

## UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 73/333

### QUESTIONNAIRE TO GUIDE THE WAY FORWARD

#### EU + MS RESPONSES

#### I. Guiding questions concerning the preparatory process

1. The outcome reads: “Forward these recommendations to UNEA for its consideration”.

a. *Under which agenda item should UNEA 5 consider these recommendations?*

b. *One option being under the inclusion in the already established item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues” or by recommending the establishment of a new item?*

EU+MS would like to include this item under item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues”.

2. The outcome mandates: “to prepare, at its fifth session (...) a political declaration (...):

a. *What level of detail should a text have in order to be considered by UNEA 5?*

The text of the UNEA 5 document should contain the core elements or building blocks of the future declaration, in response to the recommendations by the AHOEWG as endorsed by UNGA resolution 73/333, to and adopted at a high-level UN meeting. The text should be concluded as far as possible by UNEA5.

b. *When should the “preparation of a political declaration” begin and what should be the recommended format, leadership and timeline of the preparatory process before UNEA 5?*

The preparation of substantive elements of a political declaration mandated by resolution 73/333 should begin promptly and it should be organised efficiently, transparent and inclusive, using, as much as possible, the existing bodies and structures in Nairobi. As the immediate next step following consultation through this questionnaire, the EU and MS suggest nominating two co-facilitators to lead the consultations on the follow up of the UNGA Resolution 73/333 and to propose a clear roadmap for the period until UNEA for further discussions on the preparation of substantive elements of a political declaration for a UN high-level meeting for consideration of UNEA 5. The selection of the co-facilitators should be undertaken in cooperation and consultation by the UNEA and CPR bureaux. One facilitator should be from a developed and other from a developing country, committed and available for consultations with MS and regional groups throughout the process period (possibly one of them could be a UNEA bureau member in order to facilitate the UNEA bureau's involvement in the preparation of the declaration). The EU and MS suggest that an input paper be prepared on substantive elements for the political declaration, on the basis of the Substantive recommendations of the AHOEWG annexed to UNGA resolution 73/333 and taking into account the responses of MS and stakeholders to the questionnaire, for the consideration of MS. At least one meeting before OECPR/UNEA to discuss on the substantive elements of the political declaration on the follow up of the 73/333, should be held in Nairobi, open to participation of all UN Member States and all members of the UN specialized agencies, and led by the two co-facilitators.

***c. How can accredited stakeholders be involved, and member States without representation in Nairobi participate, in the process?***

In order to ensure inclusive and transparent process, different means of participation for Member States without permanent representation in Nairobi and all relevant stakeholders must be envisaged, such as written consultations, videoconferences and informal consultations. Furthermore, EU and its MS expect that the co-facilitators could also play a role in actively engaging with MS without representation in Nairobi, e.g. through video or teleconferences, bilateral or regional consultations.

**II. Guiding questions related to the “United Nations high-level meeting [...] in the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP**

**3. The outcome speaks about “a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (...)”**

- a. What is meant by “a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment”?***
- b. Who is expected to convene the UN high-level meeting? What should its format be?***

**3. a + b:**

The EU and its Member States believe there is no room for more than one UN high level meeting in 2022 on the area of international environmental governance. We therefore favour the organization of **one** UN high level meeting in 2022 to commemorate Stockholm 1972 and the creation of UNEP in Stockholm. The offer by the government of Sweden to host a UN high level meeting in Stockholm for the commemoration of the 1972 Stockholm Conference would, in our view, provide an excellent opportunity to raise the visibility of the environmental agenda and to celebrate UNEP+50 and Stockholm+50. This event could also provide an opportunity to adopt the high-level political declaration as outlined in UNGA resolution 73/333.

However, this does not exclude that other events for ceremonial celebration could be organised to commemorate the creation of UNEP (i.e. in Nairobi, on World Environment Day).

The EU and its MS expect that following consultations between the governments of Sweden and Kenya and the Secretariat, UNGA should/will decide on the format and modalities of the said UN high level meeting.

**III. Guiding questions regarding the content of the political declaration and the support by the UNEP Secretariat**

**4. The outcome also signals that the objective of the political declaration is “with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’”.**

- a. what ‘elements’ or ‘building blocks’ in the objectives guiding the recommendations and in the substantive recommendations contained in the Annex to Resolution 73/333 could be identified for inclusion in the political declaration to achieve the overall objective of “strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development”?***

In order to send a strong political signal and address commitments, the declaration needs to be both ambitious and concise, agreed upon by member states. In addition, it should provide concrete and actionable responses to the recommendations and taking into account the objectives from the UNGA Resolution 73/333.

***b. How should the political declaration relate to the five objectives guiding the recommendations and to the thirteen substantive recommendations of the ad-hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 72/277 and endorsed in UN General Assembly resolution 73/333?***

The objectives guiding the recommendations could be included in the preamble of a declaration. The recommendations should be formulated in an actionable way that could provide for a follow-up mechanism.

***c. Should there be a substantive connection between the political declaration and the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment?***

The EU and its Member States see the preparation of a political declaration pursuant UNGA Resolution 73/333 as an autonomous process from the commemoration and both work streams for their preparations should be kept separate (pending further clarity on substance and process of both work streams). However, the result of the negotiation process on the follow up to UNGA Resolution 73/333 should feed into a political declaration to be adopted at a UN high-level meeting in Stockholm as one of the outcomes from the Stockholm meeting.

***d. How should the political declaration be in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development?***

Paragraph 88 (a-h) of the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” focuses on strengthening UNEP’s role and mandate. Para 88 and its implementation should be reinforced. However, the reinforcement of UNEP’s mandate is not the only element for a political declaration in the context of the high-level meeting.

***e. What kind of inputs should the Secretariat prepare in order to best assist member States in the preparation of the political declaration?***

UNEP Secretariat should provide input analysis on concrete actions that could be taken to follow up on the recommendations from 73/333. EU+MS would welcome input from UNEP on a certain number of key science developments taking into account the newest knowledge and effective measures to address them, that they find are key for improving the global environment and achieving the SDGs.

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