

**EU and its Member States' comments for agenda items 2, 3 and 4 of the CPR
Subcommittee meeting of 7 July 2022**

Agenda Item 2: Update on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/8 entitled “Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution”

- The EU+MS thank the Secretariat for the update on the implementation of the resolution 5/8 on the Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.
- This resolution constitutes one of the milestone outcomes achieved at UNEA5.2, that will pave the way towards a strengthened science policy interface that addresses the 3 planetary crises, which also responds to the Political Declaration of UNEP@50 (para 13).
- In particular, the panel should support countries in their efforts to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, and address pollution, to implement MEAs, and support intergovernmental bodies, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in their work.
- Drawing from the discussions held at UNEA, the EU and its MS are convinced that it is of utmost importance to start a process that is both inclusive and diligent, with a view to come to agreement on the mandate, functions and governance of the panel that can meet the broadest support of all MS.
- We therefore welcome a broad consultation process, with UNEP, with the relevant MEAs and other external partners and member states to prepare for the first ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group and the ensuing process and to maintain the momentum.
- In that regard, the EU+MS favour the Bureau for the ad hoc OEWG comprised of 10 Members, 2 per region, we also request the Secretariat to extend the deadline for nominations to be made by the regional groups.

With regards to the proposed way forward as laid out in the document for this meeting, the EU and its MS wish to share the following observations:

- The EU+MS welcome the **establishment of a Technical Advisory group** to support the ED and the Secretariat in preparations for the ad hoc OEWG, as well as to prepare for the analytical and summary reports necessary for its work, as requested in the resolution (para 13).
- We also welcome the acceptance of Sir Bob Watson to chair the Technical Advisory Group. His rich experience from the establishment and functioning of IPCC and IPBES will certainly contribute to the success of the establishment of the Panel.
- The Technical Advisory Group should have a mix of expertise from UNEP, relevant MEAs and other relevant organizations, including WHO, to ensure that the agenda and the documents of the ad hoc OEWG provide a robust basis for the discussions on the establishment of the panel. This will facilitate our discussions in a transparent and inclusive manner on all relevant issues to resolve, including on the scope, the functions, and the relationships of the panel with other relevant stakeholders.

- The EU and its MS would also like to have more information on who is invited to participate in the Advisory Group.
- In relation to **scheduling and location of the AH OEWG**, the EU+MS are aware of the heavy international environment agenda in the second half of 2022, and that limited options are available to organize the meeting.
- We appreciate the offer by the government of Thailand to host the first ad hoc OEWG on 3-6 October 2022 at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok.
- However, we note the very tight timeline for the preparation and translation of working and information documents, to be submitted for the AH OEWG.
- We would therefore like to seek clarity on the proposed agenda for the AHOEWG, as well as the related documents that would be prepared to facilitate our discussions.
- We would furthermore welcome more detailed information on the subsequent AH OEWGs in the period up till 2024.
- The EU+MS welcome the efforts of the Secretariat to reach out to MS and relevant stakeholders in **preparations of the AH OEWG 1**.
- The EU+MS also welcome the proposal by the UNEP Secretariat to organize webinar panel discussions and information sessions in July and September to bring together the science community, academia, Member States and civil society into the process as well as to engage with industry and regulators and also the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the SAICM beyond 2020 in Bucharest.
- However, we stress that these consultations should not be limited to only chemicals and waste related fora and events.
- Recognizing that initial discussions on a SPP were based on the report entitled Assessment of Options for Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface at the International Level for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (2020), we emphasize that the resolution 5/8 has decided that the AH OEWG would have to determine more precisely the scope of the panel, including on pollution prevention.
- We therefore call on the Secretariat to ensure to take into account all relevant views of MS and stakeholders in order to ensure well informed preparations for the meetings.
- Regarding funding of the process, the EU+MS thank the Governments of Switzerland, UK and France for their generous contributions to support the work of the Secretariat and encourage the UN member states as well as others including private sector in a position to do so to come forward with financial support to contribute to the successful completion of the process.

Agenda Item 3: Update on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/14 entitled “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument”

- The EU and its MS welcome and thank the Executive Director for her letter (Ref : UNE-2022-00869-a) dated 24 June 2022 regarding the outcome of Ad-hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare for the new legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (Dakar, 30 May - 1 June 2022) and the update on the arrangements that are being put in place in UNEP for the INC process.

- The EU and its MS take note of the outcome of the OEWG as presented in Annex 1 to the letter and would encourage UNEP to rapidly continue with their planning to ensure a smooth and transparent execution of the upcoming INC meetings, in particular the first INC where a number of documents have been requested.
- We thank the UNEP Secretariat for providing additional information on the budget needed for the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/14. However, we note with concern that the cost estimates are now of USD 27M. The latter have therefore doubled, compared to the estimates that UNEP made earlier on the basis of the UNEA draft resolution in a technical note and in the ED Letter of 4 April 2022.
- The EU and its Member States would like to receive additional explanations from the Secretariat on the rationale behind this increase. Also, we would like to know if a portion of these costs will be covered by the Environment Fund. Indeed, such high costs might hinder budget availability for other processes.
- The EU and its MS would like to highlight the importance of having a Secretariat for plastic INC in place as soon as possible to ensure the necessary preparations for the first meeting. On this matter, the EU and its MS would like to congratulate Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, for the position of D2 Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. We look forward working with her and her team.
- However, the EU and its MS would like to stress the importance for the INC Secretariat to work in good cooperation with other international organisations. The Executive Director's Letter from 24 June 2022 does not reflect such approach. We would like to encourage the INC Secretariat to work and mobilize expertise within UNEP (Chemicals & Health Branch) and other international organisations (WTO, WHO, FAO, etc.) and MEAs (BRS Secretariat).
- The EU and its MS reiterate the request that the meeting documents, including a scenario note, are shared with Member States well in advance (at least 6 weeks) of each INC meeting in all UN languages.
- The EU and its MS take note of the financial overview given by the ED and will for transparency reasons call for a complete overview with breakdown of costs as soon as the new secretariat is in place.

Agenda Item 4: Briefing on the implementation and mainstreaming of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Action Programme

- The EU+MS appreciate the work of UNEP on Poverty and Environment Action Programme and stress the importance of links between poverty and the environment & climate issues.
- The EU+MS recall that it is crucial to mainstream environment within the UN system and it is also a positive example for the UN reform and concrete partnership.
- The EU+MS express its satisfaction about the results of PEA and support the vision of the PEI/PEA programmatic approach to be applied broadly across UNEP and UNDP, given findings of SIDA's Poverty review, which made a need for a more pro-poor approach to UNEP's work clear.
- The EU+MS also suggest that the approach could inspire other related approaches such as UNDP's BIOFIN.
- The EU+MS note that several entry points have been identified to continue the work of PEA through an integrated approach and call for a plan of "review moment" to assess

whether this is enough to continue and build on the work of PEA. Lessons learned from PEA should influence design of future Programme of Work.

- The EU+MS recognize that the income inequality increased by 11 % in developing countries between 1990 and 2010 and calls for more recent data.
- The EU+MS request the data of the delivery model that would support the implementation of MTS and PoW.

