

**Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting**

**(Online meeting, 23 April 2020)**

**Agenda Item 3: Implementation of UNEA resolution 2/3 – Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training**

**Comments by the European Union and its Member States**

- The EU and its MS welcome the update on the progress in the implementation of UNEA Resolution 2/3. We believe that the document could have been more clearly structured against the operative paragraphs of the resolution 2/3. In this way, it would better assist MS in getting a complete overview and assessing the progress made in its implementation, including on the results, i.e. progress on enhanced integration of the environmental dimension into their relevant curricula (OP1), cooperation with the higher education community in mainstreaming environment and sustainability across education and training (OP2), enhanced cooperation with all relevant United Nations bodies towards better implementation of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (OP3).
- We appreciate UNEP's valuable work in the field of environmental education, which has a key role in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We see also that raising awareness about the threats of environmental degradation, including the interlinkages of biodiversity loss and disease, is as important as raising awareness about the solutions.
- We thank UNEP for taking rapid action to address educational implications of the COVID-19 pandemic together with UNESCO and we deem that the efforts to develop innovative educational tools and methodologies, including massive open online courses, are now even more important. In that sense, we particularly welcome the project "Earth School" and are interested in CPR's supportive role to this initiative of UNEP.
- We are glad to see within the planned future programme priorities that UNEP will connect with UNESCO's ESD programme and UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment.
- The EU and its MS welcome that green jobs become more and more popular among young people not only around the areas listed in the document but also in the areas of repair, reuse, recycling and upcycling.
- Furthermore, we support meaningful engagement of Youth at high level meetings, and, in the light of COP26 and other international meetings currently being postponed or cancelled, their digital participation as well.
- When referring to the promotion of greener campuses, we would propose not to mention particular countries, but rather refer to developing countries in general.
- The EU and its MS underline the importance of establishing partnerships with civil society organizations, such as NGOs and other associations, or even with municipalities and companies to enhance progress on environmental education and training in line with OP4. We furthermore do not think it is appropriate to highlight specific organizations such as "Scouts", "Girl Guides" or "Junior Achievement"

- The EU and its MS deem that UNECE's Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development set an exemplary framework for the development of national action plans for ESD in the UNECE region. We therefore encourage countries to consider developing national strategies for environmental education, which frame and focus environmental education programs and actions, whether public or private, in formal, non-formal or informal education. These strategies should establish a governmental commitment, principles and priority thematic axis, as well as management and financing models for specific measures.
  - We thank the UK, Norway, Sweden, Finland and other MS who have provided financial and other resources for educational programmes and encourage other member states to provide support for the planned future priorities.
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