

**UNEP**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly**  
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Statement by

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## Check against delivery!

Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As mentioned already in the statement by the EU and its Member States this morning it is the right moment to discuss the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda at UNEA2. Who else, than UNEP - the custodian for the environment in the UN system - should have clear ideas how to support the implementation of the environment related SDGs.

We cannot achieve sustainable development unless environmental aspects are fully taken into account – this also in light of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Four important points:

- Mainstreaming of environment across implementation plans and activities is crucial – the SDGs are interlinked.
- Therefore we as Environment Ministers have to work together with colleagues from other policy areas in order to deliver on the environment dimension.
- We must involve all stakeholders and civil society in the implementation of the SDGs – at all levels.
- UNEA should regularly review delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In Austria we have launched the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with a decision of the Austrian Council of Ministers, based on a national stocktaking exercise. In line with the universal, integrated and interrelated nature of the 2030 Agenda, we are taking a mainstreaming approach. Aligning our national policy framework with the SDGs, we will approach national policies through an “SDG lens”.

Most of our national policy frameworks rely on well-established multi-stakeholder processes. These multi-stakeholder fora will be key instruments in mainstreaming the SDGs.

My Ministry, competent authority for agriculture, forestry, environment, water – more than half of the SDG agenda - is currently preparing the thematic framework for a draft action plan for the 2017-2020 period.

I believe that national implementation efforts should also be supported by cooperation between countries and between the respective competent authorities. One good example: the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) is currently developing a peer learning mechanism for 2030 Agenda implementation.

In 2014, we launched a “European Sustainable Development Week” together with my French and German colleagues. From 2016 onwards this week will serve as a

catalyst and awareness raising mechanism for the implementation of SDGs in Europe.

The closing event of the 2016 European Sustainable Development Week will be devoted to “Sustainable Development Goals for a Green Future: Investing for Future Generations”. The event will take place at the Vienna Headquarters of the United Nations on 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.

Representatives from Youth organizations from all over Europe will engage in discussions on the SDGs, focusing on active integration and participation of young people in decision-making processes that deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

As a symbolic highlight we will plant an SDG alley, with 17 trees in the center of the UN Vienna headquarters. Like our work on implementing the SDGs, we expect them to thrive and grow larger in the coming years, benefiting future generations.

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