can help prioritize, as well as make a better case for their adoption and enforcement (e.g. as is the case for example on short-lived climate pollutants, through the Climate and Clean Air Coalition identification of the 16 most effective measures).

Deliverable: A report highlighting the most effective measures to address pollution, looking at environmental, health and economic benefits

<i>Key initiatives to build up on:</i>	<i>Lead (tentative):</i> UN Environment	<i>Key partners (tentative):</i>
Climate and Clean Air Coalition		

Commented [C12]: If we are “volunteering” existing partners and initiatives, what is the plan and the timing to consult them?
If the Leads are not UN Environment, how are we going to convince them to lead?

Key milestones for action area 1

Economics of pollution: report on control and prevention of pollution, pollution related diseases and human capacity development	Q2 2020
Most effective measures to address pollution identified, looking at environmental, health and economic benefits	Q1 2021
Open data platform using geo-spatial data showing maps of pollution and dynamics of dispersion	Q1 2021 (if use of existing platform)
Report on economics of pollution	Q4 2021
Data standards developed and available across pollution areas	tbd

PART 4. COORDINATION AND RESOURCES

The Plan includes a proposal to have UN Environment provide a convening and catalytic role to scale up action to prevent and address pollution in the context of the Implementation Plan. It mobilizes stakeholders and partners to lead and contribute to the delivery of the Implementation Plan. A draft framework for such coordination and coherence is suggested below.

4.1 COORDINATION PLATFORM

UN Environment focuses on providing this catalytic role and supporting the measurement of progress made in preventing and addressing pollution. A Steering Committee may be set with membership

from the member states and the Secretariats of the MEAS, others? to provide guidance in the implementation of the plan on a regular basis, as well as mobilize stakeholders

Each entity is accountable for the activities it delivers under the Implementation Plan. UN Environment is accountable for the activities it leads or contributes to in line with the mandates of the UN Environment Assembly resolutions and its Programme of Work. The roles of different stakeholder groups may be highlighted

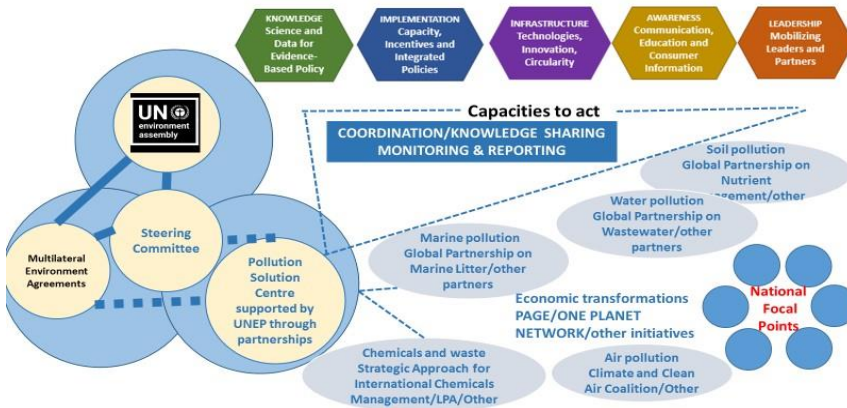


Figure 3 – Proposal for an institutional and governance structure

4.2 RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Requirements for the proper functioning of the Implementation Plan Coordination Platform will be outlined.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: SDGS AND POLLUTION, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

ANNEX 2: SUMMARIES OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND POLLUTION RELATED RESOLUTIONS

ANNEX 3: MAPPING OF UN ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES DELIVERING ON THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2018-2021 WHICH ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

ANNEX 4: 50 PROPOSED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS POLLUTION, AS REFLECTED IN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT TO UNEA3

ANNEX 5: DETAILED FACT SHEETS OF EXISTING ACTIVITIES BY VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELIVERY OF THE POLLUTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

ANNEX 6: DETAILED MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Commented [C13]: Canada would welcome more details on the current thinking on the following items in the flowchart:

- 1) National Focal Points: Roles? Who? How? When?
- 2) "Pollution Solution Centre supported by UNEP"

Commented [C14]: Fundamental questions arise: 1) what are the budget needs? and 2) how is this going to be funded?

Commented [C15]: Is this the Platform referred to on page 6? Or the Pollution Solution Centre in the flowchart?

Commented [C16]: This should not be in an Annex, it is quite fundamental to the Plan.

Commented [C17]: Clarification would be welcome as to the scope of the monitoring: the Implementation Plan? Pollution world wide? implementation of UNEA Resolutions? All of the above?