

Subcommittee Meeting of the CPR to UNEP, 21 January 2021

Annual report for UNEP's Private Sector Engagement

The intervention on behalf of the EU and its Member States

- The EU and its Member States thank for the Annual report for UNEP's Private Sector Engagement.
- We congratulate the UNEP's response to the COVID-19 crisis in collaboration with the private sector. We also look forward to receiving updates on this work-stream.
- The EU and its Member States fully recognise the importance of private sector involvement and collaboration to effectively address environmental challenges and see that private sector engagement should be strengthened with the expected accomplishments, activities and indicators of the UNEP's Programme of Work.
- We recognise the role of a diverse private sector with a geographic balance, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, all of which can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- The EU and its Members States agree with the importance of the collaboration with the UN bodies and partners, and reinforces the need to develop skills for micro, small and medium size enterprises, toward sustainable standards, encompassing cleaner production and industrial symbiosis, aiming to improve their profitability, resource efficiency and productivity.
- The EU and its Member States welcome the development and implementation of programmes in line with existing innovative solutions and technologies, as well as to adopt forward-thinking sustainable business approaches.
- We appreciate the information shared about the established partnerships within UNEP's seven Sub-programmes. However, in a few instances reporting only generically refers to "the private sector". It would be interesting to know, which companies UNEP has engaged with in all the different sub-programmes.
- The list provided in the end of the document is extensive and gives a very good overview of the wide range of activities according to the agreed reporting of the Private Sector Strategy. In addition to the current reporting, it would also be important to look at the progress against the SDG's.
- The EU and its Members States are pleased with the UNEP's 5 year strategy for private sector engagement approved in 2019. In future reporting and updates, we would be interested to be informed on how the private sector activities relate to the strategy and to the objectives set in the strategy. Clear communication about the results and added value of the engagement would also encourage further private sector engagement.
- In order to evaluate the impact of the partnerships at the sub-programme level we look forward to the first evaluation conducted by UNEP's independent Evaluation Office. When will the first evaluation be done?

- The EU and its Member States welcome the information on the progress of engagement with the private sector on an annual basis to the CPR.
- Finally, the EU and its Member States would welcome an overview about UN Science-Policy-Business Forum and its strategic engagement with the private sector and relevant work-streams and initiatives. While the Forum is one of the direct platforms for relating with private sector it is very modestly mentioned in the report. It would be useful to have more detailed update on SPBF's actions. Bearing in mind that the next virtual Forum will take place on 18-20 February 2021, it would be helpful to understand, how UNEP sees the Forum as an engagement platform with private sector.