



**135th meeting
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP
14 June 2016**

Intervention on behalf of the EU and its MS

Agenda Item: ED report / Evaluation of UNEA-2

- Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, Executive Director and representatives of the UNEP Secretariat, observers, ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to speak on behalf the European Union and its Member States.

- We would like to thank UNEP and its Executive Director, for the preparation of this CPR meeting and the update on UNEP activities. But besides that we would like to express our gratitude to Mr Achim Steiner for his 10 years of hard but extraordinarily fruitful work of leading UNEP to where it is now. We have witnessed during these 10 years a growing quality of the method of work and the delivery of the Programme. UNEP has undergone a transformation and an upgrade to a truly global authority setting the environmental agenda and governed by a universal body. This transformation was linked to both the recognition of the

achievements of the Programme as well as the high expectations for the delivery on its new mandate. In both elements the leadership element could not be overemphasised. Mr Steiner's qualities as a leader and tireless advocate of the environment leave us with a great heritage of UNEP well placed and shaped to deliver on its challenging objectives.

- We wish you all the best for your upcoming and future assignments, while remaining grateful for the privilege of working with you as the UNEP's Executive Director.

- With regard to the point on evaluation of UNEA-2, EU/MS welcome this opportunity to have an initial exchange with other Member States. Our views at this stage remain preliminary. We continue an internal discussion and a thorough reflection on UNEA-2 and its outcomes. We will provide our fuller assessment in a written form.
- Let us start this reflection from an observation that the diversity of the issues discussed by UNEA-2, as well as the high level of attendance, illustrate the commitment of Member States to ensure an effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Indeed, regarding the **outcome of UNEA-2**. EU/MS congratulate UNEA for having adopted 25 resolutions by a consensus,

reflecting the broad and integrated scope of the 2030 Agenda and acknowledging UNEP's and UNEA's roles in delivering on the environmental dimension of this Agenda. This will help importantly communicate UNEA's results in other fora, including the HLPF. However, EU/MS regret that the negotiations on the HLS outcome document could not be finalized, as well as that no solution was found to come to an agreement on the Stakeholders Engagement Policy.

- Concerning the **preparations for UNEA**, lessons can be drawn from the intersessional process for UNEA-2 on how to support negotiations in future so to avoid reopening at an UNEA meeting of a language agreed in CPR negotiations. Furthermore, a reflection could be made regarding which resolutions are more suitable for in-depth discussion in CPR. For some topics, having informal discussions (e.g. in Friends Groups setting), while leaving a final agreement for a very UNEA meeting, could be more effective. Also, the timing and the frequency of meetings should be considered to allow for better national and regional coordination.
- Lessons should be drawn with regard to the **organization of UNEA**. With a better management of meetings, in particular the CoW and the plenary, time could have been used more effectively. The last minute changes in the organization of the clusters should have been avoided and agreement from regional groups secured on the organization of work before the start of UNEA. Availability of

rooms for drafting groups and informal meetings necessary to progress the negotiations should be ensured. The Secretariat should at all times be prepared to clearly convey the Rules of Procedure, regardless of the outcome of negotiations. Some provisions in the Rules of Procedure would benefit from clearer language. UNEA-3 could be used to rectify this.

- Finally, the **programme of UNEA-2**, including the HLS, was very busy, leaving little time for informal consultations. More thought may be given to an interactive set-up and a clear role for ministers during the HLS.
- With these initial reflections, we would encourage the ED, in preparing for future UNEAs, to carefully consider the agenda and overarching theme of the meeting and to seek a balance between the integrated nature of Agenda 2030 on the one hand, and keeping focus on the other hand, to ensure that the outcome of UNEA is meaningful and appealing to the outside world. EU/MS will stand ready to offer more concrete proposals after we have had the opportunity to evaluate UNEA-2 more thoroughly.