

**Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting
(Online meeting, 2 July 2020)**

**Agenda item 2. Implementation of paragraphs 9 -13 of Decision UNEP/EA.4/2 entitled
"Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations
Environment Assembly"
("CPR-based Review")**

**Ref: Note from the Secretariat for the consultation meeting on the CPR-based review:
Enhancing cooperation between UNEP/UNEA and the MEAs/COPs of 19 June 2020**

Comments by the European Union and its Member States

The EU and its MS thank UNEP for reaching out to MEA Secretariats and for compiling a note expanding on concrete options/ideas for further consideration aimed at enhancing the cooperation between UNEP/UNEA and the MEAs/COPs following MS inputs. We would like to suggest having some of the key actions reflected in the *Converging elements of consensus* paper.

Regarding A) Cooperation during UNEA and COP meetings

The EU and its MS agree with UNEP's proposal to establish an agenda item "co-operation with MEAs" in the sessions of UNEA and encourage MEA COPs to consider including a similar item ("collaboration with UNEP") in their agendas. However, the session in UNEA should be linked to the theme of UNEA in question and resolutions or follow-up to previous relevant resolutions and decisions.

We also welcome the idea of organising events on programmatic co-operation between UNEA/UNEP and MEAs. However, the number of such side events at UNEA should be limited, closely linked to the theme of UNEA or the respective MEA COP, and should constitute a relevant and meaningful contribution to specific substantive issues actively under consideration at the conference in question. We are open to consider options to coordinate messaging to the HLPF between UNEP and MEAs

The EU and its MS also support the proposal to organize high-level dialogues between UNEP Executive Director, and the Executive Secretaries of MEAs, COP Presidents and UNEA President at UNEA and COPs. These dialogues should also focus on the theme of the UNEA/COP in question.

The EU and its MS also welcome the idea of preparing joint "thematic briefs" with MEA Secretariats on the theme of UNEA, when relevant, and in particular the co-operation between MEAs and UNEP in the context of the preparation and implementation of resolutions. This can be achieved through joint briefings, joint preparation of background documents (by UNEP Secretariat in consultation with MEA Secretariat) and/or providing direct support to the negotiations through presence as such, where relevant and appropriate. The

EU and its MS are of the opinion that this may help ensure that the substance of resolutions in different bodies is complementary, mutually reinforcing and avoids duplication, whereby coherence and efficiency of international environmental law/governance is strengthened and effective implementation supported. Furthermore, we believe that the Secretariats could support MS by providing an overview of relevant resolutions and decisions that have already been taken in relation to the theme of UNEA.

All proposals for activities should be dependent on further consultations with the MEA Secretariats, including possible cost implications for initiating the proposed activities.

Regarding B) Enhanced programmatic cooperation between UNEP and MEAs

The EU and its MS welcome in general all the options outlined under this header. They are particularly important, since they are aimed at establishing a continuous substantive exchange among UNEP and MEAs that should ultimately help strengthen overall coherence between the implementation of existing commitments and the drafting of future decisions by respective governing bodies, and should facilitate reinforcement of each other's work (in implementing the PoW/B of the UNEP and the MEA Secretariats).

We would welcome a clarification in B.5 on whether "MEAs" means MEA Secretariats and/or bureaus.

We would also suggest a slight rephrasing of the para B.5 as follows:

Explore modalities for MEAs to participate in the process leading up to UNEA-5 (process towards preparing) where a political declaration for a UN high-level meeting, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP by the UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, will be prepared as mandated by [General Assembly resolution 73/333](#).

We specifically welcome the suggestion to engage MEA Secretariats more actively in the preparation of the MTS and PoW/B (under para 9 of the document).

On para 9, the EU and its MS would suggest more in-depth exploration on whether MoU between UNEP and MEA Secretariats residing under UNEP is really necessary in order to enhance cooperation and what this would in that case entail.

Regarding C) Joint UNEP/UNEA and MEAs/COPs contributions to wide global processes

The EU and its MS welcome the proposed regular (but cost-effective) meetings of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies by cluster. We find that the enhancement of the exchange between relevant Scientific Panels on the latest scientific findings will be useful to support identification of areas where further action is needed and areas where cooperation/coordination between MEAs and UNEA can be further strengthened. This includes enhanced ability to provide a strong science-policy input to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other relevant UN processes in order to send joint

messages on the state of the environment, its implications for achieving SDGs and on the need for action.

We also support strengthening UNEA's imprint in regional forums, as proposed in the document.

We find it important to strengthen the role of EMG under the leadership of UNEP, to leverage UNEA's imprint at global and regional level. The proposed activity on using the EMG to mobilize the entire EMG membership to support the implementation of the post-2020 frameworks for biodiversity and chemicals and waste is a good example. We find it useful to strengthen the role of the EMG in supporting other programmatic cooperation between UNEP and MEAs, as well.
