

QUESTIONNAIRE

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?

India Water Foundation (IWF) proposes to uphold in the already established item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues”

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?

IWF proposes to retain the inclusion in the already established item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues. Rather than creating a new establishment with new structural-functional changes with overlapping mandate, we suggest to strengthen the existing framework viz efficiency and effectiveness.

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?

IWF proposes to recommend that Level of details/elements must include contemporary inter-linkages between actors-sectors with a last mile delivery. It must encompass ‘preparatory style of decision making’ especially when member states and various stakeholders proposes nuanced perspectives, varied opinions and suggestions.

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?

IWF believes that Recurrent & Revised consultations hold the key towards creating a clear roadmap, which is only possible if the means of preparatory consultations is started immediately. Given the dynamic nature of developments, the format for preparations for political declaration can be chronologized into ‘Preparatory-Mid-Review-Finalization stage’ in order to finalize the declaration. Strong consultations involving multiple actors-sectors shall bring new insights, expertise, best practices and innovations much required to charter a concrete political blueprint. Moreover, preparations can be initiated through regular meets/webinars/videoconferencing to form a rich pool of ‘convergent & divergent views’ to be further filtered in upcoming levels.

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

Leverage technology like webinars/video-conferencing for far-flung stakeholders especially the informal dialogues to receive inputs and discussion over various agendas. Further, Small (define their number, strength, role) consultations groups is necessary bringing 360 view coupled with domain specialization experts.

- 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”?*

A United Nations high-level meeting comprise of governments, member states & various partners at the highest level of decision making to accelerate efforts tremendously required towards addressing developmental vistas. It also provides momentum for engaging high-level commitments from Ministers and other stakeholders, high level personnel from developed /developing/least developed to achieve cohesive outcomes through Cooperation-Convergence strategy. The endorsed and ambitious political declaration shall be powerful and meaningful enough to realize the targets & accelerate progress with checks and balances.

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

IWF proposes to convene the UN high-level meeting at a place where the Commemoration of the creation of United Nations Environment Programme is held so that simultaneous events can be held back-to-back. The venue can be decided through consensus among stakeholders. Commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme can be ceremonial with a clear mandate of listed achievements since its inception in 1972 and an ‘Agenda for Future’ can be discussed & drafted understanding 21st century developmental perspectives. Format for UN high-level meeting will require an independent constructive and positive approach. It must encompass a multi-sectoral framework that enables reporting new perspectives monitoring recent trends & review traditional work and ambitious actions to accelerate progress at global-regional-national-local levels. The meets can also allow sufficient time or consider inputs from participation by other stakeholders to positively maximize outcomes.

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 Sustainable Development”?

IWF proposes the following building blocks of life.

- Leverage the “super year 2020” for the environment with focus on Nature & Science Based solutions
 - Think of nexus between various development realms like Water, Health, Education, Skills and streamline for better synergy
 - Revamp mandate of United Nations Environment Programme in line with current multifaceted climate change challenges and put forth the same for cohesive discussion at UNEA
 - Weighing Sustainable Development viz parameters of Access, Availability, Efficiency & Equity
- 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?

Political declaration must reaffirm the critical role that on environmental issues for the functioning of better outcomes of the recommendations as endorsed in UN General Assembly resolution 73/333. Discussion on various current environment policy, laws, and challenges must be done at high level political. Liaise with expert members in order to learn, in detail, from their experiences. It is believed that we discuss listed prioritized agenda (framed earlier through series of discussions) which would eventually provide meaningful discussion.

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?

We agree that the ‘political declaration’ and the Commemoration of United Nations Environment Programme have symbiotic relation having inter-related agenda on

sustainable development. The Ad-hoc Open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277, “entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment” is tandem with the 1974 ‘The Future We Want’ and we re-iterate the convene both the programme of action back-to-back for a holistic insights and outcomes keeping in recent trends and developments.

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

The substantive declaration must be in line with agenda & issues of global climate changes for present and future generations of humankind in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions. It must provide strategic leadership & commitment, assistance, advice and support to Member States and other relevant stakeholders to synergise between the climate agenda and Agenda 2030. It must also provide a bridge in close coherence with success of United Nations Environment Programme and realising the last decade of SDGs 2030.

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

Liaise with stakeholders to identify the respective responsibilities and tasks in the preparation of the political declaration be agreed at UNEA-5. Key inputs to the preparation of a ‘political declaration’ must include action-oriented objectives, identifying concrete results, commitments and actions. We also believe it is important not to overload the declaration with overlapping mandates of UNEP and limit to specific agenda and elements of discussion. Also, ensure the appropriate meeting facilities and resources to be made available because these facilities are pre-requisites for giving inputs towards better implementation.