

21 May 2021

Letter to Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies and Accredited Stakeholders from the Co-Facilitators on the roadmap for implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 73/333

Dear Delegates,

As Co-Facilitators, we would like to provide an update to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 73/333.

We held the first informal substantive consultation on General Assembly Resolution 73/333 virtually from 21 to 22 July 2020 in Nairobi, that was attended by Member States, Members of Specialized Agencies, representatives of the United Nations System and the Multilateral Environment Agreements as well as stakeholders and civil society.

On 7 October 2020, we circulated the first draft of the building blocks of a political declaration that reflected the discussions at the first informal consultations. On 19 January 2021 we shared our proposed roadmap with Member States and members of Specialized Agencies for the upcoming consultations and meetings and sought comments on the draft building blocks of the Political Declaration by no later than 15 March 2021. We indicated that we would circulate a revised draft by the beginning of May 2021 for the second substantive consultation to take place in-person between 15-17 June 2021. To date, we have received inputs to the first draft of the building blocks that have been posted on the UNEP webpage that deals with the implementation of 73/333. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/follow-up-on-ga-res-73-333>

At this stage the United Nations Office in Nairobi (“UNON”) is not in a position to commit to a date for the opening of the UNON compound due to the COVID-19 pandemic that would allow for in-person consultations. Consequently, we proposed to the Bureau and they agreed at their meeting on 12 May 2021 to postpone the second substantive consultation in June to a later date, tentatively in early November, after the meeting of the annual subcommittee. In November, we aim to have a meeting preferably in person or in hybrid format. The Co-facilitators are cognizant of concerns from Member States in having fully virtual meetings and would like to confirm, that if due to the COVID-19 situation we are not in position to hold the physical meetings, a virtual meeting will be held in an inclusive and transparent manner. The Co-facilitators are guided by the roadmap, adopted by the CPR, and by the mandate from UNGA resolution 73/333, pursuant to which UNEA-5 has the responsibility for preparing a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting.

However, to allow for further progress to be made, the Bureau has also agreed to our proposal to convene a series of online informal workshops with all Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies and Accredited Stakeholders that will meet virtually and that will address,

inter alia, (i) the inputs received to the first draft of the building blocks; (ii) questions of governance; (iii) questions on environmental law; and (iv) means of implementation.

Taking into account the calendar of subcommittee meetings our intention is to convene these informal workshops on the following dates: 2 June, 9 June, 29 June and 7 July 2021. We envisage that these informal workshops will each take place between 2-4pm on the day in question in order to allow delegates from all time zones to participate.

The Secretariat will shortly circulate a provisional agenda for the first informal workshop on 26 May as well as details of the internet link pursuant to which delegates can register and participate.

Upon conclusion of these informal workshops we will circulate a revised draft of the building blocks and a roadmap, as a basis for in-person consultations.

Sincerely yours,

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah

Vice Chair of the CPR, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan

Mr. Ado Lohmus

Vice President of the Bureau of UNEA and Permanent Representative of the Environment of the Republic of Estonia