

Agenda Item 4: Stockholm+50/UNEP+50 and CPR based Review Process

Statement by the Swiss Delegation, 10 October 2019

There is a sense of urgency to tackle global environmental decline. In order to address this global threat and to trigger the necessary political action, we have to put the environment onto the highest political agenda. We have an opportunity to do so in 2022 with Stockholm +50, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of UNEP.

Switzerland is strongly in favor of a UN high level conference, a Stockholm+50 and are in full support of Sweden: We need a moment in place and time, when the world leaders can take the necessary political action on the environmental challenges and opportunities and stand ready to carry the preparatory process forward.

Such an event should be forward looking, and could address the environmental dimension of the agenda 2030, provide the political mandates for progressing with emerging environmental issues, like plastic pollution, or allow for concrete advances in sustainable consumption and production. Overall there is the opportunity to strengthen International Environmental Governance. Stockholm+50 should be visionary and concrete at the same time, bringing together world leaders and yet be inclusive and connect with people.

Mr. Chair

International Environmental Governance is of priority of Switzerland. While we have come a long way since the establishment of UNEA, the international environmental governance is still not providing an ideal setting for tackling the global environmental problems.

The CPR based Review process offers a great opportunity to improve working arrangements for UNEA and CPR, including the preparation and negotiation of resolutions and decisions.

Switzerland would like to congratulate the two co-facilitators of the review, the DPRs of Malawi and Canada, and assures them its full commitment to the process. We also welcome the fact that remote access to the different sessions is provided allowing non-Nairobi based delegations to actively engage.

The review is done on the basis of a clear mandate, which was achieved after long and delicate negotiations at UNEA 4. Switzerland would like to state at the outset that the review process must be bound by and conducted within the limits of this very specific mandate. Other tasks from UNEA 4 decisions need to follow their own roadmap. The input paper prepared by the Secretariat for this session provides an excellent guidance to the process in terms of substance.

Switzerland takes note of the consolidated proposal for this process. We welcome the proposal to hold discussions in a structured manner along the topics indicated by the mandate. We also welcome the fact that the process is triggered by this ASC and suggests that it returns to the next ASC for approval as the ASC brings together expertise from Capital and Nairobi.

In the interest of a lean process, we would like to ask the following question: why are there two sessions dedicated to resolutions whereas it is one session for the other topics? Could we merge the sessions planned for end of February and early March into one session?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.