

**RUSSIAN DELEGATION**  
**comments on**

**ASSESSMENT AND LESSONS LEARNED**  
**(02 May 2024)**

1. To make the outcome of our work more like an intergovernmentally agreed document, we suggest that section **“I. *Emerging key recommendations*”** be made into a document separate from section **“II. *Background*”** and the subsequent sections that represent a factual narration of what has already happened. Those could be left as a regular Executive Director’s report that does not need additional negotiation. That would clearly delineate intergovernmental process from the work of the Secretariat.
2. We would also like to insert into the recommendations a **clear statement on the unacceptability of politicization of UNEA work and outcomes** as suggested by a number of delegations in the previous meeting.
3. **Comments and suggestions on the text:**

**A. On the outcomes of UNEA**

- i. UNEA ministerial declaration should be short and action-oriented tackling emerging issues and relate closely to the theme of the session [***and the themes of the relevant HLPF***] (***Russia: insert***). The regional ministerial fora, where existing, should, as appropriate, be leveraged for regional consultations on the draft ministerial declaration to ensure early and broad-based [**consultations**] (**Russia: delete and replace with: “*negotiations*”**) and to facilitate its adoption by consensus. The draft ministerial declaration should remain a concise and action-oriented document throughout the [**consultations**] (**Russia: delete and replace with: “*negotiations*”**).

- i. bis. **[Politicisation of the work of UNEA and UNEA outcomes is unacceptable because it undermines the universal nature and purpose of multilateral environmentalism]. (Russia: insert)**
- ii.c. Conduct ~~[consultations]~~ **(Russia: delete and replace with: “negotiations”)** on the proposed structure and zero-draft.
- d. Based on ~~[consultations]~~ **(Russia: delete and replace with: “negotiations”)**, come up with a first full draft.
- e. Conduct ~~[consultations]~~ **(Russia: delete and replace with: “negotiations”)** on the first full draft and invite for written comments.
- f. Based on additional ~~[consultations]~~ **(Russia: delete and replace with: “negotiations”)** and an iterative *(?)* **(Russia: clarification sought)** process, propose a final draft of the ministerial declaration for *[negotiations]* **(Russia: insert)** and ~~[consideration]~~ **(Russia: delete and replace with: “adoption”)** by UNEA-7.
- iv. The UNEA Presidency and the UNEA Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, ~~should as far as possible ensure that~~ **(Russia: delete) propose (Russia: insert)** the themes of the future UNEA sessions **that (Russia: insert)** provide a strategic and focused framework to optimize the relevance of UNEA outcomes by 1) Providing a narrower focus for the UNEA theme ~~[and draft resolutions]~~ **(Russia: delete)** and common thread while also being broad and inclusive, and 2) aligning with relevant strategic objectives in the UNEP Medium-term Strategy **[as well as the themes of the relevant HLPF] (Russia: insert).**
- vi. .... 1) dedicating separate space for side events ~~[and negotiations]~~ **(Russia: delete, because one should not equate side events with negotiations, let alone use “temporary structures” for them) ...**
- vii. The CPR should review the nature of UNEA contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), including considering limiting the

Assembly's contribution to the consecutive session of the HLPF to the submission to the submission of the adopted UNEA ministerial declaration **[and aligning its theme with the themes of HLPF]** (Russia: insert)

vii *bis* **[The CPR should review the practice of time allocation to heads of delegations at UNEA for national statements in order to provide them sufficient time to express themselves meaningfully].** (Russia: insert)

**B. On the preparatory process under the CPR**

i. **Russia: delete entire paragraph because it infringes on the sovereign right of the Member States to present draft resolutions they deem necessary**

v. **[Member States who present draft resolutions may decide]** (Russia: insert) that resolution initiatives to strengthen the implementation of previously adopted resolutions may be consolidated to a single resolution/decision per UNEA session, acknowledging progress made **[or absence thereof]** (Russia: insert) and addressing necessary follow-up actions and review mechanisms pertaining to such resolutions.

ix. The Secretariat should ~~**[provide a template for draft resolutions or decisions, offering guidelines on the structure and content, including on the formulation of preambular and operative paragraphs, ensuring reflection of UNEP's ongoing work, to]**~~ (Russia: delete, because the templates of decisions or resolutions are universally known to all UN Member States, while the description of UNEP' work should be reflected in ED's reports) inform **[Member States]** (Russia: insert) of available research tools and create an online repository of resolutions previously adopted at past UNEA sessions or by the Governing Council on specific topics.

- x.d) ~~[Provide a mandate to the co-facilitators to streamline or merge the text of the draft resolutions before the start of the OECPR, building on comments and inputs provided during the intersessional period.]~~ (Russia: delete because the co-facilitators do not have the authority to decide the fate of resolutions submitted by Member States. Their duty is to facilitate intergovernmental agreement and consensus in negotiations. Streamlining or merger is possible only through intergovernmental agreement of all interested Member States)
- xi. Ensuring as far as possible early identification of experienced co-facilitators, possibly including ~~[when practicable, and on an exceptional basis]~~ (Russia: insert, because the negotiating process should not depend on the conveniences and schedules of out-of-station or non-resident facilitators) non-Nairobi based co-facilitators, preferably immediately after the annual subcommittee meeting, in consultation with ~~[Member States,]~~ (Russia: insert) regional groups and the UNEA and CPR Bureaux.
- xiv.c) ~~[Mandate the co-facilitators to start discussions on operative paragraphs instead of preambular paragraphs.]~~ (Russia: delete, because this paragraph represents unnecessary micromanagement of the work of co-facilitators. Besides, both preambular and operative parts are logically connected and form a single body of the resolution.)
- xv. ~~[To encourage a more active involvement of proponents, Member States submitting draft resolutions should identify focal points for the draft to be physically present during the annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, the OECPR and UNEA, tasked with identifying language towards achieving consensus.]~~ (Russia: delete, because this paragraph represents unnecessary micromanagement of the internal work arrangements of Member States. The choice of methods of negotiation should be left to the discretion of Member States.)

xvii.b) Providing [~~guidelines~~] (Russia: delete and replace with “advice” because it better reflects the role of the Secretariat in the context of intergovernmental negotiations) on the negotiation process, including mandate, deadlines and duration for the OECPR and the Committee of the Whole and beyond, before the start of the OECPR.

C. *On inclusive participation*

iv. [~~The UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat should consider putting in place additional measures to promote a gender balanced representation of delegates, especially with regard to Heads of Delegation. In this regard, it is recalled that UNEA in its decision 6/7 on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of UNEA 7 for the first time explicitly encouraged Member States to support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the sessions of UNEA.~~] (Russia: delete, because neither the Bureau, nor the Secretariat have any authority to dictate to sovereign Member States the composition of their delegations to intergovernmental meetings. 6/7 is largely sufficient)

D. *On stakeholder participation:*

iv. The Secretariat is requested to continue [, subject to the availability of free meeting facilities] (Russia: insert. It should not be forgotten that UNEA is an intergovernmental body and the main duty of the Secretariat is to secure the necessary conditions for the intergovernmental process) to secure a permanent meeting facility for the stakeholders before and during UNEA sessions and, subject to the availability of financial resources, to provide travel support to the major groups and stakeholders to facilitate their in-person participation in UNEA meetings.

v. The Secretariat should [~~develop guidelines providing a framework for the effective and inclusive~~] (Russia: delete and replace with “propose to the consideration and approval of the CPR

recommendations”) on participation of youth delegates during OECPR and UNEA.

E. *On the UNEA documentation process:*

- iii. The Secretariat is requested to provide a detailed introduction of UNEA working documents ahead of the OECPR, in meetings of the subcommittee of the CPR [~~or through pre-recorded videos~~] **(Russia: delete. Absenteeism should not be encouraged. After all, nothing is more important for the Secretariat than support to the intergovernmental process.)**