

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?*

Please see response to Question (1)(b) below.

- 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?*

The United States is flexible on this question. We do not see the need to establish a new agenda item.

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?*

In Res. 73/333, the General Assembly endorsed the Working Group’s recommendation that a political declaration be prepared at UNEA-5. The simplest approach would be to address the mandate of 73/333 through the ministerial declaration of UNEA-5. In our view, this process would close out the Res. 73/333 discussion, and would be a separate exercise from Stockholm+50 preparations.

- 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?*

Preparation should mirror the process for preparation of past UNEA ministerial declarations. Preparations should begin with collection of views through the Bureau and meetings of the CPR. The text should be finalized through negotiations at the OECPR before UNEA-5 and adopted by member states.

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

Preparation should mirror the process for preparations of past UNEA ministerial declarations. Member States without representation in Nairobi can participate through regional representatives as well as through a Bureau-led consultation process that could include written submissions.

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 “high-level meeting” is UNEA-5 itself. It will be in the “context of the commemoration,” as UNEA-5 will begin the consideration of the celebratory event that Sweden will host in 2020. At UNEA-5, Member States should focus on the upcoming 50th anniversary of the establishment of UNEP and the celebration of UNEP’s many accomplishments since its inception.

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

The high-level meeting should be convened by the UNEA Presidency. A select number of key presenters and roundtable facilitated discussions among high-level participants could be useful, looking at the World Economic Forum as an example for how to convene high-level officials and representatives in a way that is driven towards concrete action. UNEA-5 could also include an exhibit hall at the meeting where stakeholders and governments can showcase their best practices and technologies that have helped achieve environmental protection to help make this a hands-on learning event, as well as a celebration. The meeting could also involve youth entrepreneurs who are developing actionable tools and solutions to address environmental problems (an entrepreneurship showcase).

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 General Assembly endorsed the recommendations included in the Annex to Resolution 73/333, which recommended forwarding the substantive recommendations of the Working Group to UNEA-5 for its consideration and for the preparation of a political declaration. Thus, the recommendations should be

considered by UNEA-5 in preparing a declaration, but it is premature at this stage to single out any particular “elements” or “building blocks” among the recommendations.

- 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?*

The political declaration may consider the substantive recommendations included in the Annex to Resolution 73/333 but should not seek to renegotiate those recommendations. Moreover, with respect to Resolution 73/333, the scope and issues included in the high-level political declaration should not exceed the Working Group’s recommendations. The WG recommendations represent the outcome of numerous discussion hours and we do not support further deliberations that will expand the basis for the high-level 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?*

The recommendations endorsed in Resolution 73/333 call for the declaration to be prepared for a United Nations high-level meeting in the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP at the Stockholm Conference and as such, the outcome should recognize UNEP’s successes over the past 50 years and its continuing importance for addressing current and future environmental challenges.

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

Any substantive connection to paragraph 88 would need to be considered as the declaration is developed subject to the conditions laid out in the response to question 4.b.

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

The General Assembly endorsed forwarding the recommendations included in the Annex to Resolution 73/333 to the UNEA as inputs for the preparation of a political declaration. No additional background document or report from the Secretariat should be required for this task.