



Statements by Switzerland at the 156th Meeting of the CPR of UNEP

Agenda item 5: Report of the Executive Director

Madame Chair

My delegation would like to express its gratitude to Madame Executive Director for her succinct briefing and commend her, UNEP's management and staff on a very good performance. Madame Executive Director, your reflections on UNEA5.2, UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 are insightful and provide a very good guidance to this committee. UNEP provided significant science-policy input to COP 26 in Glasgow with the publication of three flagship reports: the emission gap, the adaptation gap and the production gap report. These reports have greatly contributed to the thinking and shaping of the international discussion on different aspects of climate change. Well done!

The recently concluded MOPAN evaluation came to a positive conclusion on UNEP's science-policy work, which is at the core of UNEP's mandate. Moreover, we were glad to learn that the overall assessment of UNEP was positive – also in comparison to other UN agencies, funds & programs. In particular, the quality of management and of staff were highlighted as well as the overall strategic direction set in the new Mid-Term Strategy. UNEP is in good shape and well prepared to successfully deliver on its mandate. We trust that perceived shortcomings, namely project management, the role of evaluations and result-based budgeting, will be addressed in the new Programm of Work and we encourage UNEP to report back to this Committee on progress made in the next Annual Sub-Committee.

Agenda item 5: Preparations for UNEA-5

Madame Chair

Switzerland is committed to an ambitious and action oriented UNEA5.2 and a successful UNEP@50. Universal participation is crucial and to this end, Switzerland financially contributes to allow for in person participation of participants of LDC countries. We would like to commend you and your bureau on the progress made in the preparation of UNEA5.2 and UNEP@50. We support the proposed clustering of resolutions and the structure of the special session on UNEP@50. These are important formal elements that allow us to dig into the depth of material preparation. On material preparation, I have the honour to inform that Switzerland, Albania, Mali, North-Macedonia and Uruguay co-covene a series of Webinars for regional groups on the initiative to establish a science-policy panel for chemicals, waste and pollution. These Webinars should allow for an in-depth discussion of this initiative and prepare for a well informed negotiation of the resolution.

While we understand the planning uncertainty related to the Covid pandemic, we still deem it necessary that the UNEA Bureau and with the CPR Bureau define guidance on important parameters such as the size of delegations for UNEA and the OE-CPR, the number of parallel meetings /negotiations, in a timely matter.

Agenda item 6: Preparation for UNEP@50

Madame Chair

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Vice-Chair in charge of the preparations for UNEP@50, the Ambassador of Algeria, for her tireless efforts. We note with satisfaction that many suggestions on the structure of the special session were taken on board, namely the presentation of UNEP's study and the contribution of the civil society organizations on the first day. However, we're surprised to see that the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue was deleted from the agenda. Stakeholder engagement has been an important agenda item of any UNEA session so far, and we would like to request to reinsert the multi-stakeholder dialogue, which was not questioned by any delegation in previous consultations, in the programme as a parallel event to the High-Level plenary on day 2. My delegation fully supports the result of the contact group on the theme for UNEP@50.