

EU/MS comments on Timelines for Resolutions

UNEP ASC-4

Documents:

*Note on the process of the background document for the 2017 UNEA,
Updated CPR calendar and roadmap for 2017 UNEA*

Background Document

Documents: Outline of the 2017 UNEA background document on Pollution, Note on the process of the background document for the 2017 UNEA

Comments:

- In order to come to successful and actionable outcomes of UNEA-3, which is shorter and organized back to back with the OECP, EU/MS believe that it is important for MS to use their time effectively and focus their discussions on actionable outcomes, related to the theme.
- One way to achieve this, would be to limit the number of resolutions to the extent possible.
- As indicated earlier at CPR meetings:
 - EU/MS believe that the progress reports on previous UNEA resolutions could be limited to 1 resolution, noting the progress made and should not contain extensive follow up actions/initiatives unrelated to the UNEA 3 theme.
 - EU/MS are open to address a limited number of topics or flagship initiatives related to the UNEA-3 theme through resolutions.
 - The choice of topics to be dealt with through resolutions should follow the criteria EU/MS already put forward for UNEA outcomes:
 - Global relevance and a link with the UNEA-3 theme (though actions may be at the local or regional level) ;
 - Possibility to come to an appealing and meaningful result at UNEA-3;
 - Added value of the Environment Assembly and UN Environment Programme;
 - Feasibility to result in meaningful and tangible action, partnership or initiatives or useful directions to UNEP.
 - Link with SDGs to be reviewed in 2018
 - We also suggest to add the following two criteria for the selection of topics, so they:
 - be restricted to areas where UNEA can provide useful guidance to UNEP (e.g. filling specific knowledge gaps, share best practices, etc) or where concrete steps can be taken in the multilateral arena.
 - help regrouping sub-topics in a comprehensive manner to avoid the multiplication of resolutions;
- With regard to the timelines suggested for submission of resolutions, EU/MS believe that in view of the discussions on the background document and the outcomes of UNEA-3, it might be useful to provide more time to MS to consider what areas of pollution should usefully be addressed through resolutions. Ideally, MS would take into account the background document as well as the progress reports following from UNEA-2.
- We would therefore like to suggest that the deadlines would be moved as follows:
 - 20 June: deadline for submission of suggestions on areas of pollution/themes to be addressed by resolution
 - 8 September: deadline for submission of resolutions
 - 16 October: translated submissions distributed

- In light of this, we would call on all MS to remain disciplined and try to limit the number of resolutions to negotiate and take into account the background document on Pollution as a basis for resolutions related to the theme.
- EU/MS would welcome if the MS at this meeting could agree on their intention to limit the number of resolutions.