



UNITED
NATIONS

ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

UNEP/EA.6/5



United Nations
Environment
Programme

Distr.: [Distribution]
[Date]

Original: English

United Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment Programme
Sixth session
Nairobi, 26 February–1 March 2024
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

International environmental policy and governance
issues Agenda item title

Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/1 on Animal welfare environment and sustainable development nexus

Report of the Executive Director

Introduction

1. The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) on 2 March 2022 adopted resolution 5/1 on Animal welfare-environment-sustainable development nexus, among others. UNEA requested the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of financial and human resources, to:
2. Produce a report, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), as well as with the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development, by analyzing the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development, identifying key partners and stakeholders to consult, where relevant, in the preparation of the report, and preparing a summary of the findings for consideration by Member States;
3. Submit the aforementioned report for peer review by Member States;
4. Work in partnership with members of the Quadripartite Alliance, through the strengthened relationship of the United Nations Environment Programme with the Alliance, including on matters related to animal welfare and its nexus with human health and the environment, through a One Health approach; and
5. Report to the Environment Assembly at its sixth session on the findings of the report.

I. Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/1

6. To compensate for the lack of outside resources, UNEP allocated resources to support implementation of the resolution from the UNEP Environment Fund (USD 100,000) and UNEP Nature Thematic Fund allocations (USD 58,000) during the reporting period. Actions undertaken in support of the Resolutions are highlighted below.
7. **Establishment of the Animal Welfare Environment and Sustainable Development (AWESDE) Nexus Steering Group.** UNEP established an AWESDE Nexus Steering group comprising of representatives of UNEP, FAO, WHO, WOAH and OHHLEP. The AWESDE Nexus

Steering group took on the responsibility for oversight and guidance on the implementation of this resolution. UNEP convened four meetings of AWESDE Nexus Steering group. The primary output of this group during this reporting period was a scoping report with recommendations for full implementation of the resolution.

8. **Development of report on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development:** The report was commissioned to determine a detailed methodology, process, timeline and budget needs to implement the resolution and produce a comprehensive and consultative nexus report based on best practices. In addition, a survey and literature review of relevant existing documentation were conducted to inform a full nexus methodological approach. It is important to note that a limited amount of published and peer reviewed literature that includes all three elements of the nexus is currently available. The report provides a recommended methodological approach with a range of possible formats with different resource requirements. It also provides a proposed annotated outline for the areas of inquiry to be included in the final report. The report is currently undergoing review by the AWESDE Nexus Steering group and an informational session with member states is planned in early 2024.

9. An annex of the report identifies how the AWESDE Nexus relates to international guidelines published by UNEP, WOAHA, FAO, WHO and other organizations as relevant to the Resolution. Some of the examples cited include the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and FAO's ongoing work related to food systems transformation. The work of these organizations is central to the scope of the resolution.

10. **Stakeholder consultation and engagement:** As requested in paragraph 1 and 3 of the resolution, UNEP engaged with Member States and other stakeholders to capture input and feedback to produce the report. A call for information was launched to gather views and evidence from the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) (13 July 2023) and the AWESDE Nexus Steering group members to inform the report.

11. UNEP also participated in relevant meetings and workshops, including when requested by Member States, to provide updates and gather inputs for the analysis. This included the third meeting of the friends of resolution working group held in Diani, Kenya (April 2023), the International Major Groups and Stakeholders preparatory meeting for the Joint Retreat of the UNEA 6 and CPR Bureau in Morocco (July 2023), the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference in Rwanda (September 2023), and the IV One Welfare World Conference in Spain (October 2023).

II. Lessons learned

12. UNEP continues to derive value from the long and well established collaboration with FAO, WHO and WOAHA for the implementation resolution. FAO and WOAHA have clear mandates to work on animal welfare in the context of their organizational missions and are also keen to work on the AWESDE nexus, contingent on availability of resources.

III. Recommendations and suggested actions

13. Member States may wish to:

(a) Take note of the report, supporting the implementation of the Environment Assembly resolution 5.2/1 and its recommended scope, process, timelines and budget required to implement the resolution;

(b) Invite Governments, the private sector, foundations, and other organizations to support the implementation of the recommendation in the report through voluntary financial contributions.