

Agenda Item 4. Briefing on regional preparations for UNEA-5



**Subcommittee meeting
21 January 2021**

Asia-Pacific

Engagement with Member States and other Stakeholders

- Shared ED's notification on the first session of UNEA-5 with Member States. Also informed the accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders regarding the virtual Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum scheduled on 9-11 February 2021**
- Pacific countries have been informed through an information paper to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme Executive Board (Sep 2020), ED's message at the Pacific Islands Nature Conservation Conference (Nov 2020), and correspondence from the Regional Office (Dec 2020).**
- ESCAP's Committee on Environment and Development, held on 9-10 December 2020, discussed the region's environmental challenges and necessary actions needed in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- DED Ms. Joyce Msuya informed the Committee about the UNEA-5 process and its regional preparations, as well as about UNEP's approach and support on sustainable and green recovery in the context of Covid-19.**
- A webinar on "Preventing the next pandemic - Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission" was organized on 22 October 2020, in line with UNEA-5's overall theme: 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'.**

Asia-Pacific

Implementation of UNEA resolutions in Asia-Pacific

- ❑ **Asia Pacific regional briefings and three sub-regional consultations on implementation of Mineral Resource Governance Resolution 4/19 (July 2020).**
- ❑ **Two consultations to review the implementation of Resolution 4/1 on Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production (Jul 2020; Sep 2020)**
- ❑ **Asia Pacific Regional Consultation under the Ad hoc Open-ended Expert Group on marine plastic litter and microplastics (AHEG) reviewed regional implementation of Resolution 4/6 on Marine plastic litter and microplastics (Aug 2020)**
- ❑ **A virtual meeting on ‘International Cooperation for Sustainable Infrastructure’ held to review Resolution 4/5 on Sustainable Infrastructure (Oct 2020)**
- ❑ **Regional Office provided inputs to ED’s reports on other Resolutions (Chemical and Waste, Biodiversity and Land Degradation, and Illegal Trade in Wildlife)**

Asia-Pacific

Preparations for UNEA-5.2 Resumed Session

- Briefing sessions will be organized on UNEA-5.2 agenda and outcome with Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) Members and Processes
- Member States in our region will be informed about the General Assembly Resolution 73/333, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP by the 1972 Stockholm Conference, as per the roadmap agreed upon by the Bureaus of UNEA and the CPR.
- The 4th Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific has been rescheduled on 5-8 October 2021 in Suwon City, Republic of Korea.
 - The meeting will be jointly organized by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment and UNEP.
 - The Forum serves as a platform for Member States and other stakeholders to provide regional inputs to the resumed UNEA-5 in February 2022 in Nairobi.
 - Tentative schedule at the Forum of Ministers: Asia Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum; Asia Pacific Science Policy Business Forum, Government Senior Officers Meeting; and Ministerial Segment

Thank you !

Africa Office

- **Virtual meeting of the Bureau of AMCEN was convened on 28 May 2020**
- **Briefing and consultation meetings held between the Africa Office and the Nairobi-based African Diplomatic Corps (ADC)**
- **Pre-AMCEN African Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultative Meeting was held on 26 November**
- **8th AMCEN special session was convened on 30 November, 1 and 4 December 2020 where:**
 - **Member states committed to participate actively in UNEA-5;**
 - **Supported the two-stage approach of holding a short online session as the first part of UNEA-5 in February 2021**
 - **UNEA-5 in February 2021 to consider only the medium-term strategy and the programme of work and budget**
 - **Agreed to the principle that there should be no online negotiations regarding substantive matters in Environment Assembly processes**

Africa Office

- **African countries reiterated the importance of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of UNEP**
- **Africa will play a key role in the preparations for the commemoration**
- **African countries will continue to engage, online, at both regional and global levels in preparation for UNEA-5 in February 2021**
- **Africa Office to continue working with ADC and member states in this regard**
- **Africa Office to look at possibility of organizing a brief virtual consultative meeting of the African countries in February 2021 prior to UNEA-5**

Thank you !

West Asia Office

The preparations for UNEA-5 in West Asia started in early 2020, working closely with Members States and the Major Group and Stakeholders to provide regional inputs to the various streams of UNEA-5.

West Asia Office

Activities for the Preparations for UNEA-5.1

- 1. Putting UNEA-5 as one of the main topics discussed during the regular meetings with senior officials from the environment ministries and authorities as well as the CPR members from the region, thereby encouraging stronger participation.**
- 2. A series of awareness raising events and webinars were held throughout 2020 in support of the UNEA-5 theme and its link to the pandemic.**
- 3. The West Asia Consultation Meeting of the Major Groups and Stakeholders took place on 8th of December 2020.**
- 4. The First Environment Ministerial Meeting for West Asia on COVID-19 and the Environment was held on the 18th of August 2020. Ministers voiced the commitment of the countries to address the impacts of the pandemic green recovery. Ministers acknowledged the UNEA-5 theme as important focus for the West Asia region.**
- 5. The Regional Meeting on the Medium-Term Strategy and UNEA-5.1 will be held virtually 1-2 February 2021. We invited Environment Ministries/Authorities, CPR representative from the Region, League of Arab States, Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council as the main inter-governmental bodies in the region.**

West Asia Office

Progress on UNEA resolutions

A number of regional consultations held on UNEA resolutions

- 1. Briefing for West Asia on UNEA Resolution 4/19 on mineral resource governance that took place (23 July 2020). The Regional consultation on the same resolution took place on 26 August 2020.**
- 2. The Regional Consultation on UNEA Resolution 4/5 Sustainable Infrastructure for West Asia took place on 27 July 2020.**
- 3. The regional consultation meeting on UNEA Resolution 4/1 “Innovative ways to achieve sustainable consumption and production” (30 September 2020).**
- 4. Launching the first Regional Waste Management Outlook on the World Environment Day 2020.**
- 5. Regional assessment report on national actions taken by Member States in West Asia to improve air quality as per UNEA resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.**
- 6. Expert Group Meeting on “Resource Efficiency in the Arab Region: Monitoring Progress of SDG 12 and Building Back Better from COVID-19 (7-8 October 2020)**

West Asia Office

Looking Ahead to the Resumed 2022 UNEA-5 session

1. **The West Asia Environment Forum, will take place in October 2021. This will be the first dedicated gathering of countries and stakeholders of the West Asia region to debate environmental issues and set the regional environment agenda. Eventually, we see this Forum becoming the political platform to convey regional priorities and positions. Note that the restructured Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) of 2019 clarified that UNEP is not a core member of the Technical Secretariat, practically leaving West Asia region without an inter-governmental political Forum.**
2. **The 2nd regional preparatory meetings for UNEA-5 is planned for November 2021 to support countries in contributing to the resumed session of UNEA-5**

As of Today

[Link to the pre-session document shared with Members States. We remain ready to assist delegates with on-line registration and any other support needed.](#)

Thank you !

Europe Office

- **Europe Office has been working very closely with the Member States, sister UN agencies and Major Groups and Stakeholders to brief and engage them on both the outcomes of UNEA4 and its implications at the regional level, and preparations for UNEA5.**
- **The European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF): leading officials from the 53 Member States of the WHO European Region;**
- **The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP): represented by senior environment focal points from (capitals) 56 Member States of UNECE capitals;**
- **UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development: representatives of environment and education sectors, and representatives of int'l organizations and NGOs;**
- **The Working Party on International Environment Issues of the European Union Council – WPIEI Global;**
- **Geneva-based Permanent Missions and intergovernmental organizations (181 MS accredited);**
- **Oslo Act #ForNature Global Forum for UNEA5 partners;**
- **Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP6);**
- **European MGS Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM);**
- **Act #ForNature hashtag on social media and drawing attention to UNEA5.**
- **President of UNEA5 annual briefing with Geneva-based Permanent Missions (3 Feb 2021).**

Europe Office

- **Sub Regional Consultations on the implementation of UNEA resolution ([UNEP/EA.4/Res. 19](#)) on [Mineral Resource Governance](#) for Western and South-Eastern Europe as well as Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;**

Key messages from partners on UNEA5:

- **The pandemic calls for courageous political decisions now to attain an equitable and sustainable future.**
- **Support the vision of President of UNEA5 to have a strong political message with ambitions and actions for the new “super year for nature” in 2021 and onwards to the full meeting of UNEA 5 in February 2022;**
- **Recognise and cherish the true value of the services that intact ecosystems provide us with; and, independent from our human needs, we need to acknowledge that nature is a value of its own.**
- **Strong protection environmental defenders;**
- **Use Decade of Action to speed up global environmental decision-making and increase the pace and scale of implementation efforts;**
- **UNEA 5 process results in rethinking our notion of development to one that is in harmony with nature. We need your courage to end harmful business practices and to phase out polluting technologies. We need Just Transition policies and measures;**
- **Re-engage in the urgent discussion to close the gaps in international law UNGA Resolution 73/333 and develop also an Action Plan on how to achieve the objectives defined in the political declaration;**
- **Both UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 require closer cooperation with Major Groups and Stakeholders.**
- **Keep the momentum towards UNEA 5.2 to adopt a mandate to start negotiations for a legally binding instrument to tackle plastic pollution.**
- **Use UNEA5 to identify and recognise emerging environmental challenges and threats and address that are so far not regulated through global governance: sustainable and equitable governance of our natural resources and raw materials; deep-sea mining, oil and gas exploitation and transport; soil protection; sustainable land management**

Thank you !

North America Office

Regional Process in Preparation for UNEA-5

- Two consultations targeting youth in May and June 2020 in the United States;
- Two consultations targeting youth groups and indigenous peoples in August and September 2020 in Canada;
- One regional consultation targeting all major groups participants in October, 2020; and
- One consultation targeting sector companies in October 2020.

Partners:

- United Nations Association of Canada (UNA-Canada)
 - United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA)
 - World Environment Center (WEC)
 - MIT Solve
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North America Office

Some Key Messages from the Consultations

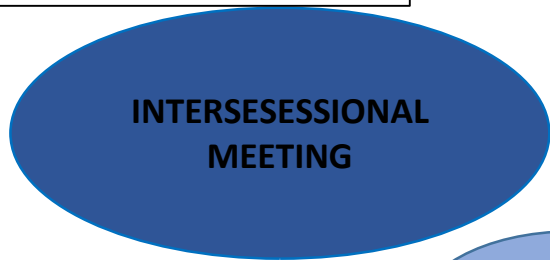
- **Both top-down and bottom-up approaches must work in tandem to achieve effective, long-term solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises.**
 - **Innovation, data, and technology have an unprecedented role to play in designing and demonstrating the benefits of nature-based solutions.**
 - **Private sector entities should rise to the challenge of integrating sustainability into core business values.**
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Thank you !

Latin America Office

OUTLINE

- **Intersessional work**
- **Format, agenda and structure for the XXII Forum**
- **Adoption of outcome documents**
- **Stakeholders Roadmap**



October 2018
Buenos Aires,
Argentina

November 2019
Bridgetown, Barbados

29 May 2020

Nov 2020-Jan 2021

1 - 2
FEBRUARY

Format, agenda and structure for the XXII Forum

- On 2 October 2020, the Bureau agreed to convene the XXII Meeting of the Forum on 18-19 January 2021 in a virtual format with a revised and streamlined agenda.
- An outline of the Agenda was approved by the Bureau as well as an indicative list of decisions.
- Member States have engaged in online negotiations of decisions within working groups and contact groups.
- A Negotiating Committee was established and its first meeting held on 30 October approved a timeframe for negotiation of outcome documents .





**XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers
of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC-IG.XXII/1.Rev1

1-2 February 2021

18 January 2020
Original: English

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organization of work
 1. Adoption of the rules of procedure
5. Adoption of the Forum decisions
 2. Approval of the program and calendar of sessions of the Meeting
3. High- Level Ministerial Dialogue on the Environmental Dimension of COVID-19 Sustainable Development Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean
4. UNEA 5 preparations
5. High Level Dialogue on Implementation of the Forum's outcomes
6. Adoption of the Forum decisions
7. Ministerial Panels.
 - Enhancing Implementation of the Forum Outcomes: Towards Strengthened Environmental Governance
 - The Urgency of Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Midst of the COVID-19 Emergency;
 - Circularity, Sustainable Economy and Pollution Prevention; and
 - The Role of Nature and Ecosystems Restoration in Building a Sustainable Recovery
8. Adoption of the Bridgetown Declaration and Communique
9. Election of XXIII Bureau
10. Closure of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/unep-event/xxii-forum-ministers-environment-latin-america-and-caribbean>

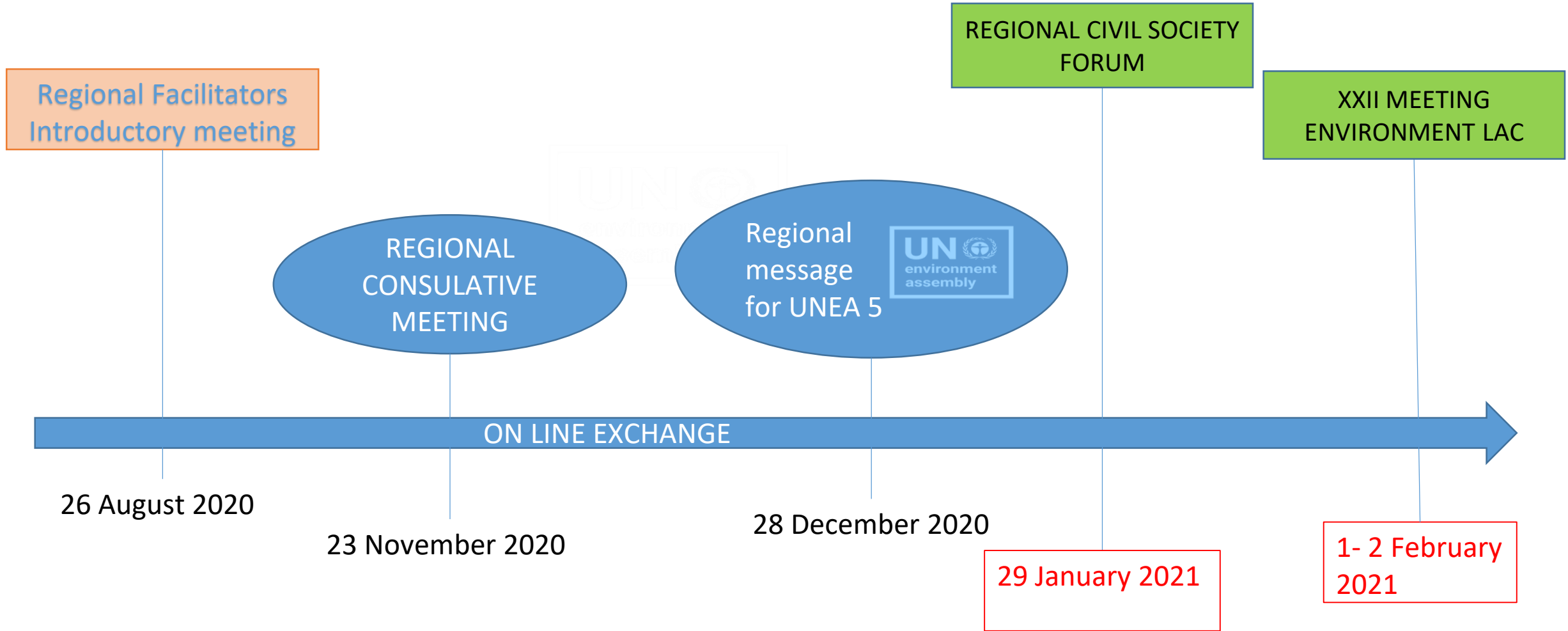
Outcome documents

Decisions

1. Pollution;
2. Sustainable Consumption and Production and circular economy – key drivers for post COVID-19 sustainable recovery;
3. Climate Change;
4. Preventing future pandemics and accelerating sustainable recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean through the adoption of regional strategies for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems;
5. Environmental Information Integrated System;
6. The Environmental Dimension of Emergencies and Crises - A Critical Issue to Address to Facilitate Sustainable Development;
7. Promotion of Gender Equality in Environmental Management; and
8. The Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development of SIDS,

The Bridgetown Declaration and Communique on the Environmental Dimensions of COVID 19 Sustainable Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Major Groups and Stakeholder Roadmap



Thank you !
