

Singapore's input to CPR Subcommittee Meeting, 7 Feb 2017, for Agenda Item 4 on Preparations for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly

(As delivered)

- Thank you, Madam Chair.
- We would like to thank the Secretariat for compiling national submissions into the document on synthesis of input.
- This would serve as a useful basis for the preparations of UNEA-3.

- On the actual wording for the theme on pollution, it has to be fit for purpose, practical and holistic.
- As currently the list is long, there might be merit for some work by the Secretariat to help streamline the various options into a more manageable list.
- These streamlined options should be broad and must cover the various interests that countries have on pollution so that no issue is lost.
- This would be helpful in helping us all to reach a consensus.

- On the priority areas that UNEA-3 should focus on, Singapore is broadly supportive of all the areas listed in the Secretariat's document.
- To strengthen our process to reaching a better outcome for UNEA-3, we have a few comments to which we hope can be reflected in further iterations of such a document.
 - First, with regard to the issue of air pollution, it would be important that our discussions also address the issue of air pollution in the form of particular matters, such as PM10 and PM2.5. This is given that such particulates are a major form of air pollution. They can also have significant impact on human health, for example PM2.5 can penetrate deep into the lungs resulting in respiratory conditions.
 - Second, water pollution is a critical aspect of pollution that we will need to tackle. Hence our discussion on this issue should be comprehensive. We note that the paper highlights addressing

wastewater and nutrients pollution. The discussion on wastewater therefore should include ways to control and address discharges from industrial and commercial sources.

- Third, in addition to domestic sources of pollution, we are glad that the synthesis paper has identified transboundary forms of pollution as a key area that we should also address. In this connection, we believe that it is important that UNEA-3 addresses both transboundary air and water pollution. Given the transboundary nature of such pollution, multilateral fora such as UNEA-3 has an important role to play in helping to draw focus and addressing these pollution issues.
- Finally, we would like to also highlight that one of the key ways to deal with pollution is to minimise the creation of pollution. This can be done through efforts to enhance sustainable consumption and production. Through greener production methods by the industry and better sustainable consumption patterns by consumers, this could help reduce the amount of pollution that will be generated. Therefore, it would be useful to include sustainable consumption and production to an extent in our discussions at UNEA-3. This point should also be reflected in the next iteration of such a document.
- To conclude, we are happy to get this conversation started early on what we all would like to expect from UNEA-3. We look forward to the Secretariat capturing all the points that have been today. We also look forward to further engagements on this issue.
- Thank you.