

COMMENTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE CIRCULATED BY THE UNEP CPR AND UNEA-5
BUREAU ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 73/333 “FOLLOW UP TO THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC OPEN-
ENDED WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO GENERAL
ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 72/277”

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?*

Response

- a) – **No additional agenda item is necessary;**
- b) – **A UNEA-5 resolution on these recommendations should be drafted and considered by the Assembly under one of the existing items of the provisional agenda.**

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

Response –

- a) – **The draft text of the declaration should be political, concise and general in nature. It should be negotiated in full and in a timely manner to be considered by UNEA-5;**
- b) – **The process of preparation of the declaration can be initiated once consensus is reached on the format of the high level meeting in line with the UNEA-4 decision 4/2 on preparation of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972;**
- c) – **The process of preparation of the declaration should be led in accordance with the established practice and be inclusive and intergovernmental in nature subject to voluntary funding.**

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?*

Response –

a) – In our understanding, what is meant is a commemorative meeting on Stockholm conference of 1972 that should be a country led initiative with support and participation of UN. The meeting should have one outcome – the political declaration approved by UNEA-5;

b) –The meeting should be convened by Sweden and Kenya as host country for UNEP.

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”?*
- 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?*

Response –

- a) – All the mechanisms for **“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 already in the UNEP mandate. The central role of the UNEP in forming the international environmental agenda should be the main element of the declaration in line with the paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 Declaration;
- b) – The declaration should reaffirm the GA resolution 73/333 and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of 1992;
- c) – Without going into much detail the declaration should note with appreciation the achievements of UNEP during its 50-year history of functioning;
- d) – The elements of the declaration must be fully based on the already adopted decisions of the UN General Assembly and the Governing Bodies of UNEP;
- e) – Upon request from CPR, the Secretariat should provide documents regarding the UNEP activities and decisions of its Governing Bodies as well as General Assembly documents related to UNEP during its 50-year history.