

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Bureau Meeting  
Wednesday 24 November 2021, 10.00 - 12:00 am  
Conference Room 9

**Agenda item 2: Preparations for the 156th meeting of the CPR.**

**Note from the Secretariat on the proposed way forward on the action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of “The future we want” outcome document**

In accordance with UNEA decision 4/2, the Executive Director has submitted an action plan to the fifth session of UNEA as an official working document made available in all official UN languages, entitled “Action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development” (UNEP/EA.5/23). The action plan built on two substantive reports considered by the CPR in January and July 2020, respectively: the first one on the progress of implementation of paragraph 88 since its adoption in 2012, and the second one identifying areas that require further efforts to fully deliver on each of the subparagraphs (a)-(h) of paragraph 88. Specifically, the action plan reflects the guidance – both oral and written – provided by Member States throughout six meetings of the CPR subcommittee held from October 2019 to October 2020.

At the subcommittee meeting of the CPR held on 9 November 2021, Member States expressed divergent views on whether or not to update the action plan. In this context, the secretariat would like to highlight the following considerations:

- The action plan has been finalized after an extensive year-long consultation process with the Member States and has already been formally submitted to UNEA. No other official documents for UNEA-5 are being revised or updated.
- The implementation of the action plan is expected to be a continuous process, with the commitment by Member States to support and guide the UNEP secretariat remaining an essential component. Key elements of the plan will be mainstreamed into future UNEP medium-term strategies and programmes of work, and closely monitored for impact.
- While some Member States called for revision of the action plan at the subcommittee on 9 November, others expressed a clear preference for not changing the document, and instead seeking endorsement/agreement on Member State-led action in the context of a UNEA decision.
- Some of the concrete changes proposed by Member States to revise the action plan at the subcommittee meeting on 11 November were already discussed at length during the preparatory consultation process and have, according to the view of the secretariat, been reflected in a balanced manner on the present action plan.
- With regard to the request to factually update the action plan to reflect new developments (such as the thematic funds, the creation of a digital hub, and the possible upgrading and refurbishment of the UN complex in Gigiri), neither of these developments are yet mature to be included in the plan, as they are foreseen to be a result of the consultations in the run-up to UNEP@50.

- Given the broad scope of the action plan, any further substantive revision of the action plan would require at least 3-4 weeks of work within the secretariat, which does not allow for making the document available in time for UNEA-5.2. UNON has established a deadline of 22 November for any document to be translated in time for UNEA-5.2.

The secretariat therefore recommends that Member States continue to consider the action plan in the context of the draft decision on “The provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of UNEA”.

The text in paragraph 9 in the draft decision reads as follows:

*“9. Welcomes the action plan for the implementation of sub-paragraphs (a)-(h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and notes that the Executive Director will mainstream elements of the plan into future UNEP medium-term strategies and programmes of work which shall be closely monitored for impact.”*

Subject to further consultations among Member States, that text may be expanded to include other elements that they may wish to agree upon, including possible political messages and priorities, elements related to the implementation and monitoring of the plan, and possible reflection of relevant new developments in areas such as the UN system reform and science policy interface.

Alternatively, Member States may wish to table a separate decision/resolution specifically addressing the action plan that would outline key joint messages that Member States agree on relating to the action plan, for consideration and possible adoption at UNEA 5.2.