

ECOSOC 2016 INTEGRATION SEGMENT

UNEP's CONTRIBUTION

1. The new 2030 paradigm is both a challenge and opportunity for UNEP, with an agenda in which environment is fully integrated and indivisible. Over half of the SDGs have an environmental focus or address the sustainability of natural resources. UNEP emerged greatly strengthened from the process that led from Rio+20 through to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. With a universal membership and a mandate that is not confined to developing countries, UNEP has the elements needed to reconfigure and to strengthen its response to the 2030 integrated approach. This will not be done in isolation and will require expanded, innovative partnerships and new methods of working with the UN family.
2. UNEP has aligned its strategic planning to the 2030 Agenda through its Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and Programme of Work (PoW). Through its “**Vision 2030**” captured in the MTS, UNEP aims to reduce environmental risks and increase the resilience of societies and the environment as a whole. This will foster the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and also bring socio-economic benefits.
3. UNEP's key priority areas (7 sub-programmes) also provide the building blocks for addressing the SDGs. Each has developed an outcome map towards a 2030 objective, in response to relevant SDGs and targets. Indicators at impact level are being aligned with relevant indicators from the SDG global Indicator Framework. This will allow the monitoring of implementation of the environmental dimension as well as reporting to UNEA, ECOSOC and the HLPF.
4. It is increasingly clear that a key to implementing the SDGs will be relating the environment to a range of “issues at the edge” of UNEP's traditional field of vision. These are issues central to the 2030 Agenda. Most are areas where UNEP has done some work, but that are not yet fully mainstream.
5. One set of issues are those like human rights, peace and security, or industrial policy on which it will be necessary for UNEP to map out the best route for full environmental integration. The upgrading of UNEP's activity in these fields will be pursued through expanding existing partnerships and seeking new ones.
6. UNEP will also support countries' integrated implementation of the SDGs through its partnerships, networks and initiatives with member states, UN agencies and stakeholders, and by Delivering as One UN through the UNDAFs.
7. **UNEP organised a retreat** (23-25 February 2016) in Nairobi, with the purpose of understanding the requirements for a truly integrated approach to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The retreat involved UNEP staff and representatives of member states. 130 people participated. There is a strong demand for UNEP's services. In its response, the organisation is working to:
 - a. **Supporting the development of national strategies**, ranging from help with definitions and integration of package of agreements adopted in 2015.
 - b. **Provision of real-time datasets** and connecting an increasing range of sources throughout the world through UNEP Live. This will prove fundamental in the establishment of country baselines for the SDGs, and in monitoring progress towards implementation.
 - c. UNEP assistance to countries, in particular environment ministries, in **organising the procedures for reporting and follow-up**, organization of multi-stakeholder dialogue and process at the national level, and joining with others (UNDP, DESA, SDSN, etc.) who are offering these services would be a high priority.
8. **UNEP has been working and will continue to work to enhance the science-policy interface for evidence-based decision-making across all SDGs:** UNEP will continue to identify science that integrates social, economic and environmental considerations for policy and decision-making.

- a. UNEP is using UNEP Live (<http://uneplive.unep.org/>) to track the SDGs, and other internationally agreed environmental goals (such as obligations in the multilateral environmental agreements), at all levels. UNEP Live aims to facilitate the exchange and sharing of latest data, information, assessments and knowledge amongst member countries, research networks, communities of practice, indigenous peoples and society, in order to keep the environment and emerging issues under review. Through this, UNEP can support the **mapping, review and consolidation, coordination of existing data sources and reporting mechanisms**.
 - b. An example of this is that **UNEP is working with WHO and the World Bank on gender disaggregated data for air quality measurement**. While WHO collects data on the downstream effects, UNEP will be working on the upstream effects and designing data collection for exposure by gender and by age.
 - c. Through its **GEO Process, Foresight Process** and assessments, UNEP will continue to produce a careful and authoritative ranking of **emerging issues** for the global environment, including those related to the implementation of the SDGs.
 - d. UNEP is also taking an integrated approach for setting the environment agenda and promote innovate policy-making. **“Healthy environment, healthy people”** has been selected as the theme for the Ministerial Policy Review Session of UNEA in May 2016. To that end, it has prepared a draft report in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and multilateral environment agreements.
9. **UNEP is working institutionally to promote a better integration in its business model, theory of change and delivery mechanisms:**
- a. The UN system recognised the need for integrated and innovative **system-wide policies** and strategies in support of the SDGs and ensuring that connections are made between all development concerns, such as human rights, gender equality, economic growth and employment. **UNEP will increase integration of these normative frameworks into its work**. It has already started in implementing its Gender mainstreaming strategy, working closely with UN woman, for programmatic activities and policy development. It is also developing an Action Plan for mainstreaming Human Rights within UNEP’s operations.
 - b. UNEP will intensify its efforts to integrate environmental dimension across the UN system’s agenda, working collaboratively through **Environment Management Group (EMG)** and other mechanisms. UNEP will invite EMG members to contribute to the implementation of the **Framework of Strategies on the Environment**, upon its completion, within their mandate, resources and capacities.
 - c. **UNEP’s regional offices are central to programmatic delivery as one UN system at the country level**, and coordination with other funds, programmes and agencies in the regions and at the national level. UNEP has opened five sub-regional offices, including for the Caribbean and Pacific SIDS. Full implementation of the UN Development System’s Standard Operating Procedures will enable UNEP’s activities at the country level to be incorporated as part of the UN Country Team’s Joint Annual Work Plan(s).
10. **UNEP has been integrating the three dimensions of SD in several of its programmes promoting policy innovation and programme development at the regional and country level through innovative and multi-stakeholder partnerships.** Partnerships that can be enhanced include:
- a. The **Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)** supports nations and regions in reframing their economic policies and practices around sustainability to foster growth, create income and jobs, reduce poverty and inequality and strengthen the ecological foundations of their economies. PAGE brings together the expertise of five UN agencies working closely with national governments.
 - b. **UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI)** provides tailor-made and practical tools and methodologies for developing countries to catalyse major changes to government policy and budgetary priorities that sustain natural resources and end poverty;
 - c. **UNEP Inquiry**, whose report was launched in October 2015, looked into the design of a sustainable financial system, including policy options in support of financing a green economy. The report findings were drawn on its work with dozens of partners at national and international level in the financing, regulatory and policy sectors.