



EEG

مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



QUESTIONNAIRE

Based upon the input received, the following guiding questions are set out below.

I. Guiding questions concerning the preparatory process

1. The outcome reads: “Forward these recommendations to UNEA for its consideration”.

a. *Under which agenda item should UNEA 5 consider these recommendations?*

EEG's Input:

We are of the opinion that these critical set of recommendations must be under a separate agenda item as they will require the adequate time for the accompanying discussion. It must also be noted that this will be a unique agenda item that has been especially recommended by the United Nations General Assembly and must therefore, be given the appropriate weightage and time. Having said this, it must be kept in mind that the existing agenda for UNEA-5 is already heavy and this should not overburden the Secretariat as well as those attending.

b. *One option being under the inclusion in the already established item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues” or by recommending the establishment of a new item?*

EEG's Input:

As mentioned previously, we do not think these recommendations must be added to an existing agenda item.

2. The outcome mandates: “to prepare, at its fifth session (...) a political declaration (...):

a. *What level of detail should a text have in order to be considered by UNEA 5?*

EEG's Input:

We believe that the Declaration must be appropriately worded, so every person reading is able to understand and decipher it easily. However, it must consist of certain essential elements such as an objective, the building blocks, a call for action and way forward.

b. *When should the “preparation of a political declaration” begin and what should be the recommended format, leadership and timeline of the preparatory process before UNEA 5?*

Associate Members:



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EEG's Input:

We are of the opinion that the Secretariat, along with the input of Member States and stakeholders, must prepare a comprehensive roadmap for the development of the Declaration. Once completed, it can be discussed at the Annual Subcommittee Meeting to discuss the way forward as well as delegate roles and responsibilities.

This is an important document that can only be considered 'ready' to be presented at UNEA-5 once it is read and approved by the entire gamut of Member States and stakeholders. It is this particular process that will require a fair amount of time and therefore, we recommend initiating it at the earliest.

- c. *How can accredited stakeholders be involved, and member States without representation in Nairobi participate, in the process?*

EEG's Input:

As accredited Members, we will continue to participate in the process virtually through webinar. However, as mentioned to the Secretariat in the latter half of 2019, those not represented in Nairobi must be provided with enough time to connect and participate.

We found that a few Members asked to hold informal sessions in major cities including New York. We do not think this will work as too many consultations will dilute the process and provide an extra burden on the Secretariat to compile all the information.

II. Guiding questions related to the a "United Nations high-level meeting [...] in the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP

3. The outcome speaks about "a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (...)"

- a. *What is meant by "a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment"?*

EEG's Input:

Associate Members:



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This question has been a point of contention for us. We believe that a commemoration event and the high-level meeting should be two separate events, independent of each other.

b. Who is expected to convene the UN high-level meeting? What should its format be?

EEG's Input:

We recommend that, as is the case with the Subcommittee meetings, this high-level meeting should be convened at Nairobi or New York. However, we request making appropriate arrangements for the general pool of Member States and stakeholders to attend via webinar.

III. Guiding questions regarding the content of the political declaration and the support by the UNEP Secretariat

4. The outcome also signals that the objective of the political declaration is “with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’”.

a. *what ‘elements’ or ‘building blocks’ in the objectives guiding the recommendations and in the substantive recommendations contained in the Annex to Resolution 73/333 could be identified for inclusion in the political declaration to achieve the overall objective of “strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on*

EEG's Input:

We recommend the inclusion of the following elements/building blocks:

- Continue relevance of UNEP's mandate;
- Sustainable development
- Nature-based solutions and its continuing mandate
- Society and the environment

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- Implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- Environmental law and governance
- Inclusiveness and protection of natural resources
- Welcoming integral resolutions related to the 2030 Agenda
- Recognising the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Recognising the need to invest in children and the youth

Sustainable Development”?

b. *How should the political declaration relate to the five objectives guiding the recommendations and to the thirteen substantive recommendations of the ad-hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 72/277 and endorsed in UN General Assembly resolution 73/333?*

c. *Should there be a substantive connection between the political declaration and the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment?*

d. *How should the political declaration be in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development?*

e. *What kind of inputs should the Secretariat prepare in order to best assist member States in the preparation of the political declaration?*

Associate Members:



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