



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

Written input to the UNEA-5 Bureau agenda

1. Synergies between the 2020 „super year for nature“ and UNEA-5.

We welcome the development of the thought-starter, describing synergies between global environment agenda developing processes during 2020 and UNEA-5. The UNEA-5 theme Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals opens for decisions on how to strengthen the environmental dimension of sustainable development agenda. We have to acknowledge the close connection between healthy ecosystems, human well-being, food security, drinking water, pollution-free environment and a safe climate. Combatting pollution, climate change and protecting biodiversity are closely interlinked. Since UNEA-5 is taking place immediately after the 2020 super year for nature, it could provide the opportunity to bring together all the 2020 biodiversity commitments as well as political action strands set up during the year. We are interested to hear the views, how UNEA-5 can act as a global highest level decision making platform in a consolidated and conceptualized manner. Attractiveness and added-value of the UNEA-5 in 2021 remains as a pertinent question. It is referred in the background document, that UNEA-5 will culminate as a 'conversation shifting' platform. Though, in our point of view, it should be spearheaded that UNEA-5 will culminate as a policy guiding and action shifting platform. How can UNEA-5 play a facilitating role in building synergies and political momentum for implementing the expected new frameworks and how can UNEA/UNEP enhance the global efforts for Sustainable Consumption and Production/circular economy in ways that are supportive of making economic sectors more environmentally sustainable, for nature/ and ecosystems, such as the food and agricultural sector and the textiles, building/infrastructure and plastics sectors? We are looking forward further discussions on building synergies and UNEA-5 outcomes.

2. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Estonia aligns itself with the submission of the EU and its MS to the previous revised document and welcomes the new revised draft document. We also welcome the inclusion of forward looking UNEA-5 perspective.

The regular presentation by the UNEA Presidency at the annual HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC has been an important factor in ensuring the voice of the world's environment ministers is heard. Although tremendous efforts before UNEA-4 were put in place by the respective Presidents and Secretariat, there were not secured venue for the UNEA Presidents at the annual HLPF. We hope that in preparations of the UNEA-4 and under Estonian presidency

established practice between UNEA and ECOSOC will remain continuous. In this context, we would be grateful to UNEP for providing information on whether there has already been some concrete planning with regard to this year's role of the UNEA President at the HLPF.

At the same time, we want to draw attention to the fact that informal consultations on the review of the HLPF have begun in New York. We will support such advocacy through our mission in New York.

3. Consultations on General Assembly Resolution 73/333

We welcome the adoption of the roadmap for consultations on follow-up of the General Assembly Resolution 73/333 at the 149th CPR meeting on 18 February. We support the institutional setup by placing the consultation process under the auspices of the CPR with the emphasis on ensuring regular coordination between the CPR Bureau and UNEA Bureau. We invite the UNEA President and CPR Chair to appoint the two co-facilitators as soon as possible, in consultation with their respective Bureaus and with the Chairs of the Regional Groups, to enable the co-facilitators to engage with the process in a timely manner. The preparation of substantive elements of a political declaration for a high-level meeting should begin promptly and it should be organised efficiently, transparently and inclusively. We find that the cofacilitators, in consultations with the CPR Bureau and the UNEA Bureau, should secure a meaningful and substantive first meeting, which should take place, according to the roadmap, hopefully in June. We are also aware of the emerging global COVID-19 situation and understand its possible implications and hope on the common efforts by all parties to secure the substantive and ambitious outcome by UNEA-5, mandated by the UNGA resolution.

4. Preparations for the joint retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Oslo, 9-10 June 2020

We welcome the draft agenda for the 1st retreat meeting and confirm our full dedication in working towards expected outcomes. We are also appreciating the foreseen interaction between the Science Policy Business Forum and the Bureaux members, to build a common understanding towards a successful UNEA-5.