

CIEL and EIA comment on

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of the timing and format of UNEA-5 in view of COVID-19
Doc UNEP/SC/2020/14/2

Dear Excellencies, distinguished delegates and colleagues,

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) are two accredited organizations, part of the NGO Major Group.

We would like to share our view on the organizational options for UNEA-5:

- We appreciate the timely discussion on the options for organising UNEA-5 in view of covid, and thank the Secretariat for its background document;
- We recognize the challenges we face as we seek to find a solution to balance concerns that the UNEA must progress consistently with its work plan and adopt important resolutions, and the realities imposed by the pandemic;
- We welcome the "Provision of equal opportunity for all member States, including developing and least developed countries, and accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders to attend UNEA-5 and OECPR-5,";
- If a fully in person meeting was not possible, we would support a hybrid format for the UNEA and OECPR meetings. Both meetings should allow equal meaningful participation of member states and Major Groups and Stakeholders;
- In that respect, recognizing the diversity of organizations represented in each of the major group, and need for diverse expertise to meaningfully and constructively engage in the discussions, we believe that restricting participation to only 2 representatives from each major group would not meet the criteria of "meaningful participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders".

Thank you.