

The Arab Group Statement

Delivered by the Dean, H.E. Mr. Saleh Al Harthi – Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman - Nairobi
At the subcommittee meeting of the CPR (UNEP) – 13th January 2022

**Madam Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I have the honor to present this statement on behalf of the Arab Group regarding the presented options for convening the meeting of the resumed session of UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 as proposed by the bureaus of UNEA and the CPR in which various views were expressed on the three options which were finally, and after discussions and consultations, limited into two options, option1 and option2.

We would like to refer to the Governing Council letter regarding the secretariat's wish to have written responses from the member states before the first of February 2022.

**Madam Chair,
The distinguished delegations,**

We in the Arab Group would like to reiterate our utmost keenness on the success of UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 meetings and in the desired manner, in terms of reaching agreements on the resolutions presented by many countries and commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

We believe this can be best attained through ensuring the highest attendance and level of participation by member states from the

various regional Groups. Therefore, the sudden change of the dates from option1 to option2 will confuse the arrangements which are almost complete for some delegations, besides the difficulty for many delegations to attend at the end of April as it coincides with the holy month of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr celebrations. This is in addition to coinciding with other prior scheduled meetings including the High-level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda in New York on 28th April 2022.

For that, the Arab Group supports the proceeding with of option1 as the best solution preferred by many regional Groups. Or, in the event of difficulty, alternative dates other than those in option2 can be considered to ensure the highest attendance of all delegations.

We are sure that this opinion is not an impossible option and it will definitely have your support Madam Chair, and that of most of the delegations.

Thank you Madam.