

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of UN Environment Assembly and  
Committee of Permanent Representatives  
1 December 2020  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Virtual

### **Agenda Item 2: Timing and format of the virtual session of UNEA-5**

Following the consideration of the timing and format of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly in view of COVID-19 by the [UNEA Bureau](#) at its meeting on 8 October, the UNEA Bureau decided to support the [proposal by the UNEA President](#) to adopt a “two-step” approach that will allow for UNEA-5 to commence in February 2021 on 22<sup>nd</sup> February in a virtual format, with a streamlined agenda, followed by an early adjournment and a resumed session held in person to take place in February 2022. The UNEA Bureau also requested the Secretariat to propose a structure for a virtual session of UNEA-5 in February 2021 for consideration at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee and thereafter the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CPR held on 19 November 2020.

Based on guidance provide by member States at these meetings, the Secretariat has developed a revised draft structure, for consideration by the Joint Bureaux in view of approving a final structure for the virtual session of UNEA-5 in February 2021.

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## **DRAFT STRUCTURE FOR THE VIRTUAL SESSION OF UNEA-5**

This note outlines a revised draft structure for the virtual session of UNEA-5 to be held on 22 and 23 February 2021 and a proposed distribution of agenda items between the virtual and resumed session of UNEA-5 in February 2022.

The Secretariat proposes that the virtual session of UNEA-5 consists of one opening plenary which will fulfill the functions outlined in the structure contained in this document, one leadership dialogue and one adjournment and wrap-up plenary.

In order to allow for maximum participation, interactivity and constructive engagement in the leadership dialogue the Secretariat proposes that the dialogue be organized in two different timeslots in order to facilitate connection and the interaction amongst Ministers and high-level representatives from different time zones.

Each dialogue will be facilitated by a moderator to allow for an interactive exchange of views. Participation in the dialogues is on a voluntary basis. Alternatively, if high-level representatives wish to submit a recorded message, are welcome to submit to the secretariat.

Regarding the theme of the dialogue the Secretariat proposes the dialogue addresses the contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world. A concept note is in process of finalization.

The Joint Bureaux is invited to consider, with a view to approve the draft provisional agenda and proposed structure for the virtual session of UNEA-5. Any Bureau member having reservations with the proposed structure is kindly invited to contact the Secretariat no later than Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to the official email address [unep-sgb@un.org](mailto:unep-sgb@un.org)

## DRAFT STRUCTURE FOR THE VIRTUAL SESSION OF UNEA-5, 22-23 February 2021

	22 February 2021	23 February 2021
<b>11:00 -14:00</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening Plenary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Functional opening [President and Executive Director]</li> <li>- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</li> <li>-Statements from Regional and Political Groups</li> <li>- Credentials of representatives</li> <li>-Report by the Committee of PR's on recommended decisions</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACEFRS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership Dialogue: Group B</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACEFRS</b></p>
<b>14:00 -16:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	
<b>16:00 - 19:00</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership Dialogue: Group A</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACEFRS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adjournment (Wrap-up) Plenary Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summary of Leadership Dialogues</li> <li>- Adoption of procedural decisions including MTS and POW</li> <li>-Political message</li> <li>-Kick-off of UNEP@50</li> <li>- <i>Adjournment of the Session.</i></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACEFRS</b></p>

*All times indicated in GMT+3. All sessions will be interpreted to the six official languages of the United Nations (ACEFRS). Each leadership dialogue will be facilitated by a moderator to allow for an interactive exchange of views. Participation in the dialogues is voluntary.*

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**Provisional agenda for UNEA-5 as reflected in by [UNEA decision 4/2](#)<sup>1</sup>**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. International environmental policy and governance issues.
6. Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues.
7. Stakeholder engagement.
8. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. High-level segment.
10. Provisional agenda and date of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.
11. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
12. Election of officers.
13. Other matters.
14. Adoption of the report.
15. Closure of the session.

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<sup>1</sup> The proposed distribution of items for the virtual session of UNEA-5 (February 2021) and the resumed session of UNEA-5 (February 2022) are reflected in the following page.

## Proposed distribution of agenda items for UNEA-5

<b>Agenda items for consideration at the virtual session of UNEA-5 in February 2021</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening of the session.</li><li>• Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.</li><li>• Credentials of representatives.**</li><li>• Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.*</li><li>• Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues including Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023 and Medium-Term Strategy for the Period 2022-2025.</li><li>• Leadership dialogue.</li></ul>
<b>Agenda items that may be referred for consideration at the resumed session of UNEA-5 in February 2022</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International environmental policy and governance issues.</li><li>• Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</li><li>• High-level segment and Leadership dialogue.**</li><li>• Stakeholder engagement.</li><li>• Provisional agenda and date of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.</li><li>• Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.**</li><li>• Election of officers.</li><li>• Other matters.</li><li>• Adoption of the report.</li><li>• Closure of the session.</li></ul>
<b>Additional agenda item for UNEA-5 recommended by the Secretariat in accordance with rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure, for consideration both at the virtual session of UENA-5 in February 2021 and at the resumed session in February 2022, or alternatively as a high-level event convened back-to-back with the resumed session.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972.</li></ul>

*\* The report of CPR will remain open in light of the work required to prepare the resumed session of UNEA-5 and the need to convene an OECPR meeting in 2022.*

*\*\* These items, having been opened in the virtual session (February 2021) will be formally closed during resumed session (February 2022).*