



## The High Commission of Sri Lanka

Lenana Road, P.O. Box: 48145 GPO, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: (254-20) 3872627, (254- 734 387 267)

Email: slhc.nairobi@mfa.gov.lk

### Note No. K/16/2020

The High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya and has the honour to forward herewith the Questionnaire of Sri Lanka on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333 entitled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277".

The High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nairobi, 30th January 2020

Office of the United Nations Environment  
Programme in Nairobi, Kenya



High Commission of the Democratic  
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
in Kenya

## QUESTIONNAIRE – Sri Lanka's Response

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?*

International environmental policy and governance issues

- 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?*

This outcome of the resolution could be incorporated in the above provisional agenda items.

#### 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?*

Political Level

- 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?*

Process could start from March 2020 and could be finalized by November 2020.

The Formats could respectively be;

- a. Initial inputs  
b. Draft outline  
c. Zero draft

Relevant drafts may be shared with member states and other stakeholders for their comments and to be finalized with CPR members before UNEA 5.

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

It is appropriate to communicate with the focal points in respective countries in order to ensure their active involvement.

### 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”?*

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as high level body of the UN system

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

UN Secretary General and the format could be UNGA format

**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”?*

Number 3 of the objectives guiding the recommendations and in the substantive recommendations contained in the Annex to the Resolution (starting “Contribute to the strengthening of the implementation.....instruments”) and also number 4 (starting “Support the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda ..... 88 and 89 thereof”)

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?*

Political Declaration may relate mainly with Objective (a) (starting with “Reinforce the protection of .... generations”) and also to relate to (d), (e) and (f) under the Substantive Recommendations.

- 4
- 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, there should be a substantive connection as it will be held just after the UNGA 75 in order to attract the global attention with positive political will for the conservation of 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?*

Since *paragraph 88* recognizes strengthening the role of UNEP within the UN system, the resolution could find the way to empower UNEP to lead efforts to formulate UN system-wide strategies on the environment as stipulated in *paragraph 88*.

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

Initial inputs could be shared with member states and relevant stakeholder organizations for them to prepare a Draft Outline