

Agenda item 6: Assessment and lessons learned from the online UNEA-5



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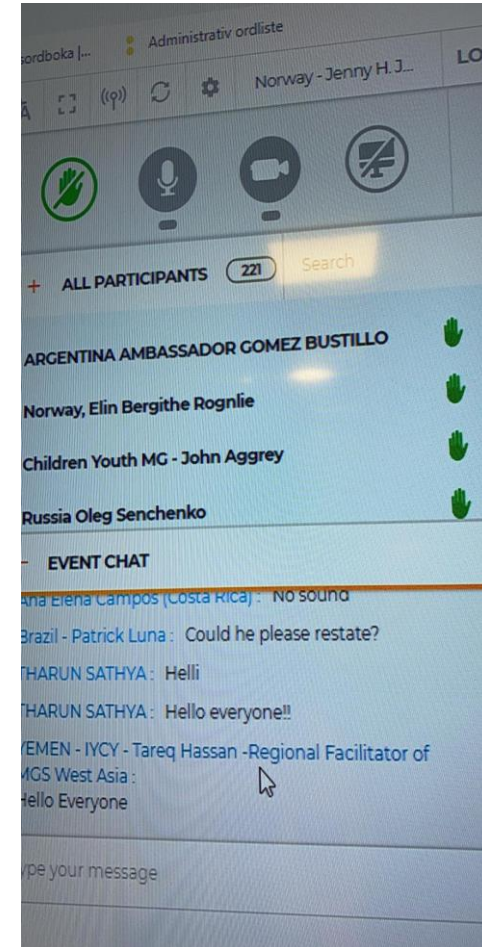
UNEA-5.1 and UNEA-5.2: Background

- Due to COVID-19, Member States decided that the UNEA-5 should take place in a **two-step approach**
- The first part (UNEA-5.1) focused on **urgent and procedural decisions**
- The outcomes of UNEA-5.1 were **prepared at OECPR-5.1**
- **Substantive matters deferred to the resumed session;** UNEA-5.2 in February 2022, to be prepared at OECPR-5.2
- UNEA-5.2 to followed by a **Special Session** in March 2022, to commemorate of the 50th anniversary of UNEP
- All preparatory work conducted **online**



Summary of UNEA-5.1 – main outcomes

- **Joint message endorsed** - “Looking ahead to the resumed UNEA – Message from online UNEA-5, Nairobi 22 – 23 February 2021”
- **Three decisions adopted**
 - Medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget
 - Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
 - Adjournment and resumption of UNEA-5
- **High-level leadership dialogue:** “Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post- pandemic world”
- 16 recorded **video messages** and 44 **written statements** from Member States; 17 video recordings from international organizations; 11 written statements from stakeholders



***UNEA-5.1 Demonstrated that the international community remains committed
Lessons-learned can offer insights for other meetings and future UNEAs***

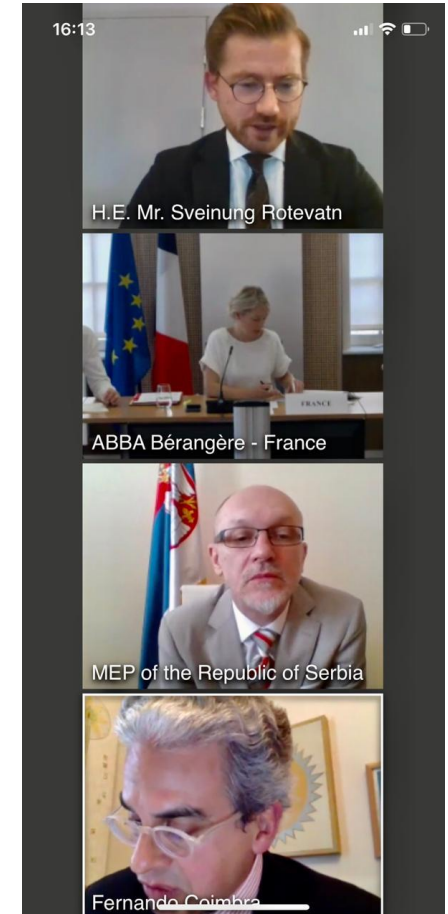
Summary of UNEA-5.1 – some statistics

- **2043 delegates in total** (48% female, and 52 % male)
- **114 Ministers** (87 Ministers, 27 Deputy Ministers)
- **1038 Member State delegates** (151 Member States, 2 Observer States, 2 Members of Specialized agencies)
- 101 delegates from **16 intergovernmental organizations**
- 667 delegates from **300 non-governmental organizations**
- **67 journalists** attended; 570 journalists following online live feed
- Reached almost **10 million people online**, with **2.1 million views** of UNEA-5 videos
- Generated **887 media articles** across 71 countries in 21 languages
- UNEA website received **80,000 pageviews**, incl 17,000 views of UNEA live blog



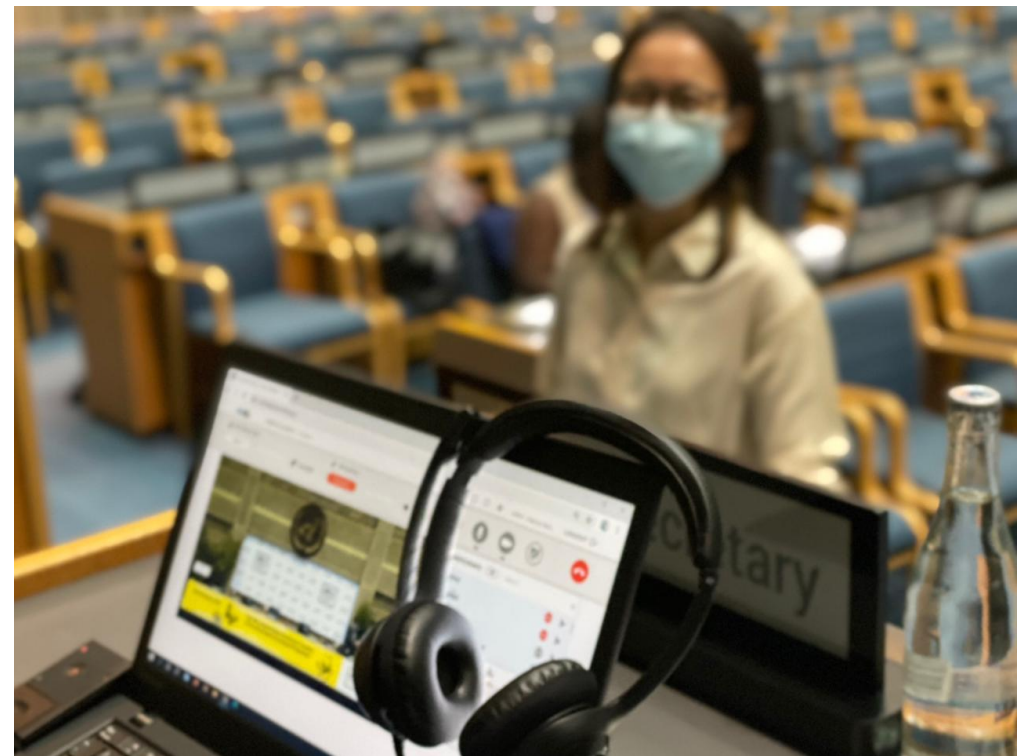
Key factors behind UNEA-5.1

- Early **consensus on format and outcomes**
- Informal **consultations on high-level message** led by UNEA President
- Effective & timely preparatory **consultations and negotiations under CPR**
- Substantive inputs from **regional ministerial foras**
- Timely and accessible **background documentation**
- Efforts to achieve **transparency, inclusivity, and universal participation despite challenges**
- Ensuring **compliance with UNEA rules of procedure** (see annex)
- **Independent stakeholder-led events** preceding the Assembly - *but with less opportunity to influence the decision-making process during online meetings*



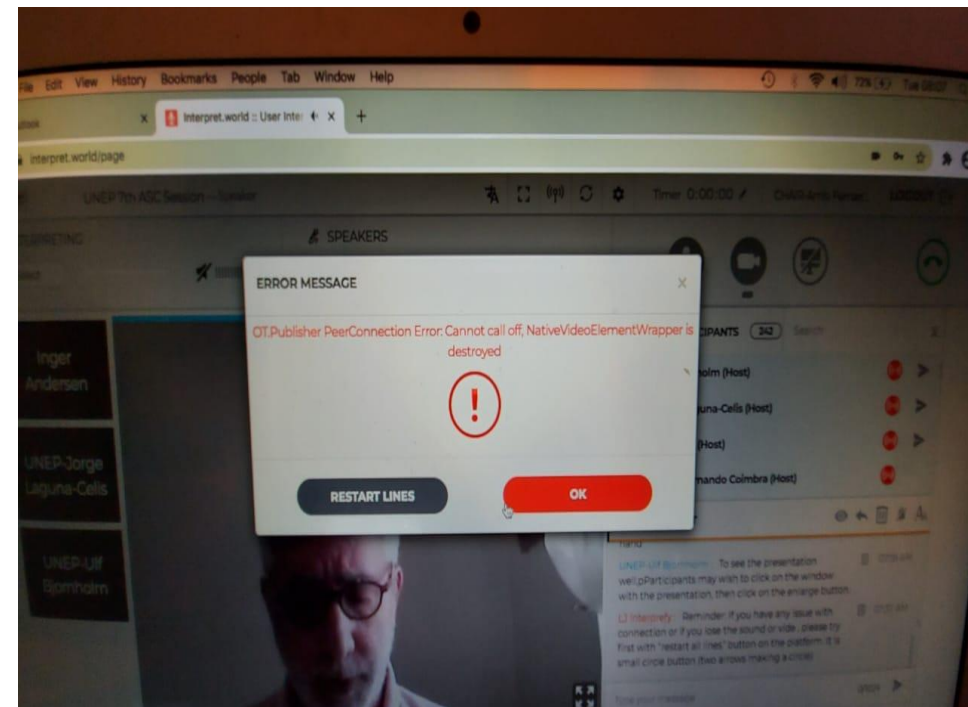
UNEA- 5.1: some opportunities

- **Participation of delegates** who may not otherwise have participated
- Putting all **countries on a more equal footing** regarding number of participants – although limited by technology access
- Improved **timeliness**
- Availability of real time and user-friendly online **on-screen editing** for negotiations
- Simplified and flexible **regional preparations** by regional and political groups through online meetings
- Significantly **lower environmental footprint** due to limited travel
- **Major cost savings** due to limited travel and accommodation costs



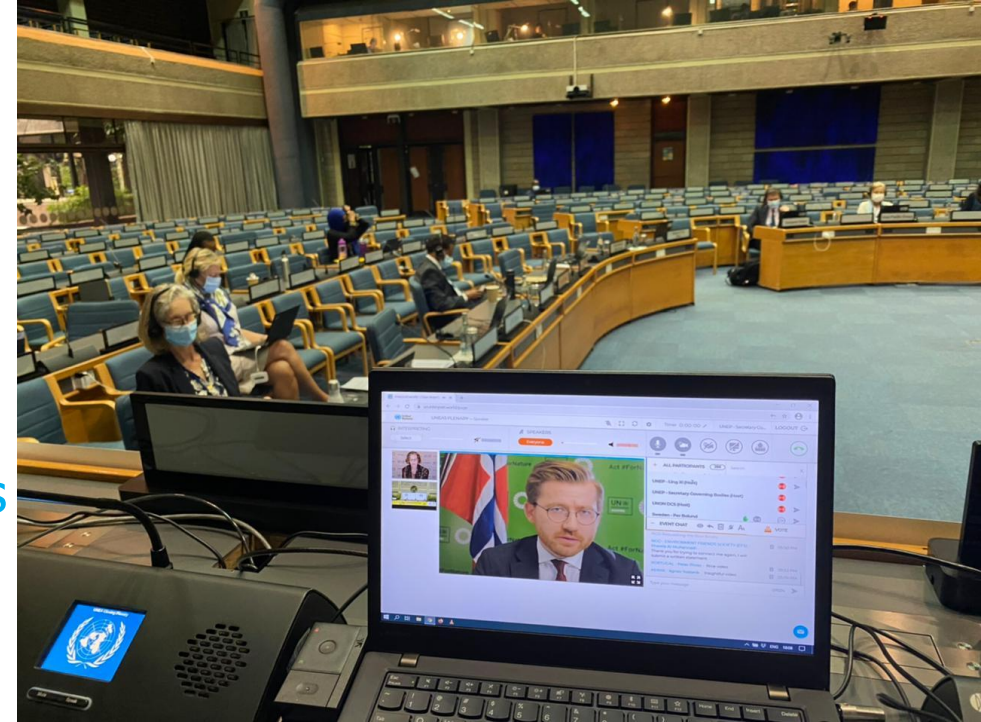
UNEA- 5.1: some challenges

- Occasional inability for delegates to **take the floor**
- **Some delays** due to technological difficulties relating to meeting platform (OECPR-5.1 only)
- Lack of **personal contacts** and informal meetings
- “**Screen fatigue**” due to long online sessions
- **Glitches in interpretation** services due to capacity issues
- Concerns relating to **transparency, inclusivity and universal participation**, and application of UNEA ROP - especially for negotiations and formal adoption of decisions (see annex III)
- Potential issues relating to **IT security**
- Impracticable **time zones**



UNEA- 5.1: lessons learned

- **Early consensus** on the objective, framework, scope and content of an online or hybrid meeting
- **Respecting UNEA rules** of procedure at all times
- Thorough **meeting preparations**
- Reliable and use-friendly **online platforms** for interpretation
- **Secure** online meeting environment
- Online **trainings and technical support** for delegates
- More **interactive** online leadership/multistakeholder dialogues
- Well supported online **regional preparations**
- **Early online registration** to avoid bottlenecks
- Ensure **meaningful online participation** for accredited stakeholders
- **Tailored outreach strategies** for different media types to increase awareness about UNEA



Looking ahead towards UNEA 5.2 and OECPR 5.2

- **How can we build on the lessons learned** from online UNEA-5.1 for the resumed session of UNEA 5 and UNEP@50?
- **There is a need to get back to in-person meetings while also taking advantage of online technology** – *where lies the balance?*
- What **guidance can Member States provide** towards
 - the resumed session of UNEA 5 in terms of format, preparations, side events?
 - Strengthened political leadership and key stakeholder engagement for the resumed session of UNEA and UNEP@50 (including MEA's)?
- How can we best use our tools and time towards **impactful outcomes** that provides maximum value added and avoids duplication?



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THANK YOU