

15 May 2020

Comments by the Permanent Representation of Turkey on document titled “Converging elements of consensus”

In light of the discussions at the CPR Sub-Committee meeting and with a view to improve the UNEA preparations, we would like to provide following comments and proposals for the Version *III* of the document titled “Converging elements of consensus” as well as the “Annex II:

Converging elements of consensus

Para 3: We consider the aim of this paragraph is only to introduce a change of name for ensuring a better understanding. We would prefer Para 3 & Para 4 to be akin to each other in order to avoid discussions regarding possible ramifications on rules of procedure. Therefore we would propose to reinsert “**chairmanship**” phrase to Para 3 or alternatively shorten Para. 3 & Para. 4 as follows:

- “Designate the meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives as a “Preparatory Committee for the UN Environment Assembly” (UNEA PREPCOM).”
- “Designate the Annual Subcommittee meeting as a “Review and Oversight Committee” meeting.”

Para 6: We would propose simplification of the paragraph as follows:

“Under the guidance of the UNEA Bureau and with the support from the Secretariat and in close cooperation with the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Secretariats, strengthen the contributions of MEAs to UNEA, while fully respecting their respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources. MEA Secretariats, shall be invited to take part, in accordance with their respective mandates, in UNEA deliberations, where relevant.”

Para 9: Stakeholders constituting major groups should not be differentiated. Therefore, we propose to amend the paragraph as follows:

“In accordance with the UNEA Rules of Procedures and established practices including as outlined in the UNEP Stakeholder Engagement Handbook¹, strengthen the participation of Major Groups representatives at UNEA and its preparatory process, including in the context of selecting the UNEA theme, by encouraging stronger participation from **the constituents of Major Groups local, indigenous communities and small and medium-sized enterprises**, and by offering relevant Secretariat trainings and briefings for stakeholders”.

Para 15: We deem initiation of considerations on draft resolutions at an early stage as a necessary step to for better utilization of intersessional period. These considerations through CPR should aim at creating better awareness among MSs regarding possible points of convergence and divergences to prepare the ground for full-fledged negotiations. Therefore, we support insertion of “**in-depth**” phrase before “**considerations**” in this paragraph.

¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/publication/stakeholder-engagement-handbook>

Para 16: This paragraph should come before Para.15.

We support using Annual Sub-Committee (or “Review and Oversight Committee) meeting for providing guidance to Member States in their preparations of drafting resolutions. We therefore see merit in devoting one specific agenda item for deliberations on possible themes for draft resolutions and establishing clusters. Sub-Committee meetings should be scheduled prior to and after the Annual Sub-Committee meeting to prepare for and follow up these deliberations.

ANNEX II

Section A, bullet point no. 2: In line with the approach explained with reference to Para.15 above, this bullet point should be formulated as follows:

- **[8] weeks in advance of the Environment Assembly: Deadline for Member States to submit draft resolutions to the Secretariat.** The draft resolutions will be immediately submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives by the Secretariat, for further consideration by the Committee, **including though working groups**, to allow for in-depth consideration in preparation for the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Section B:

- Delete phrase “**minimum**” from the chapeau,
- Amend (d) as follows: “~~An broad estimate assessment~~ of possible financial requirements and implications of the draft resolution, should it be adopted.”
- Insert the following: “Indication regarding openness to merge the draft resolution with other draft resolutions under a specific theme/cluster.”