



**159<sup>th</sup> meeting  
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP  
26 May 2022**

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

*Agenda Item 4: Report by the Executive Director*

- Madam Executive Director, Mister Chair, 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.

First of all, allow me to thank UNEP Secretariat for an update on implementation of resolutions on nitrogen, Global Environmental Outlook and Nature Based Solutions, that we heard this morning.

And now I thank you, Madam Executive Director, for your all-inclusive quarterly overview of environmental activities from April to June. We witnessed landmark developments during these months.

- Stockholm+50 was one of them. I congratulate you, Madam Executive Director, as well as the host countries Kenya and Sweden, for a successful conference, which marked the 50 years since the first global Environmental Conference and concluded the commemoration of creation of UNEP 50 years ago.

- Stockholm+50 concluded with a clear message – that while the world made a big progress on environmental policies globally, we face a triple planetary crises today and we need a massive system-wide transformation of our economy and the way of living, to address this crisis and to bring environment to a healthy stage. This action is urgent, and every country needs to contribute to that change.
- Ambitious and active youth participation in Stockholm was the highlight of the conference and I applaud Sweden and Kenya for making this conference truly inclusive.
- I would also like to underline the fruitful outcomes of the United Nations Ocean Conference, where, through the unanimously approved Lisbon Declaration, UN countries recognized that the ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future. With a vibrant civil society engagement, UNOC confirmed the importance of a holistic and science-based dialogue, where all the actors must have a voice.
- While your report covered other essential developments, it was especially reassuring to read about UNEP’s activities such as the Montevideo Programme, paving the way for further support to developing countries in designing their national policies and enforcing environmental law. We take a good note on largest GEF replenishment to date, which enables UNEP to deliver on the MTS, and to make real progress in addressing the triple planetary crisis.
- On behalf of the EU and its Member States, I also applaud the continuous efforts of UNEP in ensuring gender parity and equitable geographical distribution of Secretariat staff, recognising that more time is needed to deliver on all goals.

- Regarding the UNEA 5 outcomes, I thank you, Executive Director and the Secretariat for your consistent efforts to advance on them, while ensuring that outcomes from previous Assemblies are not left behind.
- The EU and its MS concur, that all resolutions need to be implemented, and that Member States need to support UNEP in this task. The EU and its MS are already providing financial support for the implementation of GEO7, the negotiations on plastics and Science Policy Panel process. We trust that other UN Member States around the globe will contribute financially to the implementation of all UNEA 5 outcomes.
- The CPR should be informed of progress made on all resolutions and on the implementation of Programme of Work. We would appreciate if Secretariat could share a timeline for presenting state of play on each of the resolutions.
- We also look forward to discussing the implementation of all UNEA 5 outcomes at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee Meeting, within the context of the Mid-term Strategy and the Programme of Work, giving sufficient attention to the lessons learned during the implementation of MTS.
- Concluding, I thank you, Executive Director again for your report and the Secretariat for briefings received this morning, and look forward to further fruitful discussions on UNEA 5 outcomes.