Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting (Online meeting, 23 June 2020) Agenda Item 2: Implementation of para 8 of Decision 4/2

Comments by the European Union and its Member States

- The EU and its MS welcome the opportunities as outlined in the paper. The launch of UNEP@50 at UNEA5 together with a high level political meeting Stockholm+50 in 2022 is a unique occasion for accelerating environmental action. It is also a chance to strengthen multilateralism and an integrated approach across the UN system, to take stock on progress in the implementation of the environmental agenda over the past 50 years as well as to enhance progress towards Agenda 2030.
- We encourage and welcome the communication between UNEP, the UNEA President, Kenya and Sweden in the preparations for the launch of UNEP@50 at UNEA5, also encompassing the Stockholm+50. The EU and its MS see UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 as being of a different nature and as different but mutually reinforcing processes.
- We emphasise that the UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 preparations should be complementary and mutually supportive. We would also like to better understand in what way and to what aim a link between the commemoration and the implementation of the GA resolution 73/333 should be established.
- The EU and its MS welcome UNEP's planned work on the science-policy interface and see this as an important contribution both to UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50.
- The EU and its MS would like a clarification of what is meant by "to build a network of outreach activities throughout the year" and what key objectives "A World Environment Year" would serve. How would this be financed?
- Furthermore, we would be interested in hearing what the expectations were as well as the rationale behind the potential link between the commemoration in Nairobi (UNEP@50) and the implementation of GA resolution 73/333 referred to in the background paper.
- We would appreciate a formulation of direct links between UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50. In this context it is important to stress that Stockholm+50 commemoration should take place in Stockholm and we look forward to tabling the enabling resolution for Stockholm+50 in New York.
- The EU and its MS would like to emphasise the importance of further informal exchange of views on substance and objectives as well as on the way in which the format would follow such substance and objectives. Through this, it would be ensured that a right balance and path for launching UNEP@50 in Kenya, Nairobi as well as a global high level meeting in Stockholm in 2022 are found.