Attachment 3: Additional Background on EPA–UNEP Cooperation

EPA works with UNEP on a broad range of issues, including:

Climate and Air Quality

- The U.S. was a founding partner of the Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, for which UNEP serves as the Secretariat. EPA has provided key technical support or served a lead partner on several CCAC initiatives. EPA has been especially involved in the Cookstove initiative, the Health initiative, the HFC initiative, the Supporting National Action Planning for Action on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SNAP) initiative, the Oil & Gas initiative (which has launched the Oil & Gas Methane Partnership), the Assessments initiative, and the Waste initiative.

- EPA is also investing resources to develop and support programs, such as the Global Methane Initiative and the Megacity Partnerships with Ghana and Chile, which both complement the work of the CCAC and promote scale-up of programs that have a measurable impact on climate and public health. Though the Megacity Partnerships, EPA is collaborating with the World Bank, UNEP, WHO, the Stockholm Environment Institute and others to leverage resources and expertise to develop an integrated approach to address air quality impacts on climate and public health. These collaborations are exploring how emerging sensor technologies, as well as newer satellite data, can help governments fill key data gaps. UNEP is playing an important role in the development and deployment of low-cost sensor technology for application in developing countries.

- EPA was a founding partner in the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, which succeeded in the phasing out of leaded gasoline in most countries of the world. The PCFV is now focused on developing harmonized fuels and vehicles standards, with a focus on a systems approach to maximize the air quality benefits of low sulfur fuels. In partnership with UNEP, EPA provides technical and policy advice and participates in stakeholder outreach, particularly in East Africa.

- EPA is on the Steering Committee of the Global Adaptation Network (GAN), a UNEP program. The GAN's objective is to help build climate resilience of vulnerable communities, ecosystems and economies through the mobilization of knowledge on adaptation. It aims to create links between existing initiatives of the GAN and other knowledge-sharing initiatives, facilitating access to their services. Specifically, EPA leads the discussion and adoption of "sustained learning exchanges" to facilitate this exchange between sources of knowledge and communities.

Chemicals and Waste:

- One of EPA's high priority efforts is through the UNEP Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, which is working to have all countries enact lead paint laws. Lead is a neurotoxin that robs children of their potential to learn and costs countries billions of dollars in lost GDP. We recently worked with the UNEP Chemicals Branch in Geneva and the UNEP Regional Office for Africa to plan a workshop to promote lead paint laws in East Africa.

- EPA plays a leadership role in the UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership, in support of its goal to protect human health and the environment from exposure to anthropogenic sources of mercury.

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EPA serves as the co-chair for Partnership Advisory Group and as Lead of the Products and Chlor-Alkali Partnership Areas. The U.S. has taken a number of steps domestically to reduce the use of mercury in a wide range of products, including measuring devices, batteries, and other products, and has worked internationally to devise solutions to reduce exposure to mercury from small-scale artisanal gold mining. Under the EPA-UNEP cooperative funding agreement, OCSPP has committed funding to update an important source of global mercury data—UNEP's 2006 Summary of Supply, Trade, and Demand Information on Mercury—to further support UNEP and our global efforts to reduce mercury.

Resource Efficiency

- EPA serves as the U.S. National Focal Point to for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production, the only tangible outcome of the Rio+ 20 conference, for which UNEP is the Secretariat. It was welcomed by the U.S. as an opportunity to promote efforts among both public and private sector stakeholders, and to serve as a framework to support a range of stakeholder-driven and stakeholder-led initiatives without the charged atmosphere that often accompanies multilateral engagements. EPA has been engaged in several 10YFP activities, including projects on sustainable public procurement, life cycle assessments, and food waste prevention and reduction.

- EPA recently supported UNEP's mandate in this area by introducing a resolution adopted at the 2016 UN Environmental Assembly on the 'prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste.' **YOU** are a founding member of an international coalition of leaders in this area, the Champions of 12.3, referring to Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 target to 'halve per capital global food waste and reduce food loss.' EPA has been recognized for its leadership in this area and for the national goal to reduce food loss and waste, announced jointly with USDA in 2015.

Marine and Water

- EPA is a party to and serves as the U.S. Technical Focal Point for the Land-Based Sources of Pollution Protocol under the Cartagena Convention. EPA works with UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme on the implementation of the Convention and Protocol activities, as well as to pilot EPA's Trash Free Waters program with Panama and Jamaica.

- EPA works closely with UNEP on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), for which serves as Secretariat. Through the GPA, EPA participates in UNEP's Global Partnership on Marine Litter by sharing best practices from the Trash Free Waters program. With the other two GPA partnerships on Nutrient Management and Wastewater, EPA has introduced aspects of the U.S. State Revolving Fund in mobilizing investments in wastewater treatment infrastructure for the Caribbean region.

Governance

- EPA has played a significant role in encouraging UNEP to take concrete action globally to promote improved environmental laws and institutions at the national level, including strengthened environmental law enforcement.

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- EPA led negotiations on behalf of the U.S. on the UNEA-2 resolution 2/19 regarding the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law and earlier on Governing Council Decision 27/9 regarding environmental rule of law, which requested UNEP to work at the national level to strengthen environmental laws, institutions, and enforcement. EPA also serves as the U.S. National Focal Point for UNEP's Montevideo Programme.

- Through the UNEP budget process and in the UNEA resolution 2/19, EPA and the State Department have encouraged UNEP to strengthen its work addressing air pollution including by providing capacity building assistance on air pollution law.

- EPA also collaborates with UNEP on environmental law-strengthening, including addressing the problem of lead in paint, cooperation on the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement and associated regional networks, an environmental code drafting project in Cambodia, and a seaports enforcement program in Africa. EPA also advised UNEP in the drafting of a guide book on innovative national efforts regarding access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

Research, Data and Technical Partnerships

EPA works with UNEP on a number of technical partnerships, including:

- Design and implementation of UNEP Live, a web-based environmental assessment platform, to provide access to national, regional and global assessments and data to improve environmental decision-making.

- Development of new methods to test harmful air pollutants and greenhouse gases from stationary sources. This will help countries around the world get the data they need to establish and enforce rules that reduce air pollution;

- Creation of a framework for knowledge management that allows for improved interoperability of data, models, decision support tools, assessment mechanisms, and online interfaces. This effort has improved public access to scientific information and is leading to cost and efficiency savings in the development of new decision tools, which will help countries around the world to make better and more sustainable environmental choices.

- Research on emissions, health and climate impacts of cooking and heating with biomass or coal stoves, leading the development of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) protocols and standards for laboratory testing of cookstoves, and providing critical support to build stove testing capacity around the world through international Regional Testing and Knowledge Centers (RTKCs) co-sponsored by the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (UNEP is a member).

- Through the GEO AquaWatch Community of Practice (UNEP is a member), EPA is using satellite information to develop an information dissemination system that will allow countries to quickly identify emerging algal blooms and get public health advisories out to the public.

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