



EUROPEAN UNION

**Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP  
(Nairobi, 7-11 October 2019)**

**Agenda item 4. Implementation of decision UNEP/EA.4/2**

**Stockholm+50 & Paragraph 88**

*Comments by the European Union and its Member States*

**Messages for paragraph 8 on commemoration of creation of UNEP**

- EU/MS thank UNEP for the options provided in the note on the implementation of UNEA decision 4/2 for commemoration of the creation of UNEP in terms of format and potential outcome. Those options provide a good basis for starting the discussions.
- EU/MS agree that the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda is lagging behind, as highlighted in recent reports including the GSDR report, and underline that commemorating the Stockholm conference 1972 and the establishment of UNEP at a high-level UN meeting would provide an excellent opportunity to take stock of progress made to protect the global environment and human wellbeing as well as to highlight the role of UNEP in helping to achieve this.
- EU/MS are willing to discuss how to address the commemoration of the establishment of UNEP, the celebration of Stockholm+50, science-policy input and to prepare a political declaration as mandated by UNGA Resolution 73/333.
- EU/MS support the need to consult with MS on the modalities for the commemoration, as well as its link with the follow up of resolution 73/333.
- We also can support a role of the CPR in the consultations and the process of preparations on the different mandates in line with UNEA Decision 4.2 to prepare the commemoration of UNEP, in line with UNEA resolution 4.23 the science-policy input on the global environment as well as to prepare a political declaration following resolution 73/333.
- We emphasize that the consultations and process need to be transparent and inclusive.
- However, EU/MS find the long consultation period proposed in UNEP's note titled "Possible follow-up action on the relevant recommendations endorsed through General Assembly resolution 73/333" (in its paragraphs 8,9, and 10) and its focus on only procedural aspects, to not necessarily be fully in line with the request from UNEA in Decision 4/2 §8 and the mandate given by UNGA Resolution 73/333 to UNEA5.

- We are of the view that this mandate is clear enough for the work on the substantive recommendations in UNGA resolution 73/333 to begin here in Nairobi, led by the UNEA bureau. EU/MS are keen to discuss the follow up substantive work of UNGA Resolution 73/333.
- EU/MS don't support merging the consultations related to the commemoration of UNEP or preparation of a political declaration following resolution 73/333 with the CPR based review of UNEP governance (under paragraphs 9-13 of UNEA Decision 4.2). These processes have different dynamics and background and should be dealt separately.
- On the follow-up of the resolution 73/333, we would welcome the CPR Chair and UNEA President's envoy to prepare a comprehensive report on the consultations and concrete recommendations including timeline and milestones, and to clarify the link with the commemoration (and the UNEA-5), to the next bureau of UNEA-5 on 3 December, so that the bureau can be conclusive to advance the preparatory work for the future declaration.
- These are initial views by EU/MS. We look forward to engaging in further substance discussions on next steps during this meeting and in follow-up consultations.

**With regard to paragraph 14 on action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88:**

- EU/MS appreciate the roadmap for the development of an action plan for consideration of UNEA-5.
- While being rather concise, the roadmap does seem to cover key aspects, although it might be possible to move a bit faster e.g. with regard to analysing entry points for the implementation of each subparagraph, which is now suggested only in June 2020.
- Most subparagraphs already have linkages with on-going processes, most notably indeed with Medium Term Strategy 2022-25 as also mentioned by UNEP. It will be useful to take implementation of paragraph 88 into account when preparing the MTS. In addition, subparagraph b) is closely connected with the resource mobilization strategy, subparagraph c) with the UN development system reform and the work of the EMG, and subparagraphs d) and e) with the GEO review process. EU/MS would also welcome the scheduling of a continued discussion on subparagraph h) with regards to strengthening stakeholder involvement and participation.
- The decision also invites the UNON director to contribute to the implementation of subparagraph g) concerning the headquarters functions in Nairobi. The road map does not provide information when consultation with UNON director would be initiated. However, EU/MS consider that that should be started quite soon in order for having sufficient time to make some improvements already prior to the UNEA5.

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