

Statement on the outcome of the Environment Sector Meeting

Friday, 4 October 2019, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, Meeting Room H

Thank you Madam co-chair,

The environment sector meeting was held today at 1 pm to 2:30 pm. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 participants from different sectors, including governments, civil society and industry. We would like to thank the participants very much for their participation and active contributions despite parallel working groups.

During the meeting we explored common areas of interest and identified concrete opportunities to strengthen coordination and cooperation between the sound management of chemicals and waste and other clusters. We focused on linkages with climate change, sustainable consumption and production, and human rights. Moreover, we brainstormed other relevant clusters. Set up in an interactive world café approach, participants were given the opportunity to provide input on each of the four topics.

Valuable insights emerged, highlighting strong linkages: Just to mention a few of the examples: GHG emissions from the unsound management of waste, challenges related to the disposal of renewable energy materials, the need to enhance resource efficiency in processes, innovation for products that are benign by design, addressing hazardous substances in buildings, and the need to protect workers and consumers rights, including access to information.

The participants identified many concrete options for cooperation and coordination. Examples include integrating chemicals and waste management topics in the IPCC reports, developing and submitting joint project proposals for the Green Climate Fund, the GEF and other relevant financial mechanisms, promoting integrated collaborative innovation for resource efficient processes and products that are benign by design, providing platforms for participation and information for workers and consumers, , strengthening intra-ministerial coordination, mainstreaming chemicals into procurement, strengthening collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxic Wastes.

More importantly, the overall message emerging from this fruitful exchange was that there are numerous opportunities and many low hanging fruits that have not yet been reaped. Looking at concrete proposals, the group considered it worthwhile to explore how these options for cooperation and coordination with other clusters could be integrated in the beyond 2020 framework, for example in relevant targets.

UNEP will integrate these findings in the revised version of the assessment on linkages with other clusters, which will be made available following incorporation of further comments received.

[SAICM/IP.3/8 - Draft assessment on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options to coordinate and cooperate on areas of common interest](#)