

EU and its MS remarks and comments made at the CPR Subcommittee meeting
of 18/ 04/2024

UNEA-6 assessment and lessons learnt

- The EU and its Member States would like to thank the UNEP secretariat for the organization of UNEA-6 and for the leadership of Morocco as UNEA 6 Presidency. We commend all MS for very active attendance at UNEA 6.
- The EU and its MS consider that the draft lessons learned paper prepared by the Secretariat is a good starting basis for discussion.
- Some of the EU views will align with UNEP's recommendations, some will come in addition. We trust that Secretariat will listen to the MS views and will work on incorporating them in the paper on lessons learned.
- We agree on the need to conclude with common/agreed lessons learned and to give good guidance for the next UNEA.
- To contribute to discussion, we would like to make the following points.
 - More focused theme and limited around of topics. After UN MS choose the theme for UNEA, it could be useful to discuss and identify the topics which fit under the theme, and on which we should focus on. This would help us to optimize the relevance of UNEA outcomes. The EU and its MS are open to exchange further on how this could be done in practice.
 - We also support short and focused forward looking Ministerial Declaration.
 - Early engagement between proponents on draft resolutions. UNEP secretariat could engage with the proponents before the submission of a draft resolution, to inform them about the existing UNEP mandate, programme of work, existing resolutions and decisions or gaps on that topic. This would help proponents to adjust proposals, to maximize their value.
 - Technical notes can be improved to provide more substantive elements, in addition to information on how proposed resolution links with MTS.
 - The EU and its MS welcome UNEP's suggestion to provide a template and guidance for the preparation of resolutions.
 - Experienced UNEP focal points should be selected for each resolution/decision. They should also consult relevant experts in the house, to get the full picture and cross cutting elements, to support proponents.
 - We would encourage streamlining or merging of resolutions before the start of OECPR. Co-facilitators could be mandated to develop streamlined/merged proposals early on, building on the outcome of the first inter-sessional consultations, in cooperation with proponents.
 - We should find ways to use the time more efficiently, and especially where we have many resolution proposals: Informal informals should start as early as possible, and already during the OECPR. At UNEA 6 informal informal

discussions started too late. Night sessions could be considered for all proposals during the OECPR, whenever necessary, as in previous UNEA sessions.

- We would also like to recall the success of most draft resolutions tabled in December and we encourage UN MS to continue meeting the recommended 12 weeks deadline of submission.
- To increase efficiency, would we encourage integrating into draft resolution texts MS comments on draft resolutions, as uploaded on the Resolutions portal. (in track changes/ brackets). This would apply to the OECPR.
- On time planning and information sharing: EU and its MS would appreciate if the UNEA Bureau and Secretariat would put all efforts to provide timely information on the planning for consultations, informal informals and negotiations before the actual meetings take place.
- Informal consultations could be combined with bilateral consultation. Consultations during the inter-sessional period could be reduced to one round only, to increase the time available for interaction between Member States during the two weeks preceding the start of the OECPR.
- Overall principles for the negotiations could be set at the start of OECPR (similar to what we had at the beginning of the COW at UNEA 6).
- Participation from all Member States, including from capitals, should be actively encouraged during the informal consultations in the CPR subcommittees (organized in hybrid format) before the start of the OECPR.
- Given the importance of the role of co-facilitators, it may be helpful to anticipate the start of their selection process early (e.g. 3 months before the deadline for the submission of resolutions) and consider extending it to non-Nairobi based candidates, with appropriate support and training by UNEP Secretariat.
- We also stress the need for Secretariat to provide maximum support to co-facilitators throughout the negotiations. The support should come in both substantive and legal advice.
- A stronger involvement of youth delegates throughout the UNEA process would be welcome. To that end, guidelines could be developed to provide a clear framework for their effective and inclusive participation. More attention could also be devoted to the Youth Environment Assembly, its timing and how its key messages feed into UNEA next sessions.

Update on UNEP's Foresight Trajectory

- EU and its MS welcome this important exercise, which will feed into the Summit of the Future in September 2024.
- We agree with the comment made earlier by Secretariat that NEP has a mandate to work on emerging issues.
- UNEP has various ways to work on emerging issues, for example publication of Frontier reports. While we support all these work streams, we do encourage UNEP using the resources sufficiently, avoiding overlaps between processes and products.

- We do thank for the presentation of the initial results. Some of those signals of change look extremely relevant and worrying and it is important to keep them in mind.
- While the report on strategic foresight will be submitted to the Summit of the Future, it would also be useful to take the outcomes on strategic foresight also into account in the preparation phase for UNEA-7. This has a potential to help us to focus our UNEA outcomes.
- The outcomes of the Delphi survey 1, which was accessible to all MS, indicated that climate volatility and extreme events, as key elements, among the concerns identified. IPCC has significant expertise and knowledge on climate related scenarios and modelling.
- It would be interesting to know how the Foresight Trajectory takes into account IPCC work and other relevant UN initiatives to optimize synergies.

Briefing on the Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS)

- The EU and MS see the Global Environmental Data Strategy as a commendable step towards evidence-based decision-making and environmental policy-making.
- By improving data governance, promoting inclusive data access and affordability, enhancing data quality, facilitating capacity building, and other pillars of the Strategy, we lay a foundations for effective and sustainable environmental data management.
- The EU and its MS welcome the fact that the Strategy identified the issue of a lack of standards for AI in the section on Environmental Data Governance Gaps. This aligns with the prominent role played by AI and quantum computing technologies identified in the Foresight trajectory.
- On the one hand, the use of AI tools can assist in completing a number of tasks and can help accessing environmental data and knowledge. UNEP's data and knowledge can serve as valuable resources for AI applications. On the other hand, there are challenges associated with AI, which users need to understand.
- Given these specific challenges and rapid advancements and adoption of AI, it is crucial to prioritize capacity building in this area to keep pace with the technology. This could be potentially identified as a separate point in the UNEP's Vision for a GEDS.
- EU+MS support UNEP's Vision and especially for its point 2, which aims at promoting "Inclusive Data Access and Affordability". This is currently a bottleneck in existing Science-policy panels such as the IPCC and IPBES ones, and this needs to be addressed going forward.