

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:

As the Paragraph B of the recommendations in the section “Future Work” of the UNGA Resolution 73/333 envisages preparation of political declaration for UN high-level meeting in order to strengthen the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, it would be appropriate to consider inclusion of the recommendations under the Item 5 of the UNEA 5 Provisional Agenda which directly refers to the “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 “preparation of political declaration” begin and what should be a recommended format, leadership and timeline for the preparatory process before UNEA-5?*
- c. *How can accredited stakeholders be involved, and member states without representation in Nairobi participate, in the process?*

Answer:

a. The level of the content of the political declaration to be considered by UNEA 5 should be quite precise. Along with the political context of the text and general introduction in the preamble, it should include progress, gaps and challenges in the context of implementation of international environmental law and clear reference to the human and environmental aspects. The text of the declaration should include as well defined activities implemented by different stakeholders, such as States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies, the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements, etc., as well as means of international collaboration, fields of cooperation, financial and further implementation mechanism, etc.

b. It is recommended to start the preparation process as soon as possible after receiving and analyzing all the filled in questionnaires from the Member States and accredited stakeholders. Recommended format should be highly participatory and timeline of the preparatory process

before UNEA 5 should be in compliance with the established procedures for the preparation of official documents for the relevant meetings. Referring to the Substantive recommendations of the A/RES/73/333, that reaffirms *“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”*, UNEP could be considered in the context of leadership.

c. Accredited Stakeholders and Member States without representation in Nairobi may be included in the process through official letters, also various online communication tools can be used. However, it would also be good practice to arrange one official meeting with participation of all relevant stakeholders for face-to-face and detailed consultations/discussions on the text of the declaration.

Section 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 a High-level meeting? What should its format be?*

Answer:

a. Under this statement it is meant to consider the allocation of additional financial resources, inter alia, by voluntary contributions in order to arrange a High-level meeting for supporting the adoption of the political declaration, that will be a reiteration of implementation of the outcomes of United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration) that laid the foundation for global environmental governance, has promoted sustainability and influenced development and enforcement of international environmental law. In this line, the High-level meeting with the aim to strengthen the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance will once again stress the importance of Stockholm Conference and its outcomes.

b. The UN High-level meeting should be convened by the General Assembly. The format could be as follows: opening ceremony, plenary session, and parallel round tables with interactive discussions.

Section 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 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 of guiding the recommendations and 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 the UNGA resolution 73/333?

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

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

e. What kind of input should the Secretariat prepare in order to best assist member states in the preparation of the political declaration?

Answer:

a. We believe that the text of the Declaration, among others, should include the following context from the recommendations defined by the UNGA Resolution 73/333 that are important for enhancing the implementation of international law and performing a good environmental governance in the countries: enhancing the implementation of existing obligations and commitments under international environmental law; increasing efforts for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; promoting the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system; strengthening the cooperation with and inclusion of the scientific,

technical and technological bodies as well as ensuring the exchange of information and experiences among and within governments, scientific, technical and technological bodies.

In particular, the “elements” should be formulated from the following items under the chapter “Substantive recommendations” defined by the UNGA Resolution 73/333:

(b) Call for renewed efforts at all levels to enhance the implementation of existing obligations and commitments under international environmental law, stressing the importance of enhanced ambition regarding means of implementation, including the provision and mobilization of all types and sources of means of implementation, consistent with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(h) Encourage States Members of the United Nations and all members of the specialized agencies to strengthen, where needed, environmental laws, policies and regulatory frameworks at the national level, as well as capacities across all sectors for the effective implementation of international environmental law, including in the administrative and justice sectors in accordance with national legal systems, while acknowledging the importance of international cooperation in supporting and complementing national actions;

(i) Encourage States Members of the United Nations and all members of the specialized agencies to mainstream 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;

(l) Encourage 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.

b. The text of the political declaration should be developed based on the objectives guiding the recommendations the substantive recommendations endorsed in UNGA 73/333 as the resolution is prepared and adopted with the aim to support the development of the political declaration. The recommendations in the resolution mentioned above are prepared for promoting the implementation of international environmental law and performing the good environmental governance, therefore they should be considered and included in the text of the political declaration.

c. Yes, it should be substantive connection between the political declaration and the commemoration of the creation of the UNEP by the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, as UNEP is the environmental organization that highly promotes good environmental governance throughout the world by supporting countries to develop and

implement a coherent environmental policy, encouraging partnership and cooperation between them, promoting sustainability and improving quality of life. Therefore, considering the aim and meaning of the political declaration, substantive connection between them is obvious and should be outlined.

d. The recommendation b) under the “Future Work” of the UNGA Resolution 73/333 defines preparation of political declaration that aims to strengthen 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”. Paragraph 88 of the mentioned document welcomes and reaffirms the role of UNEP in promoting environmental governance and coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serving as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. It also envisages strengthening and upgrading of UNEP in upgrading financial resources including via voluntary contributions for the implementation of the mandate, as well as assisting countries in the implementation of their national environmental policies and enhancing collaboration within the United Nations System. It is obvious that the text and content of the political declaration will mostly be prepared based on the recommendations endorsed in UNGA 73/333 Resolution such as: increasing efforts for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, promoting the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, strengthening the cooperation, etc. Therefore, the connection between the political declaration and paragraph 88 of the document “The Future We Want” is vivid. So, it would be advised to consider and underline provisions of paragraph 88 in the development of the general provisions of the political declaration.

e. The Secretariat, under its competences, can be actively involved in the whole process of preparation of the political declaration, such as: organization of work, preparation and distribution of information, ensuring communication and collaboration, providing different expertise, etc.