



**156<sup>th</sup> meeting  
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP  
28 September 2021**

**Interventions on behalf of the European Union  
and its Member States**

*Agenda Item 4: Report by the Executive Director*

- Chair, Madam Executive Director, Excellences, colleagues. I am privileged to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

- At the start I would like to thank the Executive Director for another comprehensive quarterly report, covering a busy 3 month with significant and milestone events such as the High Level Political Forum, UNGA Assembly and the UN Food Systems Summit.
- The World Food Systems Summit that took place in September where countries agreed, among other things on **Five action areas** to help inform the transitions to implement 2030 Agenda. These actions include the need to boost Nature Based Solutions.
- The EU and its MS congratulate UNEP for active role in the Food Systems Summit, and look forward to continuing Summit follow up work, together with other UN bodies, such as FAO, World Organization for Animal Health

and World Health Organization. We believe this work needs to put a special focus on strengthening environmental dimensions of One Health approaches.

- The EU and its MS were encouraged by 76<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly recognising the importance of environmental matters, and holding timely meetings, like the High Level Dialogue on Energy with delivered significant outcomes on clean energy. These developments keep environment high on political agendas. We need to make the best use of it, and do everything to prepare for a substantive UNEA 5.2 delivering on our priorities.
- The EU and its MS are pleased with the adoption of UNEA Resolution in New York, which decided that the political declaration pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/333 should be adopted at UNEP@50. We look forward to concluding talks on the Declaration in February 2022.
- We also believe we had a long and rich discussions on the theme and the programme of UNEP@50. UNEP must be at the centre of the celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which should set it on a path of the next 50 years of unquestioned leadership on environmental matters at the global level.
- We need to conclude this discussion today and move our focus on substantive preparations for the commemorative event. The EU and its MS maintain the view that substantive and engaging programme and ambitious outcome is essential to attract high level participation.
- Regarding the wider participation of MS at resumed UNEA and UNEP@50, I am pleased to announce, that the EU will contribute to organisation of UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 by offering UNEP a 500 000 USD to support participation of developing countries in these events.
- Today, we also look forward to a constructive and conclusive discussion on the best way forward to work on clusters of resolutions, in order to prepare for

efficient OECPR. Substantive consultations will be essential to bridge our views, identify areas of convergence and ideally, to merge some of the resolutions.

- We also hope to advance on a number of draft Decisions, related to the Action Plan of Future We Want, and CPR recommendation for convening the IGR meeting in February.
- I thank you.