

EU/MS comments on the UNEA-3 outcomes

UNEP Annual Subcommittee meeting, 6-9 March 2017

Following further reflections on UNEA-3 outcomes, EU/MS are of the view that a successful **UNEA-3** should result in the following three products, all related to the theme of pollution:

- an **Outcome document**, preferably a **Ministerial Declaration, which would spell out a concise Global Framework for Action** and that should speak to the international community, citizens, business and constituencies at large

- **meaningful voluntary pledges/commitments of actions**. Such commitments would be made bottom up from both states and non-state actors or multi-stakeholder partnerships and across all levels and regions. This will strengthen the action oriented nature of UNEA3. It would be useful to invite stakeholders and Member States to make meaningful commitments well in advance.

- a **limited number of resolutions** related to the theme, that facilitate implementation of the outcome document (and that may include 'flagship initiatives').

(Given the special nature of UNEA3 and the limited time available, MS may wish to consider focusing discussions on the theme and the abovementioned outcomes. The need to consider progress made in following up previous UNEA resolutions could be covered in 1 overarching resolution.

More specifically on the Outcome document/Ministerial declaration:

As just indicated, EU/MS support a concise outcome document, preferably in the form of a Ministerial Declaration. The document should express determination and action to deliver on agreed commitments, goals and principles (instead of reopening debates on them)

It should highlight UNEA's role in galvanizing political commitment and in guiding and catalyzing actions and partnerships as a tangible contribution towards a pollution free planet. The consensual outcome document should:

- be concise, comprehensive, general in nature, clear and easy to communicate;
- focus on UNEA's theme;
- affirm the need and readiness to address pollution,
- point out the links to SDGs and the benefits for poverty eradication, health, ecosystems, cost-saving, innovation, and security;
- highlight areas of political commitment where action should be taken in response to keeping environment under review;
- highlight innovative and demonstrated effective preventative measures and solutions as well as commitments that will enable taking the necessary concrete action, including multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral action at the global, regional and national level;
- include practical efficient proposals for monitoring progress on the pledges made over time so that citizens will be able to see over time that UNEA 3 made a difference.

It should thus have a global, inclusive, cross-cutting approach to pollution, galvanize the action catalyzed in the run up to UNEA3 and maintain the momentum after UNEA3.

We suggest the outcome document would include the following messages, *related to commitment to action* to prevent, reduce or clean up pollution at both the global, regional and national level

- based on solid scientific evidence, highlight the topics to act on with urgency, as current trends and problems are already affecting the environment, economy and people's lives, health and security from different sources
- illustrate the importance and benefits of addressing pollution, in particular to achieve the SDGs in a way that is appealing to stakeholders and citizens;
- welcome/recognize actions undertaken and planned by MS and relevant stakeholders to address pollution in specific areas and reflect the need for further commitment to take action on specific areas in need for response;
- structure the multiplicity of catalyzed action;
- highlight approaches and tools for effective delivery and highlight cross-sectoral, high-level principles and tools for effectively addressing pollution and delivering on goals and commitments (including provisions for follow up and monitoring of actions)
- a call on the UN system to integrate approaches and give future direction to address pollution in a coherent and coordinated manner; and
- encourage collaboration between UNEP, WHO, WMO on health, environment and climate relevant to address pollution to support the effective implementation of the action within its mandate, MTS and PoW;
- etc

More specifically on the voluntary pledges/commitments on actions.

Supplementing the Global Framework for Action contained in the Outcome Document/Declaration, EU/MS support the possibility for countries, international organizations, relevant stakeholders and/or (multi-stakeholder) partnerships to add concrete commitments on action from the bottom-up.

MS may wish to consider to what extent and in particular when and how concrete actions would be taken up, related to the pollution areas to be covered. In that spirit, we would like to encourage a firm call for action as part of UNEPs communication to encourage participation of all relevant stakeholders, as well as to MS and international organization.

In terms of process, we would like to stress the importance of the background document as a basis for these outcomes of UNEA. It is therefore, we suggest to align the timing of the zero draft Outcome document, with the availability of the advanced draft of the background document in June.

We are open to further discuss with other MS on the best way forward to meaningful and actionable outcomes of UNEA-3. It is important to find the right approach such as on the process and timing to invite stakeholders/states to pledge their actions, the need for criteria in order for actions to be taken up. And on how to ensure follow up and use the momentum to catalyze further action on the ground