

Comments by the European Union and its Member States (track changes)

Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

EU+MS comments on Annex II of 19 June 2020

ANNEX II to the document “Converging elements of consensus” by the co-facilitators to the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Version IV, 19 June 2020)

Draft guidance to Member States on submission of draft resolutions to the UN Environment Assembly

Without prejudice to the Rules of Procedures of the UN Environment Assembly, in particular rule 44¹, in accordance with paragraphs 6 and 7 in [UNEA resolution 4/2](#) “Provisional agenda date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”, and building on previous guidance provided by the UNEA Bureaus, as well as the Secretariat note “Lessons learned from the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly”, Member States **will endeavor** ~~agree~~ to respect, as far as possible, the guidance **outlined in sections A-C below**.

The guidance serves the purpose to facilitate effective **and timely** submission, consideration and negotiation of draft resolutions tabled by member States for adoption at future sessions of the UN Environment Assembly.

Member States are also encouraged to seek active co-sponsorships by other member States, or by groups of member States, before submitting a draft resolution, **and to consolidate similar proposals, where possible and relevant**.

A. Timeframe for submitting draft resolutions

Member States are recommended to submit draft resolutions as early as possible, and to apply the following deadlines for submission of draft resolutions:

- **4-5 months in advance of the Environment Assembly: Undertake a scoping exercise to identify areas suitable for the tabling of draft resolutions and decisions in the context of the meeting of the annual subcommittee.**
- **16 weeks in advance of the Environment Assembly: Deadline for Member States to announce to the Secretariat their intention to submit draft resolutions, together with a concept note explaining the rationale and context of the initiative (see point B below). The Secretariat will inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives of this intention, and share the concept note with all member States **and stakeholders**.**

¹ UNEA Rules of Procedure, Rule 44: “Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and submitted to the Executive Director, who shall circulate copies to the members in all the official languages of the United Nations Environment Assembly. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all members not later than the day preceding the meeting. Subject to the consent of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals or amendments even though these proposals or amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.”

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- **10 weeks in advance of the Environment Assembly: Deadline for Member States to submit draft resolutions to the Secretariat.** The draft resolutions will be immediately submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives by the Secretariat, for further **in-depth** consideration by the Committee **and its working groups** in preparation for the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives/[UNEA PREPCOM](#).

B. Concept note in support of draft resolutions

With a view to inform other delegations and stakeholders, and to facilitate an efficient negotiation process, Member States should provide detailed information about the draft resolution, which should take the form of a concept note attached to the draft resolution and should ~~as a minimum~~, include the following sections:

- a) The overall rationale for initiative, including, **where relevant, in relation to:**
 - The UNEA theme;
 - The UN **2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**;
 - Emerging global environmental issues **and related scientific assessments**;
 - **Post COVID 19 recovery efforts, as relevant**;
 - Value-added of the initiative in ~~comparison~~ **relation** to status quo.
- b) An overview of different policy options to address the issue.
- c) A description of how key elements in the draft resolution relates to the UNEP programme of work ~~and budget~~, to other relevant adopted UNEA resolutions, and to existing decisions and initiatives in other UN fora, **including Multilateral Environmental Agreements**.
- d) An ~~assessment~~ **indication** of possible financial requirements and implications of the draft resolution, should it be adopted.
- e) Identification of the main addressees of the initiative (for example Member States, stakeholders; the UN Environment Programme; the UN system).
- f) Main expected actions and their environmental and socio-economic impacts in the short and long term, **and well as related timelines**.

Member States may, as appropriate, call on the Secretariat to provide inputs to the concept note, **as well as proposals for draft action points to the draft resolution, for consideration by the Member States**.

C. Format and content of draft resolutions

Draft resolutions should **be** as far as possible concise and to the point, and consist of a preambular and operative section, as follows:

- **Preambular part:** ~~B~~**B**rief description of the overall aim and general considerations of the resolution, building in particular on the information in sections a) and c) above;
- **Operative part:**
 - **Outline proposed concise actions to be taken or promoted**
 - **Clearly indicate the addressees of the proposed action, as appropriate (e.g. member States, the UN system, governing bodies of international agreements and specific stakeholders)**
 - **Specify the requests and guidance to the UNEP Secretariat to facilitate reporting and follow up as appropriate.**