U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Washington, D.C.

September 14th, 2016

EPA – UNEP MOU Signing with Administrator McCarthy and UNEP Executive Director Erik Solheim

DATE:	September 16, 2016
LOCATION:	Alvin L. Alm Conference Room
MEETING TIME:	10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
FROM:	Hodayah Finman, Senior Adviser, OITA/OGAP

I. PURPOSE

This is the first meeting between **YOU** and the new United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director (ED), Erik Solheim, who replaced former Executive Director Achim Steiner in June, 2016. **YOU** and ED Solheim will discuss the top priorities for your respective agencies and areas of past and future collaboration. At the end of the meeting, **YOU** and ED Solheim will sign a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EPA and UNEP, replacing the first MOU between the two agencies signed in 2011.

II. PARTICIPANTS

EPA Attendees

- **YOU**
- Jane Nishida, OITA Acting Assistant Administrator
- Acting AA Janet McCabe, OAR
- Assistant Administrator Jim Jones, OCSPP
- Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management Lek Kadeli, ORD
- Principle Deputy Assistant Administrator Mike Shapiro, OW
- Deputy General Counsel, Ethan Shenkman, OGC
- Walker Smith, OITA Office of Global Affairs and Policy Director
- AA Mathy Stanislaus, OLEM
- Carol Ann Siciliano, OGC
- Martin Dieu, OITA Chief of Staff
- Hodayah Finman, OITA, OGAP International Organizations Program Senior Advisor

UNEP Attendees

- Erik Solheim, Executive Director
- Patricia (Patty) Beneke, Regional Director and Representative for North America
- Fatou Ndoye, Deputy Regional Director
- Adam Hodge, Press Secretary to the Executive Director
- Lisa Svensson, Director, Global Marine Programme
- Laura Fuller, Information Officer, Regional Office for North America
- Hilary French, Programme Officer, Regional Office for North America

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III. RUN OF SHOW

10:00	Introduction of **YOU** and Executive Director Solheim
10:03	Introduction of UNEP staff members – Brief explanation of their role and collaboration with EPA
10:06	Introduction of key EPA staff members– one sentence explanation of their role and collaboration with UNEP
10:10	Overview of EPA priorities and programs
10:25	Overview of UNEP priorities and programs
10:35	MOUs are brought out, photographer enters and sets up
10:37	Signing of the MOU, photo opportunity while MOUs are signed
10:40	Standing photo opportunity in front of EPA and UNEP Flags, with MOUs
10:43	Closing and thanks
10:45	End of meeting

IV. TALKING POINTS

- A strong working relationship between EPA and UNEP enhances global efforts to protect human health and the environment. We are pleased to reaffirm this collaboration with the signing of a renewed MOU at the end of this meeting.

- I am happy we have an opportunity to discuss how EPA and UNEP have worked together in the past and areas our collaboration will continue in the future.

Air Quality and Climate

- This is a crucial time to address climate change moving forward commitments outlined in the Paris Agreement and I am proud we are now a party to this landmark agreement. One pivotal next step is adopting the HFC phasedown amendment in October and we are working closely with the UNEP Ozone secretariat to make sure this amendment is adopted.

- I also want to express my appreciation for UNEP's longstanding leadership on climate efforts, including its work as the secretariat to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). I am especially pleased we were able to join forces for the March 2016 Global Methane Forum, in Washington, organized by CCAC and the Global Methane Initiative.

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- Working together we can make change happen. For example, following the WHO report that air pollution contributes to one in eight deaths globally, EPA was able to advance a United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-1) resolution that resulted in a report on global air quality policies and best practices. Now UNEP has integrated air quality into its programs and continues to promote air pollution as a priority to environment ministries everywhere.

Chemicals and Waste

- I would also like to highlight our close work with UNEP on chemicals management, both through multilateral environmental agreements and partnerships. In particular the strong collaboration between EPA and UNEP was a key factor in developing the Minamata convention on mercury. We are pleased to be a party to this convention and look forward to its entering into force in 2017 and ensuring its effective implementation to protect human health and the environment.

- On partnership activity, UNEP and EPA achieved dramatic success in addressing lead exposure, first through the nearly universal elimination of lead in gasoline under the Partnership on Clean Fuels and Vehicles, and now through the Global Alliance on Lead Paint.

Resource Efficiency

- We strongly support UNEP's focus on resource efficiency because of the cross cutting environmental benefits that can be achieved. We are working with you on this effort primarily through the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP). We were pleased to help strengthen the 10YFP's mandate at UNEA-2, particularly through a resolution on the prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste.

Water and Marine

- Another priority we share is, of course, on oceans and water quality. EPA strongly supported the UNEA resolutions on marine plastic litter and microplastics. To that end we are expanding our work with the UNEP Caribbean Environment Program to pilot our Trash-Free Waters program in Jamaica and Panama.

- EPA also works with UNEP on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and introduced methods to mobilize resources for wastewater treatment infrastructure for the Caribbean region.

Research and Governance

- Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't highlight our important cross-cutting work with UNEP on environmental governance and science. EPA and UNEP collaborate on research projects which enhance the sharing of data, by improving public access to scientific information and promoting data-driven environmental standards.

- A foundation of our shared work is strengthening environmental rule of law. As the US National Focal Point for the Montevideo Programme. During UNEA-2, EPA led the U.S. negotiations of a resolution on the midterm review of the Montevideo Programme IV, to focus UNEP's efforts at the national level on strengthening environmental laws, institutions and enforcement.

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V. BACKGROUND

EPA has a longstanding and successful relationship with UNEP which includes numerous substantive partnerships. In 2011, an intial MOU was signed between then-Administrator Lisa Jackson and then-UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner at the UNEP Governing Council Meeting/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in Nairobi, Kenya. The 2016 MOU updates areas of cooperation on the following: strengthening environmental laws, national institutional capacity, and national governance; creating healthy communities; transitioning to a green economy; responding to climate change and global challenges; and providing scientific leadership. In addition to the MOU, EPA has a modest cooperative agreement with UNEP that is structured to enable all EPA offices to work with UNEP on specific projects.

YOU have not previously met Executive Director Solheim, who was appointed to the position of UNEP Executive Director in May, 2016 and assumed the role in June. OITA Acting Assistant Administrator Jane Nishida and U.S. State Department representatives participated in a bilateral meeting with Mr. Solheim during UNEA-2 in Nairobi in May 2016.

UNEP was established in 1972 and addresses environmental issues at the global and regional levels for the United Nations. UNEP has six regional offices and is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP is funded primarily through member state contributions; the U.S. gives $10 million annually. Additional programmatic activity is funded through supplemental trust funds or cooperative agreements.

At Rio+20 in 2012, UNEP was strengthened and became a universal membership body. This change replaced UNEP's previous governing council with the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) which meets every two years in Nairobi. At UNEA, member states set UNEP's agenda, approve its work plan and budget, and raise the profile of emerging issues. At UNEA-1 the U.S. focused on raising the profile of air quality, resulting in a UNEA resolution on 'enhancing the role of UNEP in promoting air quality'. At UNEA-2, the U.S. introduced a resolution on the 'prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste', marking the first time this issue has been raised in a multilateral environment ministers meeting.

EPA believes UNEP's strengths and core competencies are in its convening power and brand recognition, particularly with developing country environment ministries. It also provides Secretariat services to multilateral environmental agreements and voluntary partnerships.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

1. UNEP Executive Director Erik Solheim Bio
2. EPA UNEP Highlights Handout
3. Additional Background on EPA–UNEP Cooperation
4. EPA UNEP 2016 MOU

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