

Comments by Canada on the 13 September 2018 version of the 2020-21 Programme of Work and Budget

Canada welcomes the opportunity to provide initial feedback. Since the 13 September version is very preliminary with no specific deliverables, specific targets and costing, these comments are also preliminary. For example, due to only high-level funding being identified, this draft is missing any information on financial allocations by subprogramme, therefore the relative financial importance being placed on different topic areas cannot be determined at this stage. Canada therefore reserves other comments on a future iteration of the proposal.

Our current comments are as follows:

Subprogramme 3 - Healthy and productive ecosystems

Strategy piece page 44:

- Paragraph 55: Suggest adding to the list of ecosystem benefits: cultural affiliation and clear air and in the same sentence a reference to “all other living organisms” (not just humans).

- Paragraph 57, half-way: in the reference to supporting “agreements and knowledge products” should be say “science-based and traditional knowledge products”.

- Paragraph 61: In the fourth line, “alien invasive species” should be added to the list of environmental pressures.

Subprogramme 5 - Chemicals, waste and air quality

Regarding air pollution: It is our understanding that as a result of UNEA-3 Resolution 3/8 on air pollution and the significant requests from UNEA in it on the Secretariat to enhance work on air quality, UNEP is developing a global air quality programme to support middle-income countries and cities.

- Clarification is required in this document on how this is envisaged to fit within this subprogramme which also encompasses chemical and waste.

- The Strategy section should include details about the air quality programme that is in the works.
- The proposed work only seems to cover what we believe is the capacity building and assessment part of the work required from the Executive Director, but does not cover what is both information sharing and cooperation, namely paragraphs 7 c), 7 d) and 7 i) of the Resolution. The indicators proposed are incomplete and should also cover those aspects.

In addition, paragraph 90 talks about how UNEP will strengthen its leading role in supporting and implementing partnerships that promote better air quality. It should also mention that UNEP will also work to strengthen the cooperation between these partnerships so that they “talk to each other”.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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