

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Based upon the input received, the following guiding questions are set out below.

### **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?*
- c.

Taking into account both Objectives guiding the recommendations and substantive recommendations, they can be considered under Agenda item 5 “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?*
- 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?*

It should begin as soon as possible, in the second quarter of 2020 at the latest with the tendency to have a mature draft ready for discussion at UNEA 5 at the beginning of 2021.

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

Accredited stakeholders and member States without representation in Nairobi can be involved in the process through their official representatives to UNEP/official focal points for UNEP.

### **II. Guiding questions related to the a “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”?*

The commemoration of UNEP’s 50th anniversary is not only an opportunity to look at key milestone achievements, but to propose forward - looking recommendations aimed at

increasing impacts of UNEP's short- and long-term actions in international environment and sustainable development policy fora.

To that effect we would like to support the proposal for the commemoration of fifty years of the creation of UNEP in 2022 as to take stock of progress made to protect the global environment and most importantly to propose concrete actions to achieve environmental sustainability within implementation of UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, including further strengthening of the institutional set up and financial resources to deliver UNEP's mandate established in 1972 and build upon over past five decades.

The commemoration should especially contribute to paving the way towards future progression in protection of the environment and human health and strengthening science policy-interface to guide informed policy decision making, whilst keeping global environment under permanent review and looking forward for the optimal synergies with Multilateral Environmental Treaties and UN entities in the course of ongoing reform of UN system.

*b. Who is expected to convene the UN high-level meeting? What should its format be?*

We support the option related to organization of the commemoration event under umbrella of the UN General Assembly in New York, preferably with a political outcome. Organization of UN conference at the highest political level in a dedicated host country may alternatively provide an adequate format to achieve the outcomes comparable with those from the Stockholm Conference in 1972.

To that effect we would like to support proposed possible political outcome, along with the initiatives proposed by Executive Secretary, roles and responsibilities of CPR and UNEA's Bureau, as well as proposed working arrangement and scheduling in the document UNEP.CPR.SC 2019.6 - Note on implementation of UNEA Decision 4.2.

### **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”?*

The elements 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” are related to the respective obligations and commitments under international environmental law of States Members of the United Nations

and members of specialized agencies; full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”; taking into account existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies; Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, and also reaffirm the role of the United Nations Environment Assembly; the exploration of further ways for States Members of the United Nations and all members of the specialized agencies to support and make full use of the fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V), adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly,<sup>12</sup> in order to foster environmental rule of law and advance the implementation of environmental law at all levels; mainstreaming environment into sectoral policies and programmes at all levels, including into national development and sustainable development plans, to enhance the implementation of international environmental law and applicable environment-related instruments; ratifying multilateral environmental agreements and effectively implement them for those that have not yet done so to; the role of discussions on principles of international environmental law in enhancing the implementation of international environmental law, also noting the ongoing work in the International Law Commission on general principles of law; to the work of scientific community on interconnected and cross-cutting issues by sharing information among the leading scientific, technical and technological bodies that inform the work of multilateral environmental agreements and environmental processes, and encourage the scientific, technical and technological bodies to strengthen cooperation among themselves.

- 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?*
- 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?*
- d. How should the political declaration be in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development?*
- e. What kind of inputs should the Secretariat prepare in order to best assist member States in the preparation of the political declaration?*

The political declaration should relate to the five objectives guiding the recommendations and to the thirteen substantive recommendations, taking into account main elements of the recommendations as the basis for the operative part of the declaration. There should 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, especially aiming to reaffirm the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, and also reaffirm the role of the United Nations

Environment Assembly. This will assure alignment of the political declaration with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. In addition, recommendation related to the encouragement of the United Nations Environment Programme, as chair of the Environment Management Group, in collaboration with the other members of the Group, to continue to strengthen system-wide inter-agency coordination on the environment and to call for the active involvement and support of all members of the Group in the implementation of system-wide strategies on the environment will make this alignment even stronger.