

Thank you, Co-facilitator,  
Excellencies, distinguished colleagues

The Swiss Delegation would like to express its compliments to the co-facilitators for their appointment to this process.

**A lean and focused process** – that is what Switzerland has been arguing for.

The current process with a first 3-day meeting now and a second and possibly third meeting to come, does not meet that requirement. In case the discussions are even extended beyond UNEA-5, we are thrown into the prospects of many more meetings to follow in 2021 and 2022.

In this regard, we want to signal to the Member States and flag to the co-facilitators, that we must make sure that each of these meetings achieves a milestone. Member states must be in a position to rely on meaningful **input**, to have a guided and **streamlined discussion** during each of the meetings **and** have a dedicated **outcome** that counts towards the next meeting, **with the end goal in mind**, that is to conclude the high-level political declaration.

Switzerland proposes that the high-level political declaration from UNGA 73/333 **be concluded at UNEA 5**. The reasons are as follows:

- The **High Level Segment** of UNEA 5 can serve as the platform to adopt the political declaration from UNGA 73/333.
- We urge you to **avoid further deliberations during the OECPR and UNEA and conclude on content in the intersessional period**. The focus on the HLS could help to avoid cross-contamination with UNEA.
- The proposed adoption at the HLS also raises the profile of UNEA 5 as a whole: **Ministers** would have at least two reasons to travel to Nairobi during UNEA: to conclude the UNEA-5 ministerial declaration and this high level political declaration.
- The recommendations endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 73/333 already provide the **building blocks for the political declaration**. We are hence in a position to move quite fast on formulating the political declaration.
- Finally, a conclusion at UNEA 5 keeps the pressure high and allows UNEP, the specialized agencies, Member States and other stakeholders to then quickly proceed and implement the recommendations.
- And, due to COVID 19 the international agenda in 2021 will be very dense. Another reason to have a lean and efficient process.

A word of caution and encouragement to the co-facilitators when building the political declaration: Please be aware, that the specific language from UNGA 73/333 has already been negotiated and is a product of a delicate and fragile balance among the Member States. We entrust you that you will navigate us in this meeting and beyond, in order to **avoid the discussions of certain politicized areas** and areas we had not a chance to reach consensus on during the preceding process. We ask you to rather point out the **areas that do merit from further deliberations**.

In summary, Switzerland favors a streamlined process – **a lean and focused process**. For the October meeting, we expect a draft political declaration at hand based on the discussions of this week so we can commit ourselves to conclude on the content **before** UNEA 5.

**Thank you.**