Nairobi, 11 June 2019

UNEP CPR Subcommittee meeting on 11 June 2019

EU/MS comments

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

- At the previous meeting, EU/MS had requested the Secretariat to present an overview of the planning and timelines for the preparation of important work-streams in the coming period, following-up the outcomes of UNEA-4 (and other relevant decisions) to be presented in this subcommittee meeting.
- We realize the Secretariat has started preparing such documents for CPR-146 for some of the mentioned work-streams. It is unfortunate that they are not available as of now, but we look forward to receiving them as soon as possible and discussing in the next meeting.
- Therefore, we like to repeat our request to the Secretariat to present to the CPR meeting a calendar including the anticipated timelines and CPR consultations on the following issues:
  - the CPR based review under decision 4/2 ("Provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA5");
  - the review of the reporting and follow up on resolutions - resolution 4/22 ("Implementation and follow up of UNEA resolutions")and decision 4/2 ("Provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA5");
  - various mandates under the decision 4/1 ("Programme of work and budget for 2020–2021"), including the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023 and the Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025;
  - follow-up to resolution 4/14 ("Sustainable nitrogen management") in lead up to report at UNEA-6;
  - the preparation of an options document for the future of the GEO, including the Steering Committee, under resolution 4/23 ("Keeping the world environment under review: Enhancing the UNEP science-policy interface and endorsement of the GEO");
  - the preparation under the decision 4/2 ("Provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA5")and resolution 4/23 ("Keeping the world environment under review: Enhancing the UNEP science-policy interface and endorsement of the GEO" of the

concept for the commemoration of the creation of UNEP by the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5-16 June 1972 and the science policy input on the Global Environment;

- the process for deciding on the future of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

Agenda Item 2. Lessons learned from the fourth session of UN Environment Assembly.

- EU/MS warmly welcome the document and its analysis of successes and areas for improvement.
- We support the most of the recommendations. More specifically:
- Recommendation 1 (UNEA theme selection): EU/MS believe that the proposal to invite Member States to consider to define themes or general focus areas that cover more than one future session of the UN Environment Assembly is interesting. The HLPF and other major environmental meeting calendars should be taken into account, also when deciding on any singular UNEA theme. Furthermore, MS should be encouraged to take into account the outcomes of relevant scientific assessment reports, when selecting a theme.
- Recommendation 2 (Ministerial Declaration): We consider that it would be useful if the Declaration – in addition to contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda – could also contribute to the annual theme of the HLPF and relevant to the SDG's that are reviewed.
- Recommendation 3 (Resolutions): We welcome that the Secretariat has already noted the linkages with UNEA Decision 4/2 (L.29), paragraph 10 a) – c). This "Lessons learnt" paper can overall provide useful food for thought for the CPR based review process.
- Recommendation 4 (Political outcomes): We fully support this recommendation, especially the recognition of the responsibility of Member States in bringing up UNEA's messages, also at the meetings of MEAs.
- Recommendation 6 (participation of Stakeholders): EU/MS agree that more should be done to ensure a more meaningful participation of Stakeholders.
- Recommendation 8 (Availability of documents): the timely submission of resolutions is a key issue and should also be looked into in the CPR-based review process.
- Recommendation 9 (Balanced programme of UNEA): More thought should be given on how the ministerial engagement and 'political ownership' of the outcomes of UNEA can be ensured/improved.
- Recommendation 11 (Logistic support): We appreciate the continued attention to improve logistics and technology to support the meetings. In particular, further improvement could be made to provide access and transparency on availability of documents through the website, as well as maintaining and improving information technology and internet tools to facilitate the participation of Member States who do not

have resident missions in Nairobi. Better on-line access could also positively affect the carbon footprint of the event.

- One issue that is not included in this Lessons learned document is related to the costs. We would appreciate if the Secretariat could include a separate section indicating what steps could be taken to further lower the costs of future meetings, e.g. as part of the budgeting for the next UNEA.

Agenda Item 3. A new draft strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

- EU/MS thank the Secretariat for the background document and sharing the information. It is, however, confusing that while the Agenda title refers to the draft Strategy, the background document only provides for an outline of the Strategy (in Annex) and an overview of activities related to the South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Also it is surprising that this presentation comes without any more details compared to the last meeting.
- With regard to the strategy we have a few questions:
  - When is the Strategy expected to be ready and what period is it supposed to cover?
  - How does the strategy relate to the Programme of Work and Budget?
  - What is the budget to implement the Strategy and where are the funds coming from? (It would be helpful if this could be covered in the Strategy as well, e.g. in sections I.4 and IV of the draft strategy.)
  - In the absence of the Strategy: what activities will UNEP facilitate or be engaged in, and how do they relate to the Programme of Work and Budget?
- We look forward to continuing a substantive discussion on this topic with the Executive Director.

Agenda Item 4. Secretariat update on private sector engagement and on the development of a private sector strategy.

- EM/MS thank the Secretariat for the overview of the different types of collaboration or engagement with private sector by sub-programme. We note that the overview is not complete and that some relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and related initiatives are missing in this overview.
- Fully recognize the importance of private sector involvement and collaboration to effectively address environmental challenges.

- The overview in the document makes clear that the private sector engagement could be categorized in different types of involvement, e.g.:
  - To benefit from knowledge and expertise in the private sector, relevant to the development of UNEPs normative work, i.e. guidelines, standards, etc.;
  - To cooperate and scale up concrete action (showcase successful sustainable business models, to raise ambition/commitments, etc.);
  - For education and awareness raising in the private sector on environmental issues;
  - For mobilization of resources to scale up implementation
- EU/MS therefore welcome UNEP's plan to develop a five-year private sector engagement strategy, in support of the implementation of the Programme of Work.
- The development of the private sector engagement strategy should take into account these different types of engagement, since the types of engagement may require different criteria for cooperation.
- In any type of cooperation, it is important that all partners' different roles and responsibilities are clarified to avoid difficulties during implementation.
- Furthermore, it is very important that the strategy will help UNEP to minimize risk(s) of engagement with the private sector and at the same time maximizing the benefits of collaboration. In that respect, and depending on the type of cooperation, due diligence and risk management should be part of the criteria for assessment before working together with the private sector.
- It is important that the strategy defines clear criteria on any financial engagement with the private sector. Also, the strategy should resolve how the private sector unit contributes to the Programme of Work and Budget and in particular the source of funding of its activities.
- EU/MS look forward to the strategy and are willing to contribute to its successful development and implementation. Can the Secretariat indicate the timeline for its presentation? It would be useful if it could be presented before the 6th Annual Subcommittee meeting, so it could be agreed there.
- Lastly, we appreciate the long list of existing and planned partnerships. We might have some additional request for more information at the level of individual initiatives. Moreover some partnerships imply expenditures form own UNEP resources. Could UNEP explain the cases of the funding of private sector initiatives in this regard?
- EU/MS consider it would be useful to carry out, at some point, an evaluation (e.g. by the Evaluation office) of the impact and cost-benefit analysis of the private sector collaboration.

Agenda Item 5. Secretariat briefing on Preparations for the UN Climate Summit

- EU/MS welcome UNEP's briefing on the preparations for the UN Climate Summit and UNEP's role as a co-facilitator in the Nature-based solutions Action Area. It is very

positive that nature-based solutions are given visibility in the summit and we look forward to hearing more from UNEP as the work progresses.

Agenda Item 6. Other matters

- With regard to the Roadmap for UNEP Governing Bodies, could the Secretariat provide more information on the meeting of the CBD: Global consultation workshop on the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, organized in Nairobi on 25 August 2019? Could this event be included in the Roadmap?