

INTERVENTION: GROUP 1 ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Member States can take certain measures to strengthen and reaffirm the role of UNEP as the leading global authority that sets the global environmental agenda within the United Nations system.

- Member states can honour financial contributions to the Environment Fund, and work towards improving the ration between ear marked and non-earmarked funding to ensure balanced funding of programmes.
- In addition, they can consider accreditation to UNEP to broaden participation and ensure universal membership. This will broaden the funding base and continue to enhance the attractiveness of Nairobi as a venue for global environmental meetings in collaboration with the host country and the UN Office at Nairobi.
- Sending their representatives to participate at the committee of permanent representatives will enrich the discussions at UNEP and provide support for the decisions arrived at.
- Member states can enable UNEP fulfil its coordination mandate within the UN system by giving input on environmental dimension of sustainable development and articulating UNEA messages through their national delegations to Regional Sustainable Development Forums and the HLPF.
- They can also support implementation of para 88 of the future we want outcome document in entirety and ensure that UNEP is strengthened by consolidating reporting mechanism, supervision, coordination and cooperation amongst the myriad UN environmental treaty instruments.

In the in the area of environmental law and environmental governance, one objective of the recommendations of the ad hoc working group was ensuring that existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies are not undermined. UNEP leads efforts of advancing international environmental law through successive ten-year programmes for the development and periodic review of environmental law (Montevideo Programmes). Resolution 4/20 of UNEA4 adopted Montevideo Programme V, which began on 1 January 2020. This was a re-affirmation by UNEA of the importance of environmental law as one of the key areas of work of UNEP. Adequate funding of the Montevideo programme will enhance the development and review of environmental law while full implementation of Montevideo Programmes by UNEP to assist developing countries in capacity building will ensure monitoring and compliance in environmental law commitments.

On the role of science, scientific research, innovation and cooperation across relevant bodies can be encouraged to better inform the work of multilateral environmental agreements and environmental processes. This can be achieved through holding joint information sharing sessions and encouraging joint

programmes and mobilizing scientists and experts from around the world to inform environmental policymaking. In addition, tapping on a wider network of universities and research institutions, with a view to incorporating the latest scientific findings in the work of multilateral environmental agreements and environmental processes is also advocated. Efforts to involve scientists from developing countries should be enhanced and encouraged for geographical balance and representation.

On efforts for governing bodies of MEAs to promote policy coherence across environmental instruments at all relevant levels closer dialogue and collaboration between UNEA and MEAs and their governing bodies is required. This could be done by identifying mutual priorities for cooperation and for possible intergovernmental decisions that promote coherence and synergies on substantive issues. There should be efforts to mobilize MEAs participation in UNEA, keeping in mind their respective mandates as well as organizing dedicated dialogue with MEAs. Member States and the UNEP Secretariat should consult more actively with MEAs and MEAs should be encouraged to share ideas for resolutions at UNEA and contribute to their implementation.