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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Department of Economic

institutional and policy frameworks requirements; identifying gaps in policies and practices, etc.); (b) Identifying opportunities for building partnerships for expanding waste management services; (c) Developing communities of practice for scaling up of best practices (over the years, a number of good practices in sustainable waste management have emerged. Actions leading to scaling up of these practices are required. These actions could range from policy reforms to infrastructure development to raising public awareness); and (d) Empowering cities in addressing economics of solid waste management having a better understanding of policy frameworks and economic instruments.

II. Opening Session

7. In his opening speech, the Secretary of State in charge of Water and Environment of the Kingdom of Morocco focused on the importance of an integrated vision for solid waste management and the need to involve all key stakeholders. He stressed that solid waste must not be considered as a liability but rather an asset that can provide an opportunity for investments with positive social and economic outcomes while protecting the environment. He finally underscored the importance of involving the private sector with supporting legal and institutional frameworks.

8. Referring to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Ms Kenza Kaouakib-Robinson, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), informed that CSD 19 is focusing on addressing the challenges and obstacles impeding the implementation of an internationally agreed agenda in five thematic areas that include waste management and sustainable consumption and production patterns, both closely linked to Integrated Solid waste Management (ISWM). She emphasized that ISWM and the 3R strategy, which call for a broader, more holistic way of viewing waste management are unique in that they integrate waste management with the key paradigms of sustainable production and consumption, greening the economies, and improving resource efficiency, which together could make a significant contribution towards sustainable development. She emphasized the importance of addressing the particular challenges of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). She expressed her hope that outcomes of this Consultative Meeting will provide practical solutions and meaningful input to CSD 19 and Rio+20.

9. In his opening statement, Mr. Graham Alabaster, Chief, Water Sanitation & Infrastructure Section, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), highlighted the changing urban landscape in Africa and the fact that seventy-two percent of Africa's urban population live in low-income areas. He indicated that this vulnerable group should be considered in planning interventions for solid waste management. He emphasized that solid waste management provided a good opportunity for linking service provision to income generation through recycling and reuse. He indicated that the meeting provides a good opportunity to form regional alliances and share expertise and experiences.

10. Ms. Khalida Bouzar, Deputy Director UNEP/DTIE indicated that the waste sector is facing four sets of challenges: the increasing growth in the quantity and complexity of waste

streams; the increasing risks of wastes to human health and ecosystems; economic unattractiveness of large scale reuse/recycling due to prevailing pricing systems and the high cost and technical requirements of creating waste management infrastructure. She also indicated that while developing waste management systems, it was important to take into consideration the informal sector. She also emphasized the need for national waste management strategies to take into consideration the needs and constraints at local level.

III. Importance of Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM)

11. An increasing challenge compounding existing resource limitations is the accumulation of waste resulting from the use of resources and leading to resource degradation, with consequent adverse impact on human health and ecosystems. The more economic growth there is, the more resources are consumed and waste generated. A strategic approach is therefore needed to address resource consumption and waste generation in a lifecycle perspective, and to stress the preventive principles such as integrated solid waste management (ISWM) and 3Rs.

12. In order to strengthen the information and knowledge base on waste quantities and composition, and their linkages with economic growth (such as GDP), countries should actively consider inventorying waste generation. For this purpose, it may be prudent to set up a commonly agreed, understood, and measurable set of key performance indicators (KPIs). The KPIs could assist each national government to track progress, facilitating in particular the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation and allowing for inter-country benchmarking.

13. To mainstream ISWM in the national economy, countries should create an enabling environment of sound policies, appropriate technologies, and effective institutional and financial frameworks towards: promoting waste reduction and segregation; improving the efficiency of collection and transport of waste; setting up community recycling facilities; ensuring participation of the informal sector; shifting from open dumping to secured sanitary

this direction, especially for the African region. Various deliberations and discussions in this regard led to the following observations and recommendations.

Policy

16. There is a need to emphasize national level policies on decentralization and empowerment of Local Authorities (LA). These policies should recognize the importance of city-specific strategic action plans for ISWM. The development of effective action plans requires appropriate data, adequate institutional capacity as well as mechanisms.

17. The term waste is not often clearly defined in many African countries. There is a need to have a specific waste and resource management framework so as to achieve better recognition and relative prioritization. Policy integration at Apex level should be supportive e.g. health related policies.

18. Waste management related policies should encourage regional solutions and take advantage of economies of scale. Currently, there is a disconnect between policies at national and local level and therefore a dire need to harmonize policies across all levels. This could be achieved through sub-regional dialogue on policies.

19. Policies should address rural areas (relevant to Africa) and not be limited to urban areas alone. There is need to improve on the implementation and enforcement of policies and regulations.

20. Clear policies, frameworks and operational guidelines are needed to further engage the private sector. At the same time, policies that assign economic value to waste-pickers and field personnel need to be developed for their recognition and upliftment.

21. Policies should address rising concerns about the regulation of electronic or Ewaste. Waste management related policies should also address disposal of used vehicles through vehicle retirement policies and vehicle import policies. There is an equal need to improve on policy and enforcement of transboundary movement of wastes. Appropriate capacity building and training of custom authorities could provide significant benefit in tracking the transboundary movements of defunct electronic products and retired vehicles.

22. One of the most critical issues is the absence of strong political commitment to or political ownership of sustainable solid waste management and related sustainability issues – public health and the environment, reflected in the lack of accurate data and information on waste (waste generation, composition, collection, recycling and disposal). In most cases, data are generated from discrete donor driven projects.

Institutional

23. There are currently a multiplicity of institutions with overlaps, ambiguities on responsibilities and jurisdictions. Coordinated action of various national and local institutions

measures favourable for scaling up such partnerships across the region.

be achieved by building on existing networks, developing new ones where necessary, and working with the UN system, International Financing Institutions and other partners.

8. Well designed integrated solid waste management systems can be a more profitable