

On behalf of WEOG I thank the Secretariat for preparing the additional note on procedural and legal questions for consideration of the cycle of the term of office of the Bureaus of the UN Environment Assembly and the CPR.

WEOG reaffirms its position that option A, the election of a CPR Bureau according to established practice, the existing cycle of rotation, should continue to determine the new CPR Bureau and Chair.

WEOG is nominating H.E. Luísa Fragoso, Head of Mission and Permanent Representative of Portugal to UNEP, as the WEOG candidate for the position of Chair of the CPR Bureau, as per the rotation practice. As the group decided that this will be a collaborative/shared candidacy, whereby Portugal will fulfil the first year of the mandate, followed by Finland in 2022-2023, WEOG will inform the Secretariat accordingly when H.E. the Permanent Representative of Finland is to replace Portugal as Chair of the Bureau of the CPR and start its term, as per rule 19 para 2 of the Rules of Procedure.

We again invite the other regional groups to endorse the announced WEOG shared/collaborative candidacy of Portugal and Finland in line with this established rotation within the CPR Bureau.

The well-established practices [in UNEP and in the UN system at large], and the existing rules and decisions that underpin the WEOG position are clear and understood by all. However, we must express our concern that options B and C are **not** in line with established practice or procedure and would require a separate UNEA decision. .

We further recall the mandate given by UNEA-5 recommending that the CPR consider systemic questions in a comprehensive manner, and we should do so, ideally in the framework of the CPR based Review process, which hopefully will result in recommendations to be considered at the next UNEA.

It is important that we do not prejudge that process or create precedents which are not covered by the rules of procedure or practices that currently guide our work. This can create uncertainty which will not serve us nor UNEP well.

It is also clear that the UNEP CPR has adapted and functioned effectively through the challenging past year of the pandemic. This has enabled the CPR to assume its core function of oversight of UNEP's activities and contributed to a successful preparation of UNEA 5.1. WEOG remains committed to the collaborative, participatory and constructive nature of the work of the CPR and its Bureau.

The success of multilateral work relies upon a spirit of constructive co-operation between delegations and regional groups. We can make progress through consensus and advance the multilateral environmental agenda. In this inclusive spirit WEOG remains committed to achieving a successful resumed session of the Environment Assembly in February and March 2022 and to help strengthen UNEP's capacity to support implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda.

WEOG expresses the sincere hope that that we can turn our collective focus and discussions to the many opportunities for Member States to work together and advance global leadership in environmental governance at UNEA 5.2 and beyond through both a successful UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50.

Furthermore, WEOG will give its full and unequivocal support to UNEA6 under the presidency and leadership of the African Group.

I therefore once again invite you to endorse the WEOG candidates in line with the long-established precedent of rotation within the CPR Bureau.

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