

18/10/2018

Dear Presidency, dear Ado,

Finland welcomes the opportunity to provide initial views on the zero draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document (MOD) and appreciate the inclusive and transparent process the UNEA Presidency has set up in order to achieve a meaningful outcome document. We welcome the ambitious nature of the document and support the President in his further efforts.

We welcome the scene-setting and introduction of the linkages to the wider political agenda in the first chapter. We appreciate the strong notation of the importance of science-base and environmental data in decision making. The MOD is clearly structured along the priority areas and the language in the draft text is action oriented.

We acknowledge some actions in priority 1 that are partly in the mandate of other bodies. These are ie. the assessment of progress towards the SDGs (para 1 a)) and scenario-building for food security and extreme weather events (para 1 d)). In these parts we need to pay attention to the linkages to the other mandated UN bodies (no duplication).

The priority 2 covers a wide variety of issues. For an influential outcome we might wish to consider alignment of the MOD with the theme of the UNEA-4. From this view point, we support the presentation of commitments in the area of sustainable consumption and production, notation of resource efficiency and circular economy as well as innovations and partnerships.

There are ambitious commitments that Finland supports in general (ie. paragraph 2 h) and 2 l)) but which might be challenging to monitor and follow up due to lack of data, methodology and commonly agreed definitions. Also there might be difficulties to set one number for all countries because the situation in different countries varies a lot. Alike in priority 1, due consideration is needed in the areas which are interlinked to the work done in other UN forums or policy areas (ie. in paragraph 2 m)).

We support the selected priority 3 as we find wide societal participation fundamental for successful environmental policy making.