

ZERO DRAFT AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT DURING THE 153RD MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

ON TUESDAY, 26TH JANUARY 2021

Agenda Item 6: Consideration of draft decisions on administrative and budgetary matters for the virtual session of UNEA-5 in February 2021

Chairperson,

Allow me to once again thank the secretariat for the presentation and for their efforts in ensuring that all the working documents are available for our deliberations for online UNEA-5, especially on this particular agenda item.

We also wish to take this opportunity to register our support for the draft agenda and structure of the fifth Open Ended CPR aimed at considering the revised draft decisions already agreed upon by consensus as summarily the Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work, management of Trust Funds and earmarked contributions as well as the adjournment and resumption of UNEA 5 in 2022. The African Group wishes to underline that these draft decisions should, as they remain under a member States driven process, continue to be considered without any online negotiations as they are administrative and budgetary in substance and procedural in nature.

Chairperson,

The African Group welcomes the draft MTS and Programme of Work and looks forward to further discussions on the same during the Open Ended CPR meeting in mid-February 2021. We also welcome the factual corrections on this draft decision. The Group continues to call for implementation of the planned activities and programmes in the MTS as these will directly contribute to the efforts towards achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty.

While taking note of the proposals on the draft decision on the adjournment and resumption of UNEA5 and in agreement that line by line consideration will be done at the Open-Ended CPR, the Group wishes to make the following general comments:

- Member States should continue to lead the work stream during the inter-sessional period, with the secretariat only playing a supportive role.

- The use of direct language from UNGA 73/333 when referring to the process, particularly as it refers to the role of UNEA on the matter should be maintained.
- In line with the Group's long-standing position on no virtual negotiations, we call for substantive matters not to be included during the discussions of this draft procedural decision
- In this regard, the Group calls for thematic areas to be highlighted when referring to existing mandates from previous sessions; as opposed to listing adopted resolutions as the listing may be far-reaching considering that the decisions should remain short, streamlined and concise.
- This resolution should mindfully remain a procedural one in honour of this intergovernmental process.

Chairperson,

The African Group wishes to highlight that it has taken note of all the reports which were submitted with appreciation, 6 weeks before the UNEA session, and we look forward to considering them at the successive substantive session. We remain committed to continued engagements during the online OECPR, whose functions the Group consider important in preparing for the UNEA session, with the CPR playing a critical role.

I thank you!