

Statement of Switzerland on the occasion of the 139th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Program

Agenda Item 5: Preparations for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Madam Chair
Excellences
Ladies and Gentlemen

Switzerland would like to thank the Chair and the Deputy Executive Director for their briefing and update on the preparation work. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for its exercise in transparency, uploading a significant number of documents to the CPR platform in preparation for today's meeting.

Madam Chair, allow me to raise a number of brief, but rather precise comments and questions on some of these documents and the issues under discussion today.

First, on the Note by the Secretariat on the Structure of the Open-Ended CPR: We note with appreciation the ambitious Ministerial Declaration Roadmap. Nevertheless, we would like to suggest – similarly to the slots for resolution negotiation – to allocate a slot to finalize the ministerial declaration during the Open Ended CPR.

Second, on the Note by the Secretariat on the Provisional Agenda of UNEA, and more specifically on its Item 7 “International Environmental Policy and Governance Issues”: It is Switzerland's understanding that a government reserves the right to propose other relevant decisions, potentially not pertaining to the theme of UNEA-3 at any time up to the deadline as mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. We hope this is a shared understanding.

Third, on the Note by the Secretariat on the revised structure and organization of UNEA: Switzerland would like to ask the Secretariat to elaborate and advise on the content and processes for the three elements to be treated on the last day of the High Level Segment: 1) Summary of commitment from Governments/Private Sectors/Stakeholders, 2) Summary Leadership Dialogue, 3) Action on Ministerial Outcome. Regarding the multi-stakeholder dialogue, we would like to inquire about its specific outcome and intention, as well as the level foreseen.

Fourth, on Resolutions: Switzerland would like to note and make the secretariat aware of the fact that in order to put forward a specific resolution, certain member states are dependent on receiving the outcomes and recommendations stemming from the reports that UNEP has to put forward as a result from the mandates received at UNEA-2 last year. In this regard, we would like to advise the secretariat to present the UNEA-2 reports as soon as possible and not aim for the deadline that is around six weeks before the start of UNEA-3.

Finally, a word on the High Level Political Forum: In our view, it is important that the President of the UNEA Bureau will have the opportunity to adequately represent UNEA and UNEP, that is the input of UNEA and UNEP to the HLPF. It should be a prominent platform for the president and not be in the framework of the general debate at the HLPF. We would like to ask what the status of preparation is in this respect.

Thank you Madam Chair