***10 December 2020***

**Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP (CPR)  
Nairobi, 10 December 2020**

**Agenda Item 3: Consideration of draft decisions on administrative and budgetary matters for the virtual session of the UNEA-5 in February 2021**

***Comments by the European Union and its Member States***

* The EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat for preparing draft elements for the decisions to be adopted at UNEA 5/1 in February 2021.
* Considering that the documents have been published quite close to the original date of the Subcommittee meeting, we wish to take the opportunity to emphasize that the timely publication of background documentation for CPR meetings is very important, in order to ensure effective preparation and coordination of positions by delegations.

**On the draft decision on the adjournment and resumption of UNEA-5:**

* + The EU and its Member States have, over the past course of discussions repeatedly stressed the need to hold the resumed session of UNEA-5 no later than February.
  + The dates as currently suggested in the draft decision fall into the first week of March, with only the last day of February being used for UNEA proper.
  + Therefore, we would like to understand better why the suggested dates have been chosen and what potential reasons speak against having UNEA on 21-25.2.2022.
  + In general, the EU and its Member States would ask for an earlier start to be considered: In our view the OECPR in February 2022 could rather take place 14-18.2.2022 and the resumed session of UNEA 21-25.2.2022.
  + The EU and its Member States welcome the commemoration of UNEP@50, and would have a tentative preference for the commemoration of UNEP@50 to form part of the resumed session of UNEA-5 (option expressed in paragraph 7alt).
  + However, in this context, we would like to have a clarification by the Secretariat on the logistical, administrative, procedural and budgetary differences of organizing the commemoration, either as integrated part of the resumed session of UNEA-5, or as a special session back-to-back with the resumed session of UNEA-5.
  + Irrespective of the option chosen, the EU and its Member States would prefer if UNEP@50 could be organized in one single day, which seems most appropriate for a commemorative event and would help to alleviate pressure on a likely very dense UNEA-5 week. This also seems particularly important with a view to avoiding too many parallel events during the UNEA-5 week.
  + We would also like to hear from the Secretariat, whether it has been considered that ministers/high level officials may only be able to attend one day and that any additional day might therefore be used to focus on stakeholders and government officials? Again, it is our view that this should not overburden the UNEA-5 week with too many parallel events.
  + Since UNEA 5/1 will focus on adopting the three decisions on the MTS and PoWB, on the management of trust funds, as well as on the adjournment and resumption of UNEA-5, action on many important areas of work will have to be deferred to the resumed session in February 2022. However, the issues addressed thereunder remain relevant and require continued efforts, in order to use the inter-sessional period between February 2021 and February 2022 to its fullest.
  + Therefore, the EU and its MS are of the view that the inclusion of an additional paragraph *2bis* that calls upon Member States and the Secretariat to continue work on all relevant work streams would be very valuable and should be included:

*“Calling upon* the Secretariat as well as Member States to continue work on all relevant work streams, with a view to continue our joint efforts to s*trengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,* and to address relevant existing mandates from previous sessions of the Environment Assembly, including on the Future of the Global Environment Outlook, follow-up to UNGA resolution 73/333, the CPR-based review and on identifying action to address marine litter and micro plastics.”

* + With respect to paragraph 6, the EU and its Member States would argue that the indicative timeline of submission of resolutions of 10 weeks in advance of UNEA, as captured in the Chair’s Summary of the 7th Annual Subcommittee Meeting, should be correctly reflected herein, instead of the 8 weeks currently mentioned.

**On decision on adoption of the MTS and PoWB:**

* In paragraph 9 the biennium indicated for the programme of work should most likely read 2020-2021.

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