

Recommendations for Future UNEA Sessions
based on Experiences from Past Sessions
Submission by Egypt

- 1- Concerning the rules of procedure, we are of the view that the Secretariat should produce a brief legal note on the interpretation of all the UNEA rules of procedure, especially the ones related to adoption of decisions (acclamation or voting). This note should then be the focus of an informal meeting of the Subcommittee to discuss the different views, interpretations and understanding of the rules. This would help bring the entire membership to one understanding of the rules and avoid the repetition of the events of UNEA2 closing session.
- 2- Further to that, an informal briefing on rules of procedure, especially on voting, should be held a few weeks before every UNEA, as a part of the preparation for the meeting.
- 3- Organization of the Committee of the Whole and the structure of the drafting groups should be established well in advance, with participation of both UNEA and CPR bureau, and in consultation with members of the CPR, especially regional and political groups, and should try, to the extent possible, to continue in the same format of the intercessional period.
- 4- A link between the CPR and UNEA bureaus should be established. This is especially important in the last few meetings of the UNEA bureau leading up to UNEA. Members of the CPR Bureau could be invited to these meetings as well as the UNEA bureau meetings held during the session. We believe this link would be useful in carrying over the experience of the intersessional preparatory period carried out by the CPR bureau to the members of the UNEA bureau who are not necessarily involved in the day-to-day preparations.
- 5- When booking flights for delegates sponsored by the Secretariat, the latter should try, to the extent possible, to avoid booking return flights on the same day as the closing of UNEA or in the early hours of the next day. UNEA closing sessions have shown, twice, to end at a late time during the night or even on the first hours of the next day. Some delegates who were sponsored by the secretariat were not able to stay for the entire closing session. Some even had their return flights in the afternoon of the last day, which prevented them from attending the closing session. This resulted in serious consequences during the closing session, and should be avoided.
- 6- With the increasing relevance and importance of UNEA, more effort should be made to make the public more aware of its proceedings. One way of doing that, at virtually no cost, is with regards to the live broadcast of the various UNEA sessions over the internet. It has been noted that while UNEA sessions were broadcast live on the UNEP YouTube Channel, no such broadcast was available on the UN Web TV website (webtv.un.org). We are of the view that dedicating a channel on the UN Web TV website for live broadcast of UNEA sessions, and keeping an archive of these recordings on the UN Web TV website would contribute to more public awareness of UNEP and UNEA, and would put more focus on the important work being done in Nairobi.

