



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Kenya

## 161<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CPR of UNEP

### Statements by the Swiss delegation

#### Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Director

M. le Président

Tout d'abord, permettez-moi de féliciter très chaleureusement Mme. Inger Andersen pour sa réélection en tant que Directrice exécutive du PNUE et Mme. Elizabeth Mrema pour sa nomination en tant que Directrice exécutive suppléante. Avec vous, Mesdames, le PNUE est dans les meilleures des mains. Votre engagement, votre expertise et votre dévouement ensemble avec l'équipe de direction et l'ensemble du personnel du PNUE sont des garants essentiels pour que le PNUE puisse jouer son rôle dans le monde et au sein des Nations Unies pour faire face aux défis de la triple crise planétaire qui malheureusement est en train de s'aggraver. Nous aimerions également féliciter M. Arnold Kreilhuber pour sa nomination en tant que Directeur Régional pour l'Europe, une position stratégique pour mon pays. Je profite de cette occasion pour remercier vivement Mme. Sonja Leighton-Kone et Mme. Sylvie Motard pour avoir assumé des responsabilités additionnelles dans des capacités ad interim à Nairobi et à Genève. Merci beaucoup!

As confirmed again in UNEP's recent Adaption Gap Report, more UNEP is needed in Nairobi and elsewhere!

My delegation would like to thank the Executive Director for the quarterly report, a well-structured document with essential information on UNEP, presented in a reader friendly way. We note with satisfaction that in 2022 UNEP received the highest amount in core contributions in the past 10 years. Switzerland has been a longstanding advocate for core contributions. Still more than 100 countries are not supporting UNEP financially and we invite all Member States, especially those who are active in this Committee, to contribute their fair share fully.

We also note that the recently established three thematic funds received their first contributions. We would be interested to learn about the break-down of income per funds and the relationship between the Environment Fund and the thematic, including the decision making mechanism for the different funds. We would like to invite the Secretariat to brief us at the next CPR meeting or a dedicated Sub-Committee meeting.

We applaud UNEP's efforts to promote gender parity and increase the geographic diversity of its staff. We note with satisfaction that gender parity has been achieved in UNEP and that the efforts in terms of geographical diversity bear fruit.

We very much welcome the chapter on opportunities, challenges and lessons learned in the quarterly report. We note with appreciation that UNEP will co-lead with FAO and WHO the development of a UN system common approach to pollution in 2023. We invite the Executive Director to present the result of this important work to this committee at an appropriate time next year. Likewise, we invite the Secretariat to give us an update on UNEP's engagement with UN Country Teams, mentioned as lesson learned, at the next CPR meeting or in a dedicated Sub-Committee meeting. My delegation would be interested to learn more about UNEP's involvement in the development UN Sustainable Development Frameworks, including Common Country Analysis. We would also be interested to learn more about the impact of UNEP's New Delivery model on its engagement with UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams.

Mr. Chair

Audits and evaluations provide important oversight information. While welcoming the section on Audits and Evaluations in the report, we think that only referring to Audits and Evaluations in the report and through hyperlinks is insufficient and a missed opportunity to engage the CPR in the discussions of relevant findings. My delegation is grateful for the Evaluation's Office presentation at the Annual Sub-Committee meeting. Yet, given the amount of subjects treated at the Annual Sub-Committee, this presentation doesn't receive the attention it deserves. We note with satisfaction that MOPAN recommendations were taken on board in the new Evaluation Operational Strategy 2022-2025. Yet, we do not recall that this new strategy was presented in a CPR Sub-Committee meeting, allowing delegates

to get familiarized with UNEP's evaluation plans. We would also welcome the presentation of the results of important audits, such as the audit on UNEP's Ecosystem Division to this Committee. We believe that the key findings and recommendations as well as UNEP's management response are of interest to this committee. The same is true for important reports such as UNEP's annual Report on Fraud and Corruption.

Along the same lines, we welcome the Executive Director's announcement to inform the CPR more proactively on its new reports. My delegation commends UNEP for the publication of the new report on Solar Radiation Modification and invites the Chief Scientist to provide a briefing in a CPR Sub-Committee meeting.

Mr. Chair

Providing oversight to UNEP's activities is one task of this committee. The Programme Performance Review is a key tool for this oversight function. Allow me, Mr. Chair, to share a concern of my delegation with regards to the upcoming Programme Performance Review of UNEP's activities in 2022. If only presented at the Annual Sub-Committee at the end of November, we run the risk that the Programme Performance Review does not get the attention it deserves. The attention of most delegations will rather be on the preparation of the next UNEA, and reports on things that happened one year ago, might not be so captivating. Yet, this would be a missed opportunity for the Secretariat and it wouldn't do justice to the tremendous amount of work invested in the preparation of this report.

We would like to invite the Secretariat to develop ideas on how the Programme Performance Review 2022 can be organized in way that it attracts the necessary attention?

Mr. Chair

We have taken note of the Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and thank the Secretariat for this transparency. The TAG is an internal structure of UNEP under the guidance of UNEP's Executive Director. Yet, according to its TOR, the TAG is supposed to assume important responsibilities for the process on establishing a Science – Policy Panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention. Some of the tasks go beyond what the OEWG 1 mandated the SPP secretariat to prepare for OEWG 2. We suggest that the concept note and the TOR are opened for comments of Member States and subject to a discussion in the next meeting of the SPP bureau.

And finally, Mme. Executive Director, as you're embarking on your second mandate: what are your two success stories, you would like to report back on to this Committee in 4 years' time, at the end of your second mandate?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Implementation of paragraph 41(j) of the Chair's Summary of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

Mr. Chair

My delegation would like to express its gratitude to the Secretariat for the preparation of the background documentation, which takes into account our discussions at the last CPR meeting. My delegation supports any effort to make the work of this Committee more efficient, more targeted and more impactful.

On the specific recommendations:

Recommendation 1: My delegation encourages the Secretariat to continue the good practice of preparing a roadmap of UNEP Governing Bodies. Scrolling through the Roadmap as presented online, we regret that the focus of the tentative agendas is almost exclusively on preparatory work for UNEA 6. We encourage the Secretariat to revive the practice of having thematic briefing on different aspects of UNEP's programme of work in CPR Sub-Committee meetings as it used to happen prior to Covid. This would allow delegates to become more familiar with UNEP's activities and to assume their oversight role in a more informed manner and thus more effectively.

Recommendation 2:

We appreciate that a standing agenda item on oversight has been added. We assume that the title of the agenda item 4 allows to present updates and briefings on UNEP's programmatic work, such as a presentation of UNEP's annual report.

My delegation can subscribe to recommendations 3 to 5.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.