

Preparations for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP



I. Introduction

- **Status of consultations with member States and stakeholders led by the Executive Director**
- **Launching the commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of UNEP at the fifth session for the UN Environment Assembly;**
- **Possible engagement and outreach activities following the launch;**
- **Ensuring a strong science-policy interface; and**
- **Further consultations with Member States: proposed next steps**

**Status of
consultations with
member States
and stakeholders
led by the
Executive Director**

**Main conclusions of this first round of
consultations were:**

- a) The 50th anniversary of the establishment of UNEP (UNEP@50) should be held at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya;**
- b) UNEA-5 in February 2021 provides a useful opportunity to kick-start the commemorations;**
- c) The launch of the commemorations of UNEP's 50th anniversary should not preclude other important events involving various stakeholders, including, for example, multilateral environmental agreements;**

**Launching the
commemorations of the
50th anniversary of the
establishment of UNEP**

Recommendations that the forthcoming:

- **Environment Assembly launches the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of UNEP, as mandated by decision 4/2 of UNEA 4, at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.**
- **A launch of the commemorations of the 50th anniversary of UNEP during UNEA may also provide a wider context for the implementation of [General Assembly Resolution 73/333](#), A launch of the commemorations during UNEA-5 will also offer Ministers of the Environment and leaders of the global environmental community several opportunities to strengthen environmental multilateralism, as outlined in Box 1.**

Box 1: Potential opportunities to strengthen environmental multilateralism from launching UNEP 50th anniversary during UNEA-5

- *Promote a more systematic approach to many of the environmental challenges that the world is facing today;*
- *Strengthen UNEP through a renewed long-term vision building on the Rio+20 Outcome Document;*
- *Enhance and strengthen the integration of environmental consideration within the UN 2030 Agenda and UN reform;*
- *Reflect on the historic achievements, impact and importance of international environmental law.*
- *Re-examine how global environmental governance can be modernized and strengthened.*
- *Establish a possible link between the commemoration and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333.*

**Possible
engagement
and outreach
activities
following the
launch**

- **75th Anniversary of the UN as a chance to engage in a conversation with the United Nations about its future role.**
- **“global conversation” as an outreach strategy to celebrate and reflect on key achievements and to solicit views for a new course for the Organization’s future.**
- **Ensure Civil society and the general public ownership for UNEP@50.**

Box 2: Additional possible activities following the kick-off of the 50 year commemoration of the creation of UNEP

- *Contribute to a new generation of environmental leaders worldwide.*
- *Invite the Multilateral Environmental Agreements to support and be part of the UNEP@50 commemoration by providing an expanded platform for outreach and systemic action.*
- *Build on the experience of World Environment Day-related campaigns, to build a network of outreach activities throughout the year (“A World Environment Year”);*
- *Develop social media material tapping into the rich content of;*
- *Create toolkits and opportunities to enable all stakeholders provide consistent messaging around the 50th Anniversary, including on past achievements, success stories and the way forward.*

Ensuring a strong science-policy interface



Strong need to develop a science-based global environmental agenda for action towards sustainable development by 2030 and beyond.



UNEP work must be further strengthened, to trigger and accelerate action towards achieving the environmental dimension of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed environmental goals.



Member States have called upon UNEP to prepare a proposal for science-policy input on the global environment, in consultation with Member States and making use of contributions from relevant stakeholders, in commemoration of the creation of UNEP, in accordance with paragraph 7 of [UNEA-4 Resolution 4/23](#).

- **In response to this request, UNEP is proposing the following deliverables:**
 - **The first UNEP Global Assessments Synthesis Report:** This report will provide a synthetic analysis of the key findings and messages emerging from all major recent global environmental assessments.
 - **The Global Assessments Dialogue:** throughout the development of the above Global Assessments Synthesis Report, UNEP will also continue to bring together experts from all major global environmental assessments with the aim to foster increased coherence, synergy and consistency across these major assessments.
 - **A Review of Fifty Years of Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface (1972-2022):** An additional report could be developed to provide an overview of progress made over the past half a century with regard to the environmental science-policy interface, focusing on milestones and successes; however, preparations for this proposed report have not yet started and will rely on additional financial resources, with a possible launch date at or around the kick-off of UNEP@50 or later.

Further consultations with Member States: proposed next steps

- **Members of the Bureau are invited to consider and provide further guidance with regard to the proposal to launch UNEP@50 during UNEA-5 and related proposals outlined in this note.**
- **Dedicated meeting of the CPR subcommittee is organized at the end of June with a view to further consider the following specific objectives:**
- **Consider the proposals to ensuring a strong science-policy interface;**
- **Provide feedback on other proposed engagement and outreach initiatives;**
- **Allow Member States to further consider and share ideas regarding the offer from Sweden to host a high-level political meeting in Stockholm in 2022, possibly on the basis of additional information to be submitted in advance by member State proponents.**
- **Executive Director intends to continue to conduct informal consultations with Member States and Sustainable stakeholders.**

Thank you

Governance Affairs Office