

**Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting  
27 May 2021**

**Comments by Norway on the UNEP Programme Performance Report for 2020**

- We thank UNEP for submitting a detailed narrative report outlining the progress that was made in 2020 despite challenging circumstances.
- We take note that that 86% of the indicator targets were met which is higher than previous periods and that 8 of the indicators had an overachievement of more than 200%.
- Norway would like to highlight the following results achieved:
  - ✓ 10 countries have built their capacity to enable the integration of ecosystem-based adaptation and other adaptation approaches
  - ✓ 41 countries and six transboundary frameworks demonstrated improvement in the institutional set-up for cross-sector collaboration for terrestrial ecosystem management
  - ✓ 37 financial institutions adjusted their business models to reduce their ecosystem-related risks. (This should have been elaborated further in the report)
  - ✓ 158 public and private sector actors improved their sustainability practices
  - ✓ In general, we also appreciate all the work that has been done related to waste management and the covid-19 response
  - ✓ We also see some promising activities e.g the MOU with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund to collaborate on the development of the new Global Fund for Coral Reefs which aims to invest USD 500 million over the next ten years to improve the health of coral reefs and the related biodiversity and the funding from GCF for 5 SIDS in the Pacific to enhance climate information/knowledge and fore-cast based financing
- The narrative sections should be better linked to the indicators and targets to better understand how the outputs contributes to the expected results (if you are on track to achieve the results). The reporting is still very activity- and output-based. We do hope that the new MTS will enable the documentation of longer-term results and alignment with the SDGs.
- UNEP should always explain major deviations in targets (such as the environmental governance policy coherence, SDG indicators, indicators on chemicals and waste) and expenditures (underspending in the environmental governance program and overspending in the climate program).
- In several results examples, UNEP's specific contribution towards achieving results have not been mentioned. An example of this is the development of the Ghana Adaptation Plan. What has been UNEP's role and added value?
- UNEP should also better document the dissemination and uptake of the organization's work e.g the analysis of single use plastics and the Lifestyles Calculator.
- We appreciate that the report includes link to the various results examples which provides an opportunity to get more in-depth information about the specific result and that success stories have been added. However, it is not always clear why the selected success story has

been selected e.g the Iraq example. Some of the examples are at the activity/output level and we recommend to use examples at the outcome level.

- Gender: We welcome the stronger references to gender compared to previous PPR. The Women Greening Kenyan Customs example is a great example of gender inclusion in your work and we warmly welcome more projects like this.
- We would like more information on the status of the implementation of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Action Plan including information on areas where UNEP can improve. In addition we would like to have more information on the 2019 score card on the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the empowerment of women and what UNEPs areas of improvement are since only 47% of the performance indicators were met.
- We also take note that significant progress has been made on the implementation of outstanding audit recommendations and the progress made on improving Enterprise Risk Management.
- Finally, we find it positive that that overall funding to the Environment Fund increased with 13% as this in addition to soft-earmarking will enable UNEP to deliver on its mandate