

## **RESPONSE BY SWITZERLAND**

### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

#### **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?*

Answer to a through b:

These recommendations should be considered under item 9 of agenda entitled “High Level Segment” as it specifically treats the ministerial declaration and will serve as an adequate place for the discussions during UNEA 5 on this matter.

**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?*

Answer to a through b:

The preparation and negotiation of the declaration is led by the UNEA Presidency. It would follow the usual preparation and negotiation of a Ministerial Declaration at UNEA, .e.g. written inputs by member states, consultations etc. It should have the format so it can be forwarded as an input to Stockholm+50, the UN high-level conference in 2022.

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

With respect to stakeholder engagement, it is key that an envisioned preparatory process is inclusive of all stakeholders. In that light, we understand that consultations on content will be conducted during conferences where we can get as close as possible to that requirement.

#### **II. Guiding questions related to the a “United Nations high-level meeting [...] in the context of 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 meeting that is meant is the High Level Segment of UNEA 5, that will serve as the platform to celebrate the 50 years of UNEP (termed “UNEP+50”), as agreed in UNEA resolution UNEA 4 Decision 4/2 and UNEP/EA.4/RES.23. The HLS is also the place to agree and conclude on the political declaration as decided in the UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/333. This declaration will be an input for the Stockholm+50 conference in 2022 to be held in Stockholm, Sweden.

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

The High Level Session is under the leadership of the UNEA Presidency and as usual be a two days meeting at the end of UNEA 5.

### **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?*

Answer to a through b: The Annex to Resolution 73/333 under Section “Substantive Recommendations” lists recommendations that are specifically pertaining to the “strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance”. In that light, these recommendations can serve as initial building blocks for a political declaration.

- 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?*

Yes, they could be contained in one Ministerial declaration that is an outcome of UNEA 5. This declaration could serve as an input to Stockholm+50, the High Level Meeting in 2022 in Stockholm.

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

The political declaration can include necessary elements that are pertaining to those particular sub-paragraphs of para 88 that merit further action, i.e. the sustainable finances of UNEP and its Environment Fund and the Stakeholder Engagement. The UNEP ED’s report on UNEA Decision 4/2 OP 14 will guide us where there is further action needed.

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

The Secretariat should support the Presidency in conducting the consultations of the political declaration.