

**CANADA - Elements of response to the Norwegian UNEA-5 Presidency
regarding the 2 questions**

14 May 2020

- 1) *What would we welcome as the most important elements and/or key messages from the minister in the declaration (i.e. UNEA 5 ministerial declaration) to address the theme (“Strengthening Actions for Nature to achieve the SDGs”) in an impactful manner?*
- 2) *How can UNEA make a significant contribution to the theme at a global scale? (in terms of preparations for UNEA, its conduct, follow up, relationship with other international meetings...)*

- Canada thanks the Norwegian Presidency for the opportunity to provide early input to the Ministerial Declaration process and the preparations of UNEA, in particular with respect to how best to address its nature theme.
- We stand ready to support the Presidency and the UNEA Bureau in the preparations and success of UNEA.
- Canada would like to see UNEA-5 focussed on its nature theme towards relevant outcomes and a process that will allow Member States to better manage the number of resolutions without compromising the strategic and important work that MS must also agree upon at UNEA-5.
- It is likely that, due to the pandemic, the CBD COP will now take place after UNEA-5. Therefore there is a unique opportunity for UNEA to set the stage and give a strong impulse to an agreement on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. UNEA-5 could also help build momentum on climate action towards COP26.
- The 4 “action areas” proposed in the recent UNEA-5 Concept Note by UNEP (Nature for economy and jobs, Nature for health, Nature for climate and Nature for food systems) are relevant and could provide the topics of high level interactive roundtables at the High Level Segment of UNEA-5.
- **Below are preliminary views on possible elements of the Ministerial Declaration to address the nature theme in an impactful manner:**
 - Recognize the world environment situation with loss of biodiversity at critical rates, ecosystem degradation, climate change, and other environmental issues.
 - The pandemic is teaching us that the theme of nature is more relevant than ever (the declaration would include rationale).
 - We have an unprecedented opportunity to direct the stimulus packages for the recovery from the pandemic in a smart and green way that harnesses the

positive contribution of nature to the environment, the social aspects including health, and the economy.

- Recognize value and contribution of nature and biodiversity to health, the economy, and to people.
- Recognize the importance of achieving the United Nation’s Agenda 2030 and the interlinkages across the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Recognize and emphasize the pivotal role and responsibility that UNEA and UNEP have to address the environment pillar of sustainable development, at the global nexus of biodiversity/nature, climate and other environmental priorities.
- UNEP work complements existing multilateral agreements to promote innovative measures for environmental governance and protection.
- Recognize the opportunity that UNEA has to stir the momentum on the international processes on biodiversity.
- Deliver a strong ministerial message in support of an ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Commitment to enhanced actions on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.
- Commitment to actions in the transformative UNEA “action areas” that would be decided (see Concept Note referred to above) and in relation to UNEA resolutions.
- Message to help support linkages across environmental issues including biodiversity and climate change.
- Inclusion of all actors but in particular women, youth, Indigenous People and local communities

For reference and context: Canada recently provided comments (attached to this document) on the draft UNEA-5 concept note. Our elements of response above draw on these comments where relevant.



CAN Comments on
UNEA 5 Concept Note