AVK FairGaze MUN

UNEA

Background guide

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## **Letter from the Executive board**

Dear delegates,

Congratulations! By reading the study guide for the UNEA committee you have successfully embarked on the journey to becoming a more informed diplomat.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the UNEA committee at Mysthetic MUN. It is our happiness to serve you as the executive board members of this committee.

Consider that the following guide, as the name suggests, is merely to provide you with the background of the agenda. Your real research lies beyond this guide and we hope to see some heated debate from you in the committee. A successful committee would entail the collective participation of all of you. This background guide will provide you with the tools you will require. It is very important to go through this background guide thoroughly to get a clear knowledge of the flow of the committee.

Sincerely, Rithikesh

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## **Introduction to the committee**

UNEA is the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment. It has a universal membership of 193 member States. The assembly meets every 2 years in Nairobi, Kenya to set priorities for global environmental policies. It contributes to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNEA is also the governing body of UNEP. So far, it has had 4 sessions.

Twenty years after the adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) called for the strengthening of and upgrading of the United Nations

Environment Programme (UN Environment) such that it could better execute on its mandate. In 2013, the Governing Council of UNEP adopted resolution 27/2, expanding the Governing Council to universal membership and requesting the General Assembly to change its designation to UNEA, which it did with resolution 67/251 the same year. UNEA’s universal membership strengthens the role of the UN Environment in international affairs and increases the responsiveness of Member States in developing environmental policy. UNEA has held four universal sessions, with the most recent in Nairobi, Kenya in March, 2019. Under the governance of UNEA, UN Environment’s mission is to “provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment” toward environmentally friendly practices and policies in the United Nations (UN) system. It is a program and fund of the UN that encourages international, regional, and local coordination for environmental issues, and it also ensures that various other UN entities take environmental impacts into account when executing their missions. UN Environment reports to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The UN Environment was created as a result of decisions made at the 1972 UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden. Six months later, the General Assembly established UN Environment as the official body concerned with environmental issues within the UN. Since 1972, UN Environment has played a significant role in coordinating environmental policy across various UN agencies. UN Environment helped in the planning and execution of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, the outcomes of which included the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21. These landmark documents provided further guidance and renewed support for UN Environment’s role in international cooperation on environmental protection. UNCED marked a turning point for international collaboration to preserve biodiversity and the climate, with the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) both opening for signature at the summit. The Convention to Combat Desertification (1994), another major agreement, was adopted two years later. While the three Rio Conventions are each administered by their own secretariat, UN Environment assisted in negotiating the conventions and was tasked with promoting their implementation through Agenda 21.

## **A Brief about UNEA’s Governance, Structure and membership**

UNEA serves as the governing body for the UN Environment. The Assembly replaced the former Governing Council of 58 members, which oversaw UN Environment from its inception until 2013. Comprised of all UN Member States, UNEA meets biennially to set the global environmental agenda, discuss emerging environmental challenges, and provide guidance to UN Environment in its strategic plans of actions. The UN Environment Secretariat is responsible for supporting UNEA and consists of a rotating President, three Vice-Presidents, and a Rapporteur. The Committee of Permanent Representatives, which meets at least four times a year, is a permanent subsidiary body of UNEA that prepares its meetings, monitors the implementation of its decisions, and provides advice to the UN Environment between the sessions of the Assembly. It is composed of all accredited Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment and is an important link between the program and national governments. In addition to the core funding it receives through the UN regular budget, UN Environment collects financial contributions from Member States to implement its global and regional work through its Environment Fund. Member States are requested to make financial contributions to the funds is based upon the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions, which takes into account their respective economic and social situation to determine the amount paid. Additional funds for project implementation are generated through earmarked contributions and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which together account for 91% of UN Environment’s annual expenditures. Aside from its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, UN Environment has six offices dispersed globally that undertake projects on regional and local levels. Each office holds yearly Regional Consultation Meetings where representatives from various civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders are invited to engage in environmental policy dialogue. Those offices bring any concerns or ideas from these meetings to the next UNEA meeting for wider discussion and possible implementation.

## **A brief about UNEA’s Mandate, Function and powers**

Guided by the broader substantive priorities of the UN Environment, UNEA is tasked to make major strategic decisions for the UN Environment, provide political guidance for state and regional programs, and promote scientifically based environmental policies. UNEA is guided by the theme “Innovative can grownthe solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production,” and focuses on the three areas: environmental challenges that relate to poverty and

natural resource management, including sustainable food systems, food security, and halting biodiversity loss; life-cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, chemicals, and waste management; and innovative sustainable business development during rapid technological change.

With the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 1972 on “Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation,” UN Environment was created with a mandate to “promote international and regional environmental cooperation, develop environmental policy, highlight global and regional problems, facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge, assist developing Member States in environmental matters, review reports of the Executive Director, and approve the annual program on the allocation of the Environment Fund”. The first expansion of UN Environment’s mandate came after the 1992 Rio Conference via Agenda 21, which outlined a list of priority areas for its future work and called for the program to gain “access to greater expertise and…adequate financial resources,” as well as closer collareoration with the rest of the UN system to fulfil these new tasks. On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, the Governing Council of UN Environment held an extensive discussion on the future role of the program that resulted in the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (1997). With a view to the special session of the General Assembly scheduled later that year to review the implementation of Agenda 21, the declaration represented a call to governments and the UN system to acknowledge UN Environment’s leadership role.

The General Assembly endorsed the Nairobi Declaration (2000), and reaffirmed that “UN Environment is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda.” This assessment was further corroborated with the continued UN reform agenda of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who advocated for strengthening the UN Environment’s role as “the focal point for harmonization and coordination of environment-related activities.” In October 1998, per the guidance of the SecretaryGeneral’s Task Force on environment and human settlements, the General Assembly put forth a set of recommendations that would further modify UN Environment’s mandate. As a result, the Executive Director of UN Environment was placed in charge of a new committee called the Environment Management Group. The key purpose of the Environment Management Group is to coordinate and facilitate access to relevant information and findings concerning the environment and human settlements, to ensure the most efficient and

cost-effective allocation of resources and information. The Nairobi Declaration also realigned UN Environment’s core mandate to ensure a more modern and

technological approach to environmental issues. It made UN Environment responsible for using the best available scientific methods and evidence to analyze global environmental trends, utilizing early warning systems, furthering the development of international environmental law and policy, monitoring and fostering Member State compliance with existing international environmental norms, strengthening its role in coordinating UN environmental activities, serving as a link between the scientific community and the UN, and providing key policy advice for UN bodies, governments, and other institutions. In 2002, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2000) called upon the UN Environment and its partners to cooperate more closely across sustainable development initiatives for the implementation of Agenda 21. UN Environment monitors the state of the global environment on both an international and regional scale and shares that information with interested parties. Under the direction of UNEA, UN Environment works to develop international environmental law and ensure the proper use of environmental information and instruments. To help achieve its mandate, UN Environment has the ability to create task forces and subsidiaries to implement environmental policies. However, the General Assembly or ECOSOC must approve any resolutions adopted by UNEA on environmental policy or creating new bodies.

## **About**

Sustainable Consumption and Production (known as SCP) is about doing more and better with less. It is also about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

We are currently consuming more resources than ever, exceeding the planet’s capacity for generation. In the meantime, waste and pollution grows, and the gap between rich and poor is widening. Health, education, equity and empowerment are all adversely affected. Crucially, SCP can contribute substantially to poverty alleviation and the transition towards low-carbon and green economies. To do this, SCP requires building cooperation among many different stakeholders as well as across sectors in all countries.

## **Sustainable consumption and production refers to**

**“The use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations”.**

Global consumption and production - which is the backbone of the global economy - is based on the use of natural resources and resources in a way that continues to have a detrimental effect on the world.

Economic and social progress over the past century has been accompanied by environmental degradation that threatens the very systems on which our future development - and indeed our survival - depends.

Few facts and statistics:

● Every year, an average of one-third of the food produced - equivalent to 1.3 trillion tons of about $ 1 trillion - ends up rotting in the bins of buyers and sellers, or spoiled due to poor transportation and harvesting.

● If people around the world switch to energy-efficient light bulbs the world can save US $ 120 billion annually.

● If the global population could reach 9.6 billion by 2050, it would take as many as three planets to provide the natural resources needed to support current lifestyles.

● The COVID-19 epidemic provides an opportunity for countries to develop recovery strategies that will transform current trends and transform our use and production methods into a more secure future.

As defined by the Oslo Symposium in 1994, sustainable use and production (SCP) is about "the use of related services and products, which responds to basic needs and brings better health while reducing the use of natural and toxic resources such as waste disposal and pollution during service life or product. at risk for the needs of future generations ”

The concept of sustainable use and production was later recognized in the Johannesburg Action Plan, adopted in 2002 at the World Conference on Sustainable Development (WSSD). At the same time, sustainable use and sustainability were identified as one of the three key objectives, and the essential needs, for sustainable development, and the eradication of poverty and the management of natural resources to promote economic and social development. It was acknowledged that significant changes in the way communities produce and eat are essential to achieving sustainable global development.

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation also called for all countries to promote sustainable use and production methods, with developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from this process, taking into

account Rio's policies, including, among other things, common sense but separate obligations as set out in Regulation 7. Rio's Environment and Development.

In addition, the Plan calls for Chapter 3 of its “Transformational Use and Production” mechanisms by governments, relevant international organizations, the private sector and all major stakeholders to play an active role in transforming sustainable use and production and, in particular, through Section 15, “Promote and develop the creation of a ten-year framework includesincreasingraising(10YFP) to support regional and national programs to accelerate the transition to sustainable use and production to promote social and economic development within the environment ".

A 10-year plan framework (10YFP) on sustainable use and production patterns was adopted at the Rio + 20 conference, in Section 226.

UNEP has been asked to act as a 10YFP Secretariat and to establish and manage a Trust Fund that will support the implementation of SCP in developing and emerging economies. (A / C.2 / 67 / L.45).

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) of 10YFP was established in May 2013, with the participation of 19 United Nations agencies. Its permanent chair is UNEP and its co-chair for the period 2013-2015 is the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Coordination Group has been providing strategic development ideas for the 10-year framework and prepared the “SCP in the SDG [Sustainable Development Goals] Focus Areas” document, released in June 2014. Key action areas of the

Inter-Agency Coordination Group includes increasing transparency within the UN and raising awareness outside the UN, increasing joint agency support for program implementation, conducting joint research and promoting the exchange of information and responding to the 10YFP Board.

SCP is a complete process and is about system change. It is built on three main objectives:

**Reducing environmental degradation in economic growth-** This is about doing better and better, increasing the social benefits from economic activities by reducing resource consumption, corruption and pollution throughout the life cycle while improving the quality of life. ‘More’ is delivered in terms of goods and services, which has a ‘small’ impact in terms of resource use, environmental degradation, waste and pollution.

**Life cycle thinking is used-** This is about enhancing sustainable resource management and achieving resource efficiency in both the production and use

of life cycles, including resource extraction, intermittent production, distribution, marketing, utilization, waste disposal and re-use of products and services.

**Balancing opportunities in developing countries and "leapfrogging"-** The SCP contributes to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the goals of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In developing countries, the SCP offers opportunities such as building new markets, green and decent jobs and efficiency, productive and efficient natural resource management. It is an opportunity for me to “connect” with more efficient, environmentally friendly and competitive technologies, through the stages of inefficient, polluting, and ultimately costly development followed by many developed countries.

## **Sustainable procurement**

Public spending, which accounts for an average of 12% of GDP in OECD countries, up to 30% in developing countries, has significant purchasing power. Transferring money to more sustainable goods and services can help drive markets towards innovation and sustainability, thus allowing for a change in the environmental economy.

## **What is SPP?**

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) "is a process by which civil society organizations meet their needs for goods, services, services and services in a way that generates value for money in a life cycle in terms of profit not only for the organization before but also for society and the economy.

Through the SPP, governments can lead by example and deliver on key policy objectives and send strong market signals. Sustainable procurement allows governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve resource efficiency and support renewable energy. Good social outcomes include poverty reduction, improved equity and respect for basic levels of employment. From an economic point of view, the SPP can monetize, reduce costs, support the transfer of skills and technology and encourage innovation by local producers.

## **How does the UN Environment work in the SPP?**

UN Environment recently merged two major projects into sustainable public procurement. The first is Eap Green, which started in 2013-2016 and affects Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Belarus. Second, the SPP and

Eco-labeling Project (SPPEL) started in 2013-2017 with activities in Vietnam, Brazil, Mongolia, Morocco, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Argentina and Chile.

## **Making the switch to sustainable use and production patterns**

With the support and support of the European Commission, UN Environment has coordinated the CHANGE programs in three regions, which aim to make sustainable use and production patterns more sustainable.

The 12th goal is closely related to producers and consumers, which shows the reliance on better products and more information for those who want that. The epidemic seems to have highlighted the planned inequalities; for example, Latin America and the Caribbean are in a much weaker state than most other countries. Prior to the epidemic, ECLAC (Latin American and Caribbean Economic Commission) predicted that “the region will grow by about 1.3% by 2020.” As a result of the crisis, a GDP decline of at least 1.8% is expected. In addition, as a result of isolation and social isolation, decreased working hours and wages, demand for goods and services has diminished. The impact on many sectors of the economy, especially in services closely related to the circles, is significant. Grown at the same time, it may be an opportunity to change the way things are done. Consumer markets are easily weakened by the epidemic. People are interested in their impact, they buy a lot in the area to help companies and people close to their communities. Consumer sensitivity is rising, as there are companies that grow glass and the public sector, demanding more responsibility for their actions and rehabilitation programs, which can be applauded or ridiculed. It does not mean that consumers now have a complete understanding of sustainability, but it does bring the conversation back to the table in an unprecedented way. People now also worry about the social impact, not just on the environment. Employers asked their employees in Mexico for a holiday instead of economic support during the closure, which increased communication on social media and harmed society. Eventually, even sales dropped dramatically, and some stores had to close. Epidemic situations force businesses to rethink and re-evaluate their performance. For example, companies such as GM and Ford have shifted from photography to respirators. In traditional companies, it will be difficult to survive.

While the epidemic has accelerated some new changes and sustainability trends, sustainable business models are still unsettled.

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