

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP  
(Nairobi, 12-16 October 2020)**

**Agenda item 5d  
UNEA@50 preparations**

*Comments by the European Union and its Member States*

- We are all cognizant that the discussions regarding the format and timing of UNEA-5 have impacts on the considerations regarding the commemoration of UNEP@50 and its preparation.
- In this context, the EU and its Member States wish to reiterate the comments made earlier today, in particular the view that we could accept a resumed session in February 2022, as proposed by the UNEA Presidency. However, we wish to emphasise that the resumed session should not take place later than February 2022 and that it should be held back-to-back with the commemoration of UNEP@50, so as to be effective.
- Since no new background document on the preparations of UNEP@50 has been published for consideration under today's agenda item, the EU and its Member States expect discussions on this issue to be taken up at a future point under the CPR.
- The EU and its Member States welcome the opportunities as outlined in the note on UNEP@50 that was produced by the Secretariat for the CPR Subcommittee meeting on 14 July. Celebrating UNEP@50 back-to-back with UNEA-5 is a unique occasion for accelerating environmental action. It is also a chance to strengthen multilateralism and a more integrated approach across the UN system, to take stock on progress in the implementation of the environmental agenda over the past 50 years as well as to enhance progress towards the 2030 Agenda.
- While we support the main event of UNEP@50 to be celebrated back-to-back with the resumed session of UNEA-5 in the actual 50th year of UNEP's establishment, we would also welcome kicking off the commemoration at UNEA-5 in February 2021.
- The EU and its Member States welcome UNEP's planned work on the science-policy interface and see this as an important contribution to UNEP@50.
- Of course, the Secretariat note on UNEP@50 will have to be revised to reflect the outcomes of our joint discussions on the format and timing of UNEA-5 also with a view to the outreach activities that were outlined therein.
- The EU and its Member States would like to emphasise the importance of further informal exchange of views on substance and objectives, as well as on the way in which the format would follow such substance and objectives.
- Lastly, we welcome the additional information provided by Sweden on Stockholm+50. The EU and its Member States would like to express its support for Stockholm+50 and we are looking forward to engage in the consultations in New York and to be continued to be informed here in Nairobi. We are of the view that UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 should complement each other and that there is room for UNEP@50 in Nairobi in February and for Stockholm+50 in late spring in Stockholm.