

154-CPR-Mtg/20/05/2021
Algeria's comments on the ED's quarterly report

Kindly check against delivery

We recognize the references made to the Adaptation Gap Report 2020 developed ahead of the Climate Summit of 2021, as well as the UNEP synthesis report regarding “Making Peace with Nature”.

Actually, we join in seeing merit in how climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution emergencies can be tackled jointly within the framework of the SDGs.

One of the responses Africa has envisaged and agreed on, during the last AMCEN Conference is the creation of a "Green Stimulus Recovery Programme" that will contribute to the development of restorative initiatives in African countries. While most countries face emergent needs that require to rethink economy, among others, we are of the view that green growth is a possible way out, as focus could be put on green and decent jobs, especially in the context of efforts aiming to eradicate poverty and reduce inequities. Encouragement of small businesses and enterprises may be of great contribution to this end and PAGE can help in this respect, as it goes along the lines of the global Eco-innovative approach that UNEP developed in the MTS, recognizing the importance of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to economic, social, and environmental resilience in times of emergencies, as well as for future engagements in the field of circular economy and businesses related to the creation of green decent jobs.

In this context, as UNEP is already engaged with a given number of countries in the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), the scope of this latter may be widened and serve as a basis to respond to global and emergent needs, since there could be room to modulate the means at our disposal, by tailoring specific programmes for their adaptation to country priorities in order to achieve relevance and a comprehensive impact worldwide.

Algeria is eager to reach out for UNEP to share its experience, especially in the frame of Agenda 2030 and the field of SDGs implementation. As it took full ownership of them, it has integrated them in its national programmes and public policies, by putting in place institutional mechanisms for their achievement.

The indicators delivered in its regular reports show clearly that it has registered a notable progress in this field, especially in terms of poverty eradication, health, education, energy, employment and infrastructures.

The contribution and expertise of UNEP are equally sought to improve our country's performance in specific areas, especially for climate, oceans and means of implementation. We wish to see more mutual engagement on the ground and our efforts being reflected in the Programme's reports once we strengthen our collaboration by further implementation of the MoU we signed in 2018.

This is even more relevant that, beyond the environment department, we have recently created a new Ministry of Energy transition, there is therefore promising ground to initiate and engage it for partnering with UNEP.

Lastly, we wish to indicate that Algeria, through the Ministry of Environment/ National Waste Agency and in partnership with the Federation of companies of Congo are hosting next 5-7 June a virtual exhibition under the theme of "Circular Economy in Africa: investment opportunities", a regular rendez-vous that works into bringing actors engaged in drawing links between economy and environment.

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Comments

On the Cycle Term of Office of the CPR

First of all, Algeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by the G77+China and the African Group. Algeria further recognizes itself in the statement made by Argentina on behalf of GRULAC.

We thank the Secretariat for providing the supporting document that shall serve as a basis for our discussions under this item.

As our concerns are being covered by the two statements, in the interest of time, our intervention shall tackle specifics we deem important to highlight as follows:

- We emphasize on the importance of solving the issue at hand in a constructive manner and spirit from all sides, as done previously.
- We ascertain that we abide by the Rules of Procedure as the three options presented by the Secretariat are all in full conformity with their provisions;

- As a consequence, we could cease referring to the current situation generated by specific circumstances (COVID-19 pandemic-UNEA/5 organization in two parts and Africa not being able to take over presidency of UNEA-6 in due time) as interpretation of the rules;

- The purpose of the extension of the CPR mandate /reelection of the current officers is to carry on the work it had been engaged in preparing of UNEA-5, just like the UNEA Bureau itself. This argument was collectively deemed pertinent and valid when put forward in 2020 during the discussion of the extension of the duration of UNEA-5 as a whole.

- We would like to insist on the fact that the issue under discussion remains a policy issue. We, therefore, feel a need, and we actually appeal, to dissipate any misunderstanding/misperception about us resenting any region taking over the CPR chairship: we're facing an exceptional situation that necessitates to opt for an adequate answer within the Rules of Procedure, as provided for by Option B which responds to this requirement and imperative;

- Since there is a CPR based review in process, it shall take in charge all the deficiencies qualified as “systemic problems”: one of them which we didn’t figure out is this cumulative function and equal distribution in occupying the positions within the bureaus, all for the sake of equitable regional balance;
- The CPR led review process gives us the opportunity to address and fix these inadequacies, for this time and for future instances: it is the relevant venue;
- For Africa’s presidency (UNEA-6), we made it clear, from the time we envisaged splitting UNEA-5 and extending its duration, and at several instances that we stick to a full two-year mandate: the Rules of Procedure provide for the tenure of two years, the exceptional situation affords us to make any adjustments accordingly like it was the case for UNEA-5.
- Mr. Chair, I would like to conclude by highlighting the fact that, in its note UNEP/CPR/154/2, the Secretariat has been consistent in underlying, in its answers to the questions raised, that the Rules of Procedure and even the practice “do not provide for” such or such solution, whereas, at no point, has it indicated that the same Rules of Procedure and practice “prohibit” such or such solution.

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Algeria's comments on the Assessment and lessons learned from the online session of UNEA-5.1

Again, our delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the African Group.

We reiterate our thanks to the Secretariat for providing the supporting note assessing the lessons learned from the online session of UNEA-5.1.

First of all, we consider what helped in somehow qualifying the virtual session as “successful”, is due, in the first place, to the willingness of all participants, even the most reluctant ones, to make it achieve that sought purpose.

We all recall that some of us, particularly, Member States from developing countries being hesitant to engage in such a path, for objective reasons by the way: transparency and inclusiveness being our watchwords, we could not overlook the very tangible hindrances like technical and connectivity challenges, as well as the character of negotiations that is ideally granted by physical presence.

We recognize that most of all, the uninterrupted consultative engagement secured the conditions for us the organization of such an unprecedented meeting format, due to particular circumstances.

Nevertheless, let us not be driven by the enthusiasm of such an achievement: we must acknowledge that we managed to deal mainly with unavoidable procedural matters and decisions that helped UNEP carry out its mandate in a relatively maintained flow.

That's why, we reiterate our initial position as for not encouraging virtual negotiations, not as a mere whim, but for reasons that may appear stringent for some parties and which are objective for others, especially as we are ahead of debating very important matters like the CPR based review process and the 73/333 resolution, whose mandates are determinant in shaping the whole pattern of work, mandates of UNEP, UNEA. It is all the more relevant as we all agreed to strengthen the role of sole headquarters in the Global South.

We hope we could meet again in person to carry on where we had to stop, but in the meantime, we should not initiate or establish practices that are alien to the very spirit of negotiations.

I thank you for your kind attention.