

**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent  
Representatives to the UNEP  
(Online meeting, 25-29 October 2021)**

**Agenda Item 5. Preparations for the Special Session commemoration of the 50th  
anniversary of the creation of UNEP**

*EU+MS Statement*

- The EU and its MS thank the Secretariat for the background documentation and update on the preparations for the special session commemorating the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP.
- We agree with the vision that the commemoration provides an opportunity to strengthen UNEP and position the organization in the heart of the multilateral environmental system.
- We believe the MTS provides a solid basis for UNEP to build on the successes of the past 50 years and strengthen its' foundations towards more effective delivery to tackle the planetary crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as part of the UN system.
- We therefore welcome the proposal for the 4 elements for commemoration.
- Noting the debate we had, recently in the CPR, the EU and its MS welcome the suggestion to organize the Special Session for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of UNEP in the context of an overarching theme that captures in a balanced manner the objectives mentioned above.
- The EU and its MS remain open to a theme reflecting the commemoration of UNEP and the objective to strengthen UNEP in line with the proposed areas of focus for the commemorative event.
- The commemoration should both look back on the successes and lessons learned of 50 years of UNEP, and look forward, on how UNEP can play a vital role to achieve Agenda 2030 for people and planet.
- We welcome the proposed structure for the Special Session and the organization of the Leadership Dialogues as proposed, informed by UNEP's science-policy contribution to UNEP@50, as a basis for discussion on the strengthening of UNEP's science and governance foundation and to enable UNEP meeting its strategic ambitions.
- Related to strengthening UNEP's capacity, we welcome the ambition to establish a global environmental data centre for Nairobi and the proposal to organize a more

in-depth briefing on the World Environment Situation Room (WESR) and the Data Strategy to the CPR, and we suggest taking this up soon after the ASC.

- The EU and its MS furthermore want to emphasize the importance of an inclusive event, that allows for participation and contribution of all UNMS, as well as of Major Groups and Stakeholders and we welcome the offer made to present the outcomes of “the UNEP we want” prepared by them.
  - The EU and its MS furthermore thank UNEP for the overview of communication activities, and we support the views to make use of milestone events to raise UNEPs visibility and mark its’ 50th Anniversary.
  - The EU and its MS congratulate UNEP for its communication strategy as well as Data Strategy, aiming for a strengthened UNEP and substantive resumed session of UNEA-5.2, which delivers tangible, positive and ambitious outcomes.
  - On the outcomes, EU and its MS can support the idea of a Chairs Summary and a Political Declaration. In that regard, the EU and its MS remain convinced that the political declaration mandated by UNGA resolution 73/333 should be the outcome for UNEP@50, considering the synergies between the objectives of UNEP@50 as outlined in the background document and those of the political declaration, namely the strengthening of international environmental law and governance, and of the role of UNEP.
  - The EU and its MS would like to reiterate, that EU/MS find as prerequisite for the successful UNEA and UNEP@50 to be fully inclusive and participatory, ensuring adequate representation of all Member States and Stakeholders.
  - The EU and its MS take note of the information on the budget of UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50 provided to us this week, which we will analyse carefully. We would like to recall our shared responsibility to support UNEP for delivering on its mandate, including by respecting contributions to the Environment Fund.
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## **Agenda Item 6: Briefing on preparations for “Stockholm+50**

### *EU and MS Statement*

- The EU and its MS welcome the international meeting “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, which will take place from 2nd to 3rd June 2022. We would like to thank the co-hosts Sweden and Kenya for this initiative.
- The EU and its MS look forward to Stockholm+50 as an opportunity to take vigorous and decisive steps to transform our social and economic systems in the context of the decade of action, and switch to sustainable consumption and production pathways and circular economy.
- We need discussions involving all stakeholders, and must take a holistic approach to tackle the planetary crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution –through actions across all the critical sectors. This is a precondition for achieving sustainable development and prosperity for all, while accelerating a systemic change that goes beyond the environmental dimension.
- We believe that it is important that Stockholm+50 promotes a meaningful, diverse engagement of all stakeholders towards transformative actions. Particularly listening and responding to the voices of the youth, indigenous peoples, and those most vulnerable.
- The EU and its MS therefore commend the inclusive approach with strong involvement of the youth and the focus on implementation and delivery on the ground by identifying the needed actions
- The EU and its MS see the three leadership dialogues as a good base to address the objectives of the Stockholm+50 conference and give bold recommendations for the future.
- The EU and its MS is looking forward to UNEA 5.2 and consider that the ministerial declaration as a whole would be an important input to Stockholm+50. EU/MS would further urge to include a paragraph in the ministerial declaration on Stockholm+50 to that effect.