

Comments on behalf of the European Union and its Member States (EU/MS)

On the draft outline the Executive Director's report on "Implementation of paragraph 88 (a)–(h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want"

General comments:

- EU/MS would like to thank UNEP for the draft outline report and welcome UNEP's consultative approach to the issue.
- We welcome for addressing this issue early in the preparations for UNEA-4 and UNEP's comprehensive approach to the implementation of paragraph 88 as part of strengthened International Environmental Governance.
- We would like to highlight the need to build linkages to the simultaneously on-going global processes (ie. UN Reform and the Global Pact) which are changing the operational landscape.
- EU/MS encourage UNEP to continue preparations of the ED's report on the basis of the presented draft outline.

Initial views on the content:

- (a) *Establish universal membership in the Governing Council of UNEP, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance as well its responsiveness and accountability to Member States;*
 - The universality was achieved along with the establishment of the UNEA.
 - On the basis of the ED's report, the EU/MS look forward to discuss how the responsiveness and the roles of the governing bodies could be further developed.
- (b) *Have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate;*
 - The draft outline aims to present information on the financial resources required to fulfil the role and mandate of the UNEP (incl. through UN regular budget, Environment Fund and voluntary contributions).
 - The Secretariat has developed a resource mobilization strategy which includes innovative ways of attracting new donors to the Environment Fund, however it also confirms a continued reliance on the traditional donors.
 - The EU/MS would like the ED's report to describe how the resource mobilization strategy responds to the current financial situation.
- (c) *Enhance the voice of UNEP and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening UNEP engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering UNEP to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment;*

- The EU/MS support UNEP's approach where both the intergovernmental aspects as well as the UN system coordination are examined, including UN Chief Executives Board, the System-Wide Framework of Strategies and the Environment Management Group.
 - The EU/MS find it important to ensure maximum possible influence of UNEA/UNEP to other UN processes and events, for instance the HLPF. To fulfill its mandate as the global coordinator of the environmental dimension of the implementation of Agenda 2030 UNEP must remain strong inside, including efficient functioning of governing bodies (UNEA and CPR).
 - The ED's report could also describe UNEP's participation and contribution to the UN reform process.
- (d) *Promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook, as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making;*
- The publication of the GEO-6 report and presentation of the recently developed UNEP Science Strategy form a good basis for reporting a state-of-play.
 - The EU/MS value UNEP's capability in the science-policy interphase highly and considers it as a comparative advantage of UNEP in the global network. The EU considers implementation of this sub-paragraph well taken forward and encourages UNEP to prioritize this work area also in the future.
- (e) *Disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information and raise public awareness on critical as well as emerging environmental issues;*
- UNEP has developed some very successful campaigns under Erik Solheim's leadership and we recognize his vast outreach, making UNEP a relevant actor internationally and regionally.
 - Since UNEA-3, UNEP has developed some strong and innovative communication tools involving everyone, from the global citizen (with "#" and systematic follow-up) to governments (with the "voluntary commitments" initiative) that have a very strong impact, and are coupled with key data/facts & figures, and generally give UNEP's work more credibility and outreach.
 - The EU/MS welcome the notation of close linkages between promotion of strong science-policy interphase and awareness rising. We look forward for an update on UNEP's efforts in improving communications and in making UNEP more visible, relevant and accessible to a wider public.
- (f) *Provide capacity-building to countries, as well as support and facilitate access to technology;*
- The EU/MS look forward for a state-of-play on UNEP's activities in capacity building and technology support.
- (g) *Progressively consolidate headquarters functions in Nairobi, as well as strengthen its regional presence, in order to assist countries, upon request, in the implementation of their national environmental policies, collaborating closely with other relevant entities of the United Nations system;*
- The EU/MS fully support consolidation of headquarters in Nairobi.
 - The EU/MS are in a view that consolidation of HQ functions is fully implemented and look forward for UNEP's report on this subject. The EU/MS are further interested to hear a state-of-play on strengthening of UNEP's regional presence.

- (h) *Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society.*
- The EU/MS would like to highlight the need to further strengthen the involvement of different stakeholders (beyond private sector) in the work of UNEP, UNEA and the CPR.
 - The EU/MS welcome the approach presented in the draft outline and invite the ED's report also to describe what actions UNEP is taking, including allocating budgetary resources towards this work, to assure a long-term solution for facilitating both civil society and private actors involvement. UNEP Civil society unit is currently lacking core funds and is relying on temporary contributions for preparations of the UNEA-4. This is not a sustainable solution for transparency and participatory work.
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