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## MEMORANDUM

**FOR/TO :** **The Undersecretary for Special Concerns**  
and concurrent **Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau**

**The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects**  
and concurrent **Director, Forest Management Bureau**

**The Bureau Directors**  
EMB, LMB, MGB, and ERDB

**FROM :** **THE UNDERSECRETARY**  
*Policy, Planning and International Affairs*

**SUBJECT :** **NEW SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)**

**DATE :** **AUG 02 2021**

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This pertains to the herein email dated July 13, 2021 from Assistant Secretary Noralyn Jubaira-Baja, Office of the United Nations and International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs, regarding the recent senior appointments of the following in the UN Environment Programme (UNEP):

1. Ms. Mirey Atallah – *Deputy Director of Ecosystem Division*
2. Ms. Tatjana Hema – *Coordinator for UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the Barcelona Convention*
3. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez – *Regional Director and Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean*
4. Mr. James Curlin – *Head of the OzonAction Branch in the Law Division*

For your information and reference.

  
ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

MEMO NO. 2021 - 550

Let's Go Green!!!



Office of the Secretary &lt;osec@denr.gov.ph&gt;

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**DFA-UNIO Letter on recent senior appointments in the UNEP**

1 message

**Division 2 UNIO** <unio.div2@dfa.gov.ph>

Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 6:05 PM

To: DENR Office of the Secretary &lt;osec@denr.gov.ph&gt;, Office of the Secretary &lt;osec@climate.gov.ph&gt;, osec@dhsud.gov.ph, NEDA Office of the Secretary &lt;osec@neda.gov.ph&gt;

Dear Sir/Madam,

Good day.

Respectfully attached is DFA-UNIO's letter informing your Office of the recent senior appointments in the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Thank you and kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

*Sincerely yours,***Division 2 - Environment and Climate Change  
Office of United Nations and International Organizations  
Department of Foreign Affairs**2330 Roxas Blvd, Pasay City 1300  
Republic of the Philippines

Phone: +632 8834 4896 or +632 8834 3252

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 **2021.07.13 (L) New senior appointments in the UNEP (1).pdf**  
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**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS**

**OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

13 July 2021

Sir:

The Department respectfully informs your Office of the following **new senior appointments** in the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**:

**1. Ms. Mirey Atallah - Deputy Director of Ecosystem Division**

Ms. Atallah has been working in the UN system for almost 15 years and joins UN from UNDP in Kinshasa, where she has spent the past 5 years supporting the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in running its National REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) Fund, a US\$200 million multi-donor trust fund aiming to implement the investment plan to reduce human pressure on the second largest tropical forest basin.

Prior to that, from 2013 to 2016, she was the Senior Programme Officer at the UN-REDD Secretariat, supporting National Programmes from initial invitation all the way through evaluations, working with UNDP, UNEP and FAO to deliver quality support to 64 partner countries. From 2006, she served as the GEF regional technical advisor to UNDP, supporting countries in accessing sustainable land management, biodiversity and international waters funding. A land use planner and agronomist by training, Ms. Atallah is a bird enthusiast. She is a national of Lebanon and holds a Masters' degree in Environmental Policy from the AgroParisTech University in Paris and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the American University of Beirut. She is fluent in English, French, Arabic and confident in Spanish.

**2. Ms. Tatjana Hema - Coordinator for UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the Barcelona Convention**

Ms. Hema has served UNEP for 18 years and has strong experience in intergovernmental processes, especially in the area of marine and coastal environment, backed by solid scientific knowledge on chemical engineering and marine pollution issues. Since joining UNEP in 2003 she has covered UN assignments in different roles in the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)/Barcelona Convention Secretariat, addressing policy, governance and institutional aspects of MAP, as well as marine pollution assessment and control. She has served as the MAP Deputy Coordinator since 2016.

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*(rgm/jes) UNIO-2-4606-2021*

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Before starting her journey in UNEP, she served for 12 years as a professor at Tirana University and 5 years as a Senior Manager in the National Environment Agency and Deputy Minister of Environment in Albania. In 2016, she was awarded the UNEP Baobab Staff Award in the category "Environmental Service Award", given to those who demonstrate outstanding effort and dedication in their fields of expertise to enhance environmental sustainability and conservation at local, national, regional or international levels. Ms. Hema holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tirana, obtained in 1994 and a Masters' degree in Environmental Management and Technology from the Federal Polytechnic University of Lausanne, obtained in 1995. She is a national of Albania and speaks English, French and Albanian.

**3. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez - Regional Director and Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean**

Ms. Alvarez brings to this position more than 25 years of political, management and technical expertise, including her experience of 14 years with the Government of Uruguay. She has previously served as Regional Director of the Basel and Stockholm Coordinating Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean for Capacity Building and Transfer of Technology, leading negotiations on behalf of her region in multiple occasions. At UNEP, she has held various roles including as the first Regional Sub-Programme Coordinator for Chemicals and Waste for the Latin America and Caribbean region, within the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariat and as Acting Chief of the Chemicals and Health Branch. Currently, Ms. Alvarez is the Head of the Knowledge and Risk Unit of the Economy Division. Under her leadership, the science-policy-action nexus on chemicals and waste has significantly grown, bringing into critical partners such as governments, civil society, and private sector. She is a chemist by training, specialized in pharmacy, and has worked over her career on national, regional and international programmes. She is a national of Uruguay.

**4. Mr. James Curlin - Head of the OzonAction Branch in the Law Division**

Mr. Curlin's career has progressively evolved at UNEP since 1993 and been centred on UNEP's role as an Implementing Agency of the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund. After first working for OzonAction as a consultant (1993-1995), he served as a P2 Associate Information Officer (1995-1996), P3 Information Officer (1996-2003), and then as P4 Information Officer (2003-2007) responsible for the information clearinghouse. He then worked as a P4 Programme Officer in charge of capacity building services (2007-2010) and served as the interim P5 Network and Policy Manager (2009-2010) while that post was vacant. He was later appointed P5 Senior Environmental Affairs Officer responsible for OzonAction's Regional Networks of Ozone Officers and policy issues (2010-2019). During that period, Mr. Curlin also led OzonAction as Interim Head between 2011 and 2012. Since 1 April 2019, he has been the Acting Head of OzonAction Branch. Prior to joining UNEP, he worked on pollution prevention for SAIC, an environmental consultancy in Washington, D.C.

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He also worked on hazardous waste issues for the National Governor's Association, a public-sector policy organization. Mr. Curlin is a national of the USA, and has a B.A. in Political Science from the College of Charleston, South Carolina.

With my best wishes.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

  
**NORALYN JUBAIRA-BAJA**  
Assistant Secretary

**DISTRIBUTION LIST:**

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