



SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERVENTION DURING THE 153RD MEETING OF THE UNEP CPR, HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2021

Agenda item 4: Preparations for the virtual fifth session of Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

My delegation wishes to align its intervention with the one delivered by the Group of 77 and China and the African Group respectively.

We thank the Executive Director for her opening statement and the secretariat for the draft agenda and structure of the fifth OECPR currently scheduled for two days to preparation for the online session of UNEA5 in February 2021. We appreciate that the common standard practice from the recent UNEAs of organizing the meetings of the open-ended CPR back-to-back with UNEA has been maintained. This creates more clarity and allows for better participation by Capitals for effective preparedness of UNEA-5.

This delegation welcomes the deferral of discussions on UNEA's contribution to HLPF to a future meeting of the UNEP Subcommittee in order to allow for the Assembly's submission to be inclusive and consultative.

We welcome the three draft decisions for online UNEA-5 and look forward to further discussions based on the addition proposals received from member States. We wish to reiterate our call for all the draft decisions to stay true to their titles/labels as our discussions for the online UNEA-5 remain administrative and budgetary in substance and procedural in nature. The situation of COVID 19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges hence our support for a two-stage approach to the session of UNEA-5.

Lastly chairperson,

My delegation looks forward to an update on the implementation of UNGA 73/333 by the co-facilitators as well as comments by member States on the draft building blocks of the Political Declaration. An exchange we are anticipating will take place in conjunction with the proposal to link this process to the commemorations of UNEP.

We have taken note of the letter by the President of UNEA and the presentation received today and looks forward to continued engagement in line with the spirit of the African Group's participation at UNEA-5 as outlined at the recently concluded AMCEN session.

I thank you!