



SOUTH AFRICA INTERVENTION ON THE DISCUSSION THE PREPARATONS FOR UNEA5

My delegation has taken note of the outline provided by the secretariat on the Executive Director's report to UNEA 5 and will be providing comments and suggestions in this regard.

My delegation wishes to align with statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 & China and the African Group on the timing and format for UNEA5. My delegation supports the two pronged approach to UNEA5, whereby a virtual UNEA would be hosted in February 2021 to adopt decisions on budget and administrative issues including the Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work and Budget. The physical meeting of 2022 would then include substantive negotiations which would see the adoption of substantive resolutions and a Ministerial Declaration. We foresee that this would then be linked to the commemoration of UNEP@50 with the incoming and outgoing Presidents working together on the preparations.

Mr Chair,

In keeping with the principles outlined by one African Group, my delegation wishes to underscore the importance of agreeing to the decisions to be adopted during UNEA5, and we see the proposed deadline of the next CPR meeting in November as a good one. Furthermore, my delegation would appreciate a timely agreement on decisions to avoid engaging in virtual negotiations and also being mindful of the December break.

On the issue of proposed dialogues, my delegation would like to caution that such discussions, if agreed, should not pre-empt the outcomes of the current negotiations/deliberations of the MEAs that are yet to be concluded in their respective meetings of the COPs (Climate change

and CBD). We would not wish to see the summary of the dialogues predetermining the outcomes of the meetings of these MEAs. We also agree with sentiments that the preparations for virtual UNEA should not be lengthy and that the virtual meeting in February 2021 should be set at the maximum of two days.

I thank you