



**137th meeting
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP
13 January 2017**

Interventions on behalf of the EU and its MS

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Executive Director

- Madam Chair, distinguished delegates and observers, Executive Director and representatives of the Secretariat, ladies and gentlemen; it is my privilege to speak on behalf the European Union and its Member States.
- We would like to start by wishing all of us a successful New Year 2017. Building on the successes as well as on lessons learnt from UNEA-2, we are looking forward to an even more successful UNEA-3, for which we collectively chose a theme and expect it to bring upon a real change by reducing the global pollution which affects our ecosystems, health, and lives, as well as the economy. We also believe that the topic of pollution is very timely and will help achieve more visibility for the most important global gathering on environmental policy.
- We would like to congratulate the remarkably good cooperation among the member states, the Bureaus of CPR and UNEA and the

Secretariat that brought us to this point. We would like to thank and encourage the Chairs and Members of the Bureaus to continue their excellent cooperation and leadership and to appeal to all actors to work together constructively.

- We greatly appreciate the update by the Executive Director and his written report presenting very interestingly and comprehensively UNEP's activities of the recent months. We have continuously underlined the value of such updates, recalling at the same time the need for regular updates to the CPR on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget and UNEA resolutions. With regard to the latter, we are asking the Executive Director to present at his earliest convenience the implementation plans of UNEA resolutions, against which a progress can be reviewed, and how they correspond with the Programme of Work.
- With regard to the Budget, we note with concern the 2016 figures indicating less revenue than projected and the fact that only a fraction of UN Member States has pledged and contributed to the Environment Fund, which does not correspond to the expected broadening of the donor base. We would like to understand if the situation has improved since October 2016, against which the figures were produced. We also ask UNEP to keep updating the detailed information about funding through its website.
- Concluding on a positive note, we would like to recall the Executive Director's recent visit in Brussels allowing for a

discussion with the Environment Ministers of the EU Member States and meeting representatives of EU institutions to discuss cooperation under the Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and European Commission. On this occasion the agreements were signed to contribute 18.5 million EUR to UNEP's activities on Green Economy, Biodiversity and Chemicals.

I thank you

Agenda Item 6: Preparation of the 4th Annual sub-committee meeting

- Speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, I would like to thank the Chair and the Bureau of the CPR, together with the UNEP Secretariat, for presenting us with the revised structure of the fourth Annual Subcommittee meeting. We are pleased with the improvements and are prepared to endorse the proposal, while recommending some flexibility in allocating time, particularly between the agenda items in UNEA-3 preparations and the contribution to the High Level Political Forum.
- We look forward to an efficient and high quality meeting ensuring focused discussion amongst the Member States and with UNEP Secretariat. To help the preparations we have some suggestions we would like to share.
- Concerning the agenda item on the Programme Performance, beyond the "facts and figures", we would like UNEP to present which actions are needed to close identified gaps between planned and actual programme performance. If needed, UNEP could also give feedback on what political guidance it could use for a better implementation of the resolutions.
- Concerning the status of the Budget, we would like UNEP to present its on-going work on the resources mobilisation and the

progress made on the development of a resource mobilization strategy.

- On both items it would be indispensable that comprehensive background information on programme and projects activities and the financial figures are available for any reference. We would also like to obtain an update on the implementation and functioning of UMOJA.
- Concerning the UNEA's contribution to the HLPF, the EU and its Member States are of the view that the contribution should demonstrate implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated manner and the role of UNEA in advancing the 2030 Agenda. Regarding the form of the contribution, we believe that options should be discussed and we would appreciate a paper from UNEP in this regard well before the Annual Subcommittee meeting.
- Also as part of the discussion concerning HLPF input, the EU and its Member States would be interested to hear from UNEP its assessment of the advancement of the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including on the state of play of the System-Wide strategies on environment, given the synthesis report was due in December 2016.
- During the agenda item on preparations for UNEA-3, we would like to include a discussion on the role of Ministers in the UNEA meeting and its preparations.

- Finally, we believe it is very important to clarify well before the Annual subcommittee meeting, what decisions are expected to be made in that meeting, as well as the status of the discussions relevant to the process towards UNEA-3.

I thank you