



**First informal substantive consultation meeting on UNGA Resolution 73/333
21-23 July 2020**

EU & MS Statement on "Governance" (Recommendations 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18)

Dear Co-Facilitators,
Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States regarding the cluster international environmental governance and on the responses to recommendations 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 18. Serbia and Ukraine align themselves to this statement.

- The EU and its MS would like to secure UNEP's and UNEA's central role in overseeing the environmental dimension of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through this and other ongoing processes.
- Within the UN System, it is key to strengthen the role of UNEP in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The EU and its MS support UNEP's engagement with the Resident Coordinators while avoiding increased need for regional and national presence.
- UNEP should intensify its dialogue with other UN entities, bringing its environmental expertise into ongoing negotiations of specific sectors and thereby contributing to more coherent international policy-making.
- Furthermore, UNEP should build on its mandate as chair of the Environment Management Group and strengthen its efforts to engage the specialized agencies to collaborate more actively in the EMG.
- Through enhanced coordination and collaboration with MEAs, UNEA could be the central platform for crosscutting issues of specific global environmental work streams. The impact of decision-making by UNEA could be fostered by ensuring proper follow-up actions to decisions and resolutions of UNEA.
- The EU and its MS stress the importance of achieving policy coherence, creating synergies and fostering cooperation across MEAs and their scientific and subsidiary bodies. This could increase

efficiency both at international and at the national level and create valuable co-benefits. The SDGs are an important harmonizing framework in this regard.

- The "synergies process" established by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) is a good example to advance policy coherence, reduce administrative burdens and improve implementation of the MEAs.
- Streamlining reporting and monitoring processes should be further encouraged and best practices of institutional set-up can help facilitate it.
- Furthermore, keeping in mind the independence of the MEAs, the EU and its MS see a lot of potential for improving international environmental governance through enhanced coordination between UNEP, UNEA and MEAs taking into account ongoing processes like the CPR-based review.