

- **AGENDA ITEM 6: Future perspectives on environmental multilateralism**

- The EU and the MS thank UNEP for adding presentation of this report on effective multilateral environmental system, that puts forward ideas for UNEP strengthening.
- The consultations for the Summit of the Future start in New York and so we welcome this timely discussion.
- Allow me to recall that the EU and its MS remain fully supporting of environmental multilateralism as the only way to address the planetary crises that we face. We have seen, especially this year, that multilateralism can deliver and we need to maintain it and strengthen it.
- The central importance of the environment, water, and climate to all aspects of our lives and collective wellbeing must be accompanied by their elevation within our global governance system, including through better integration within the international financial system.
- And now allow me to turn to the report and share a couple of views.
- The report mentions that **UNEP should be empowered to act as a more effective global environment agency. This idea has been explored in the past, but perhaps it could be picked up again, at this important moment before UNEA and Summit of the future.**
- **We would be very interested to hear the views of all MS and especially of UNEP and of Executive Director, on how UNEP can become stronger and how it can benefit from this discussion and what you think UNEP can get out of the Summit of the Future.**
- From the EU and the MS perspective, there are ways to elevate **UNEPs visibility and importance** – for example by ensuring stronger UNEP’s coordinating role in the UN system, through the Environment Management Group and through making its outcomes more operational.
- A stronger role of UNEP in terms of monitoring the achievements of MEAs could also be very useful while respecting their sovereignty and respective monitoring systems”.
- We do support the underpinning idea in the report that we need to implement MEAs in a complementary and synergistic way, and we heard that several times during the ASC.
- We warmly welcome the strong overall call to drive the global shift to a circular economy and just transition. Circularity and SCP should be the underpin any future steps on environment.
- **The idea of** a Science-Policy-Action Network (SPAN) for the planet, is interesting, however, it need to be linked and avoid duplication with the existing science-policy panels (IPCC, IPBES, IPOS), and possible a new SPP on chemicals, waste and pollution. We recall that World Environment Situation Room has the ambition to bring the data from the various panels to policy makers, and maybe we should build on the WESR instead of creating a new structure.
- The report puts forward the proposal for **an inclusive platform for water diplomacy** issues. We consider important to **strengthen global water governance**, and we consider that such platform might be interesting.
- With regards to the recommendation made in the report to provide UNEP and UNEA with an **advisory role for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)**. It is our understanding that UNEP already has the ability to partner with IFI’s. Could UNEP, from their perspective, indicate challenges that would need to be addressed to strengthen its role vis a vis the IFI’s?
- **But we would like to hear a bit more on what the High Level Advisory Board report said on other shifts like sustainable financing and on security and how this links to environment.**
- I will finish with a concluding point that environment and stronger environmental multilateralism has to strongly feature at the Summit of the Future and we would welcome the discussion how can we work collectively and how we can use UNEA 6 to help us achieve that goal.