



**139th meeting
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP
19 June 2017**

Interventions on behalf of the EU and its MS

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Executive Director

- Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, Mr [*Deputy*] Executive Director and representatives of the Secretariat, observers, ladies and gentlemen; it is my privilege to speak on behalf the European Union and its Member States.
- Before turning to the Agenda item under discussion, I would like to express our gratitude to the Members of the outgoing Bureau who were leading us during the challenging period of preparing two UNEA meetings. Madam Chair, distinguished Bureau Members, under your leadership, carried out with courage, patience and determination, the CPR achieved a lot in terms of increasing its engagement and ownership of United Nations Environment Programme. Today, we also wish to welcome the new Bureau, that will be elected later in this meeting, and thank them for the readiness to take on this challenging assignment. Equally, we would like to thank the colleagues Permanent and

Deputy Permanent Representatives who are leaving after this CPR meeting and welcome newly arrived Representatives.

- We would like to thank the Executive Director for the very informative report about his own and UNEP's activities during the recent months. We continuously stress usefulness of this report and appreciate its presentation to CPR on quarterly basis.
- A number of the activities were of relevance for the preparations of UNEA-3. We appreciate UNEP's recent engagement in various multilateral and regional fora, notably the meeting of Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the WHO Europe Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in Ostrava, Czech Republic. We would appreciate UNEP's analysis of the discussion and inputs from the respective meetings.
- We would also like to recall the importance of reporting on the implementation of Program of Work and Budget as well as UNEA resolutions. Given that the next CPR meeting will take place only in October, we would like to request presentation of the progress of implementation of the Program of Work and Budget and the resolutions to the CPR Subcommittee as soon as possible but not later than in early September.

Agenda Item 5: Preparations for UNEA-3

- Thank you Madam Chair for the update on Joint UNEA and CPR Bureaus preparatory retreat for UNEA-3.
- We would like to thank the President of UNEA for hosting the retreat in Costa Rica and thank UNEP for the support of this meeting. We receive with a great satisfaction the outcome of that meeting and would like to congratulate the members of the two Bureaus on their hard work and a fruitful joint meeting that will facilitate the further process towards a successful UNEA and OECPR meetings this year.
- Concerning the preparatory process for the resolutions, the EU and its Member States welcome the recommendation of the Bureaus that draft resolutions should be limited in number and drafted in succinct and simple language while addressing issues of global concern. We have presented our interest in issues that we would like to be addressed in UNEA-3. They include in particular: air, water (fresh and marine), and soil pollution as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the environment and health nexus, the urban pollution and innovative solutions and partnership platforms. These issues are not ideas for stand-alone resolutions, as we support the recommendation of the Bureaus to limit the number of resolutions. We are willing to work on resolution proposals with other Member States who indicated similar interests, with the view to submitting proposals before the September deadline.

- We would like to thank Member States who presented their intentions for resolutions and in particular the USA who already submitted a draft of a resolution on 'Eliminating exposure to lead paint'. The elimination of lead paint is an important objective fully supported by the EU/MS, including the adoption of legislation by 2020 by all countries on such elimination. For UNEA-3, we should look into the best way how to address the elimination of lead paint in the context of the theme of pollution and the general approach regarding the sound management of chemicals and waste, and taking into account various initiatives and instruments towards this objective. In line with the Member States agreement to have a limited number of resolutions at UNEA-3, we may want to see – pending the resolutions submitted – if there is scope for a broader resolution, which would include the objective of the elimination of lead paint and adoption of legislation by 2020.
- Concerning the organization of the Leadership Dialogues to be held during the high-level segment of UNEA-3, following the recommendation of the Joint Retreat, we can support the organisation of the Dialogues around four themes proposed by the Bureaus. In order to make the discussions focused on concrete solutions related to pollution topics, we could envisage that the dialogues are sequential and related to each other. We would like to recommend that a good moderation is provided for and that clear steering briefs are being prepared for the moderator and participants, aiming at an action-oriented outcome of the

Leadership Dialogues. Furthermore, we would like to suggest to the Secretariat to find attractive communicative titles to give expression to themes selected, which may help attract Leaders to participate in the dialogues. Some more clarification is also needed concerning the speaking arrangement - for instance the number of speakers and their selection.

Finally, the EU and its Member States welcome the initiative to collect "voluntary commitments" or "pledges" from Governments, Non-Governmental Organisations and Private Sector. However, we are still not clear about the process for collecting and contribution to the outcome of UNEA of these commitments. We would like to ask the Secretariat to present to the Member States concrete proposals on this matter.

I thank you