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**United Nations
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United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Third session**

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Performance of the programme of work and budget,
including implementation of the resolutions of the
Environment Assembly**

**Progress made in the implementation of the recommendations
and findings of the Environment Management Group
effectiveness report and the System-Wide Framework of
Strategies on the Environment for the United Nations as set out
in resolution 2/5 on delivering on the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report was prepared in accordance with paragraph 6 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/5, in which the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to it at its next session on progress in the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the Environment Management Group effectiveness report and the System-Wide framework of Strategies on the Environment of the United Nations system.

* UNEP/EA.3/1.

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 2/5, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to it at its next session on progress in the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the Environment Management Group effectiveness report and the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment for the United Nations system. The present update was prepared pursuant to that request.

II. Progress in the implementation of resolution 2/5

A. System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment for the United Nations system

2. Subsequent to the endorsement of the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment for the United Nations system by the senior officials of the Environment Management Group in February 2016 and its launch at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the senior officials, at their 22nd meeting, in September 2016, agreed to address the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in their respective strategic plans and programmes, as well as in their partnerships and collaborative initiatives, and to exchange information and knowledge on good practices and opportunities for future collaboration.

3. The senior officials agreed to keep each other and member States informed on progress made under the Framework by preparing an annual synthesis report on United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. The first edition of the synthesis report was prepared on the basis of inputs from 31 United Nations agencies for consideration by the senior officials of the Environment Management Group at their 23rd meeting, in September 2017. An online knowledge exchange network was created to allow for information sharing among member agencies.

4. The synthesis report provides examples of how individual agencies are aligning their organizational strategies with the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals; how the United Nations and stakeholders are collaborating on the environmental areas of the Goals; and where there are opportunities for scaling up and strengthening coordination in existing or new environmental areas of the Goals. The report shows that most Group members have recently launched or are in the process of launching new strategic plans and report the integration therein of environmental sustainability as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals framework. A considerable number of United Nations agencies have improved or revised their strategic plans to align them with the Goals. The environmental dimensions have mostly been addressed in partnerships on nexus issues, for example on poverty and the environment or on the environment and health, but tracking progress towards the achievement of the Goals remains a challenge for many agencies.

B. Nexus dialogues of the Environment Management Group on the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals

5. Addressing the environment in the 2030 Agenda requires continued dialogue among sectors, including in the United Nations system. The Environment Management Group nexus dialogue series was initiated to contribute to a common understanding of the integrated Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as the requirements and opportunities that they bring to United Nations agencies in supporting the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. Partners view the Goals from a nexus perspective, acquaint themselves with available nexus methodologies and seek to identify practical strategies for integrating the nexus approach into their mission and work. The dialogues may also serve as an opportunity for member States to consider how a nexus approach could support collaboration among different governmental departments. More information on the dialogues is available from www.unemg.org.

C. Maximizing the effectiveness of the Environment Management Group in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

6. Following the endorsement of the report entitled “Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the Environment Management Group examined the relevance of its current terms of reference in relation to the 2030 Agenda and considered proposals for strengthening and renewing its modalities and procedures of work.

7. Building on the recommendations in the report, a draft updated terms of reference and new rules of procedures for the Environment Management Group were prepared and considered by its members. The updated terms of reference include references to the 2030 Agenda, the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment and the corporate internal United Nations environmental sustainability work undertaken within the Group. In addition, existing working modalities were clarified in the rules of procedure of the Group annexed to the terms of reference. The terms of reference were presented to the senior officials of the Group for endorsement at their 23rd meeting.

III. Recommendations and suggested action

8. The United Nations Environment Assembly may wish to:

(a) Welcome the progress made in implementing the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment and the knowledge generated through the synthesis report on system-wide contributions to the implementation of the environmental dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Encourage the Executive Director to continue fostering enhanced coordinated, coherent and integrated delivery within the United Nations system on the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the Environment Management Group;

(c) Request the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at the next session on progress made by the Environment Management Group in enhancing coordination and collaboration on the environment in the United Nations system, including through the implementation of the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment.
