

**Second workshop on United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333, entitled
“Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established
pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277”**

Input by the European Union and its Member States (EU+MS)

General remarks

- *EU+MS welcome this second informal workshop dedicated to strengthening international environmental governance in the context of sustainable development in light of the dedicated section of the draft Building Blocks.*
- *Generally EU+MS support the elements proposed in the governance section of the Building Blocks.*
- *In terms of format, EU+MS suggest to shorten and structure this section: starting from the relevance of international environmental governance, the recognition of the roles of UNEA, MEAs and UNEP and related guidance and commitments, including on science-policy interface.*

(i) Which building blocks under title “Strengthening international environmental governance in the context of sustainable development” might expand current mandates or fall outside the scope of resolution 73/333?

- *Overall, EU+MS support the draft building blocks proposals as a good basis to strengthen international environmental governance, there are nonetheless certain elements that appear beyond the scope of this declaration, such as the role foreseen for the CPR in paragraph 9 under this section, in the Building Blocks.*
 - *It goes beyond the CPR’s mandate to review and oversight and, therefore, should be adjusted to be in line with its mandate, as set out in GC decision 19/32.*
 - *Instead, EU+MS support calling upon all Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies who have not yet done so, to become accredited to the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP and to actively participate in its activities.*

(ii) What are the benefits of having United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) as a central collaboration platform that provides overarching policy guidance and sets the global environmental agenda?

- *EU+MS support wording that emphasises the need for overarching guidance from UNEA to enhance the awareness and consideration of interlinkages and synergies in the global environmental agenda.*

- ***EU+MS consider that from a hierarchical standpoint, UNEA should be mentioned first, so the paragraphs referring to UNEA should be placed at the beginning.***

(iii) What action can the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), as a universal body, take that would reaffirm and strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as an authoritative advocate for the global environment?

- ***EU+MS reaffirm the role of UNEA as the universal highest-level decision-making body on the environment and commit to follow-up on the outcomes of UNEA while calling on all relevant stakeholders to collaborate to enhance their implementation.***
- ***There is room to strengthen the role of UNEA in order to further promote the mainstreaming of the environment in all UN bodies, processes and institutions and thus reinforcing the role of UNEP within the United Nations system.***

(iv) How can UNEP increase its visibility and engagement in international processes?

- ***EU+MS believe it is important to increase UNEP's visibility and engagement in international processes by intensifying dialogue and strengthening its efforts to engage with other UN entities and UN Specialized Agencies, including through the Environment Management Group, which it chairs, and the UN Development Group. Additionally, EU+MS propose inviting all UN entities to contribute to the full implementation of the SDGs including its environmental dimension.***
- ***EU+MS also consider that strengthening UNEP's financial base is a crucial point. We find it important to address the need of secure, stable, and adequate funding of the Environment Fund under the Governance section while addressing implementation-related recommendations in the last section. Additional voluntary contributions supporting UNEP's related projects should be welcomed as well.***

(v) What are the benefits of achieving greater collaboration at the policy level between multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) including the Rio Conventions as well as between MEAs and UNEA and how could such collaboration be strengthened?

- ***EU+MS underline the considerable potential for improving environmental governance, through enhanced synergies and cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs and similar international frameworks, while respecting their respective mandates.***
- ***In this regard, EU+MS believe the Environment Management Group chaired by UNEP, can have an important role leading efforts to formulate an updated United-Nations system-wide strategy on implementing the environment dimension of the 2030 Agenda.***

- *EU+MS also highlight the importance of strengthening international environmental governance with a view to supporting ongoing processes, such as:*
 - *The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals;*
 - *The implementation and development of the Rio Conventions and other international environmental agreements / initiatives, such as Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM);*
 - *To the extent possible this should build upon the work of existing coordination mechanisms, such as the UN Environment Management Group (EMG).*
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