



**157<sup>th</sup> meeting  
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP  
01 February 2022**

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

- Chair, Madam Executive Director, Excellences, colleagues.
- I am pleased to join the 157<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and I am privileged to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

- Allow me to start with an expression of sincere appreciation for the UNEP Secretariat, CPR Chair, Vice-Chairs and UNEA Bureau president, as well as the host country for your consistent efforts, bringing us towards the resumed meeting of the 5th session of the UN Environmental Assembly and the commemoration of 50 years of UNEP.
- The EU and its MS are grateful for your tireless work in planning these events, to guarantee safe and inclusive in person participation. We commend the Kenyan government, UNEP and UNON Task Force, for doing everything to create COVID-19 safe conditions thought the meetings.

- Some organisational and logistical answers remain to be provided and we are looking forward to receive them, before our leaders and experts arrive to Nairobi. We would also welcome a briefing on the latest status of preparations.
- Just two weeks are left before we engage in the third round of consultations on the Political Declaration of UNGA 73/333. The EU and its MS are prepared to use this time effectively, through active engagement in consultations on all clusters, under the leadership of the co-facilitators.
- The co-facilitators of the 5 clusters did great preparatory work to enable further consultations on draft resolutions. We need to respect these efforts, and engage most actively in work on each cluster.
- This time is vital to find areas of convergence on draft resolutions, to improve them or possibly, merge some of them. This will allow us to minimise the number of open issues to be addressed at the Open Ended CPR, which will be very busy and intensive.
- We thank the secretariat for today's timely discussion on the structure and agenda of OECPR. The EU and MS are generally content with the proposed structure of the meeting, but we would welcome more details on time slots allocated to each cluster.
- The EU and its MS highly appreciate the organisation of multi-stakeholder events during the Assembly and the UNEP@50 and we look forward to hear updates, allowing us to prepare for inclusive discussions with stakeholders.
- Allow me also to also welcome the good progress made in preparations for UNEP@50, under the leadership of CPR Vice Chair, Ambassador of Algeria.

We look forward to this landmark event to adopt the Political Declaration and to set UNEP on the path for the next 50 years of success.

- Finally, as the meeting of today includes stock taking of resolutions, allow me to remind the EU and its MS priorities for UNEA 5.2.
- We fully support the adoption of an ambitious Ministerial Declaration with a focus on the theme of UNEA 5: *Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the sustainable development goals*; reflecting the key international environmental governance outcomes and providing inputs to Stockholm+50.
- Of the utmost importance however is the adoption of a resolution, establishing an Intergovernmental Negotiations Committee for the legally binding Global Agreement of Plastics.
- We can and we must agree, at UNEA 5.2. on more, than just the establishment of the INC. The resolution also needs to provide the minimum necessary provisions on the mandate of the INC – to allow it to start negotiations from day one, without risk of delay.
- The resolution must also clearly set the scope of work - to cover full life cycle of plastics, including microplastics and embrace the circular economy approach.
- Under the theme of UNEA 5: *Strengthening Actions for Nature!*” we must make a breakthrough on the Nature Based Solutions, which I am confident, we can do, through continuous discussions to understand existing concerns and to find an acceptable way forward.
- Dear Executive Director, Excellencies, back in 2020, political leaders of 93 countries from all regions, participating in the UN Summit on Biodiversity,

made the Leaders' Pledge for Nature and committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.

- In this pledge, the leaders committed to accelerate the transition to sustainable growth, including through a significant scale-up in nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches on land and at sea.
- Nature Based solutions can help addressing wide range of issues from protecting shores from erosion, replenishing groundwater resources, to improving urban life. These are just couple of examples.
- Nature Based Solutions cannot on their own address the triple global crises. But because of their cost effective nature, they must be an equal and accessible tool to all, complimenting other measures to address triple planetary crises.
- This is why it is key, to adopt at UNEA 5.2. a resolution on NBS, to achieve a common understanding of nature based solutions, and to increase their uptake.
- On behalf of the EU and its Member States I would like to reconfirm our readiness to continue engaging with all MS today and the informal consultations on all proposed resolutions during the coming weeks, to make maximum progress before the Open Ended CPR.
- Finally I would like to thank deputy Executive Director Joyce Msuya for her excellent work at UNEP and wish her most of success in her new appointment.
- I thank you, Chair.