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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 12 September 2024

Conference Room 2

10:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)

Hybrid meeting

Draft recommendation on lessons learned from the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly for consideration and possible adoption by the CPR at its 167th quarterly meeting

The Committee of Permanent Representatives,

Recalling the Outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as endorsed by UNEA in its Decision 5/4,

Noting the informal consultations held on lessons learned from the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly at the CPR subcommittee,

1. *Takes note* of the document “The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly Assessment and Lessons Learned: Key recommendations” presented in annex I to this decision.
2. *Encourages* Member States, the UNEA President, the Bureaus of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Secretariat, to take due account of the lessons learned of UNEA in preparing for future UNEAs as set out in the annex;
3. Invites the UNEA President, the UNEA and CPR Bureaus and calls upon all Member States, to uphold the Nairobi Spirit and avoid the hindrance of environmental processes.

Annex

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly Assessment and Lessons Learned: Key Recommendations

A) On the planning and outcomes of UNEA

- i. The UNEA ministerial declaration should focus on the global environmental agenda in a concise, forward looking, ambitious and action-oriented manner, by tackling emerging environmental challenges and

relate closely to the theme of the session as well as, to the theme of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as applicable;

- ii. The UNEA Presidency is invited, with the support of the Secretariat and with the view to ensure an iterative, open, transparent, participatory and inclusive intergovernmental process, based on inputs by Member States, to develop the ministerial declaration to be adopted by consensus by UNEA;
- iii. The Secretariat should consider to continue to effectively inform UNEA focal points, including those not represented in Nairobi, on the status and the planning of preparations of UNEA, with a view to increase transparency, inclusivity and universal participation;
- iv. The UNEA Presidency in consultation with the UNEA and CPR Bureaus and with the support of the Secretariat, is invited to facilitate open, transparent and inclusive consultations to define themes of future UNEA sessions that provide a strategic and focused framework to optimize the relevance of UNEA outcomes and that align with the HLPF themes, as applicable.
- v. The UNEA Bureau is invited to:
 - a) continue to consider, with the support of the Secretariat, to facilitate in-person engagement of Ministers at UNEA, including at the High Level Segment and UNEA side events and,
 - b) as appropriate, continue to promote interactive high-level dialogues at the High Level Segment, ensuring a balanced representation of Member States, major groups and stakeholders, without a pre-established list of speakers or preferential consideration;
- vi. The UNEA Bureau, following discussions in the CPR, is invited to consider, with the support of the Secretariat, the time allocation at the High Level Segment, in order to provide sufficient time for Heads of Delegations to deliver their national statements;
- vii. The UNEA Bureau is invited, with the support of the Secretariat and in close cooperation with the MEA Secretariats, to continue to strengthen the contributions and active participation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to UNEA to promote coherence between the UNEA resolutions and the MEAs governing bodies' decisions, while fully respecting the autonomy of those MEAs and without introducing new and additional requirements for the contracting parties to the MEAs, as set out in paragraph 6 of the Outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives;
- viii. The Committee of Permanent Representatives should consider and clarify the process to agree on UNEA contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, taking into account UNEA Resolution 3/3, as well as on the nature and process to develop the ministerial declaration;

B) On the preparatory process under the CPR:

- i. Member States are encouraged to consolidate draft resolution/decision proposals aiming to strengthen or follow up implementation of previously adopted resolutions by UNEA into one single draft resolution/decision per UNEA session, subject to the agreement of the proponents;
- ii. Without prejudice to the UNEA Rules of Procedure, Member States are strongly encouraged to continue adhering to the deadline for submission of draft resolutions as per the guidance provided in paragraph 13 (e) (iii) of the outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the CPR as endorsed by UNEA Decision 5/4: announce the intention to submit draft resolutions at least 12 weeks prior to UNEA; and submit draft resolutions at least 10 weeks prior to UNEA;
- iii. The Secretariat should be available for technical and legal advice (e.g. on existing UNEP mandates and programme of work, resolutions adopted by UNEA or other relevant decision making bodies) and proponents are encouraged to informally engage with the Secretariat before the submission of a draft

resolution, to facilitate possible technical improvements of draft resolutions including to avoid overlap and duplication of existing work;

iv. Proponents are encouraged, to:

- a) respect, as far as possible, the guidance in line with the Outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (paragraph 13 under e)) to provide a concept note for the draft resolution that includes an explanation of the purpose of the initiative, such as possible:
 - i. New guidance to UNEP and/or invitations to UN system bodies;
 - ii. New commitments of Member States;
 - iii. A definition of a new global concept;
 - iv. Address an emerging issue or an urgent matter;
 - v. Information on already agreed language;
- b) identify focal points that can make themselves available, preferably in-person at the annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, and in person for the OECPR and UNEA.

v. The Secretariat is requested to:

- a) continue to provide technical notes that include: (i) substantive information on relevant existing mandates, resolutions and UNEP activities, (ii) information on alignment with the Medium Term Strategy and (iii) a best estimate of additional costs to implement the proposed resolution.
- b) provide a template for draft resolutions and decisions for voluntary use by Member States;
- c) create an online searchable repository of resolutions and decisions adopted by UNEA and the Governing Council;
- d) subject to the availability of resources, to continue to offer trainings and guiding documents to delegates, appointed co-facilitators and screenwriters well in advance of UNEA sessions, in cooperation with MEA secretariats, where possible;

vi. Member States, the UNEA President, the Bureaus of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with the support of the Secretariat, should make effective use of the intersessional period, including to:

- a) Invite written submissions by Member States on proposed topics to be addressed by UNEA, to allow for an early exchange of views;
- b) Facilitate consideration of the Executive Director's reports and the secretariat technical notes at the CPR subcommittee meetings;
- c) Facilitate meaningful participation of all Member States to UNEA as early as possible in the preparation process for UNEA;
- d) Encourage early identification of experienced co-facilitators in consultation with regional groups and the UNEA and the CPR Bureau;
- e) Consider allowing for reflecting text proposals made by Member States in brackets, without preventing delegations from introducing additional text during the OECPR;
- f) Encourage co-facilitators to provide advice to proponents on possible ways to streamline the text of draft resolutions, before the start of the OECPR, building on comments and inputs provided during the intersessional period, as appropriate.
- g) Consider opportunities, where relevant, and in consultation with proponents, to merge resolution proposals at an early stage.
- h) Provide for sufficient time for bilateral consultations among Member States and the Secretariat, particularly in the run-up to UNEA;

vii. Subject to the agreement of Member States, co-facilitators should, if appropriate, have flexibility to start negotiations with operative paragraphs instead of preambular paragraphs;

C. On inclusive participation

- i. Member States and stakeholders are encouraged to register as early as possible;

- ii. The UNEA and CPR Bureaus with the support of the secretariat, with a view to ensuring inclusivity and accommodate participation of smaller delegations in the OECPR and UNEA, should continue the practice of limiting parallel working group meetings and informal consultations to two meetings at the same time, on the understanding that, subject to the agreement of the meeting, additional parallel meetings as well as late night meetings may be considered;
- iii. The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary financial resources, to continue to provide upon request, travel support, for the participation of two representatives from developing countries, as well as at least two stakeholder representatives per Major Group and two representatives of stakeholders per UNEP region, upon request;
- iv. Member States and others in a position to do so, are encouraged to provide financial contributions in support of the organization of the UNEA sessions, in particular, to facilitate the participation of representatives from developing countries and major groups and stakeholders;
- v. The UNEA and CPR Bureaus are invited to continue to offer stakeholders i) speaking slots to each of the nine major groups at the opening of the OECPR and UNEA sessions, and ii) one joint statement at the opening of UNEA, on behalf of the six UNEP regions, recognizing the regional perspective of civil society voices;
- vi. Co-facilitators and proponents of draft resolutions are encouraged to make themselves available for engagement with stakeholders to exchange views at an early stage of consultations, as appropriate;
- vii. The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to continue to provide:
 - a) a meeting facility for stakeholders before and during UNEA sessions;
 - b) support to the organization of the Global Youth Environment Assembly;

D. On documents for UNEA and the CPR

- i. The Secretariat is requested:
 - a) in accordance with rules 12 and 29 of the rules of procedure, to ensure the preparation and distribution of all official working documents in all official UN languages at least forty two days in advance of UNEA and the OECPR respectively;
 - b) to introduce the meeting documents for UNEA and the OECPR to Member States prior to the OECPR;
 - c) to notify participants when updated versions of draft resolutions or decisions are available in a transparent, accessible and timely manner.
- ii. Member States are encouraged to finalize negotiations by the end of the Committee of the Whole, to ensure timely translation in all UN languages of the documents to be adopted;

E. On the link between UNEA and regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities

- i. The secretariat is encouraged, with the support of UNEP Regional Offices, in line with UNEA Resolution 6/3 paragraph 1 under a) to include on the agendas of annual subcommittee meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme an item on the contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the medium-term strategy and programme of work of the Programme;
- ii. In the case a regional group consider the presentation of a joint draft resolution, the Secretariat is requested to provide, upon request, recommendations to the Chairs of regional forums of ministers of environment and

environment authorities, so potential draft resolutions can build upon existing resolutions and decisions and avoid duplication or contradiction with existing mandates or resolutions;

- iii. Regional fora are invited to ensure participation of accredited stakeholders, and the Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to provide travel support for their participation, as well as for the participation of delegates of developing countries that are members of the regional fora;

F. On UNEA branding, media and communication outreach

- i. The secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to:
- a) Further explore options to enhance the sustainability of UNEA sessions;
 - b) Continue to strengthen cooperation with MEA Secretariats to enhance MEA engagement and visibility;
 - c) Continue to strengthen multilingual content on UNEA;
 - d) Enhance accessibility of UNEA sessions for people with disabilities and engage with UNON on possibilities to enhance accessibility of documents for people with disabilities;
 - e) Engage with UNEP good will ambassador to fully inform them on the decisions and resolutions adopted by UNEA to better promote the agreed outcomes of UNEA sessions.
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