

**Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meetings
(Nairobi, 27 May and 3 June 2021)**

Presentation of the UNEP Programme Performance Report for 2020

Comment by the European Union and its Member States

- The EU and its Member States thank the UNEP's Secretariat for the report and progress achieved in the last year, even in adverse and peculiar circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We recognise that it was a year of many challenges, including online meetings but that the goals set for the online session of UNEA5 were attained.
- We also recognise and appreciate the work of the organisation, which is reflected in the good results achieved, as the report's indicators show.
- The EU and its Member States would like to better understand the obstacles on the insufficient funding and difficulties in advancing national uptake in some areas, considering the comparison between 2020 and 2018-2019, which would provide useful input into the PoW for the coming period. It would also be appreciated if UNEP could elaborate on why many 2020 indicators were over-achieved despite insufficient contributions to the Environment Fund and under-spending of planned budgets, as well as an assessment of lessons learned for the setting of targets for the next PoW, and to what extent these have been applied.
- These good results overall and overachievements in several areas should be a motivation to set higher ambitions for the future MTS and PoWs. It is key that the next PPR also report on results at outcome level, providing evidence of the longer-term change that the activities have brought about, including through a briefing by the Evaluation Office.
- The EU and its MS highlight the relevant role of the "Leave No One Behind" principle and its consistency with the EU's and its Member States' priorities and messaging in other discussions, including on the programmatic priorities in the 2022-2025 MTS.
- While the EU and its Member States welcome the COVID-19 reporting under the different sub-programmes, it would have been valuable an overall analysis of the implications of the pandemic on UNEP's operations, both negative and positive, and what aspects of UNEP's work are foreseen to be adjusted also in the longer term. We feel this analysis merits a discussion at the Annual subcommittee to have a clear view on how the pandemic impacts UNEP's work in the next biennium and what measures will be taken to address its implications.
- On the sub-programme "Climate Change", the EU and its Member States recognise the role UNEP could play in assisting Member States in addressing the need to bring adaptation projects to the stage where they bring real protection against climate impacts such as droughts, floods and sea-level rise.
- The EU and its Member States underline the increasing growth in renewable energy, nevertheless there is still a massive potential for countries to unlock clean energy

generation and job creation. We welcome additional support from UNEP to further assist Member States in developing policies to incentivize the uptake of renewable energy.

- On the sub-programme “Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts”, the EU and its Member States want to congratulate UNEP’s work on their support on disaster prevention and crisis response.
- On the sub-programme “Healthy and Productive Ecosystems”, the EU and its Member States fully support the recognition of the critical role that ecosystems and biodiversity play in achieving sustainable development and the necessarily need for a global understanding of the importance of healthy ecosystems, and mainstreaming environmental considerations across sectors and borders including this environmental issues in economic decision-making.
- Regarding “Environmental governance”, the EU and its Member States congratulate the targets achieved. This is a clear sign of convergence of the international community on common and integrated approaches to achieve environmental objectives, implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SGD’s. Nonetheless, there is an urgent need to ramp up the UN system’s effort on environment and climate change, as shown in the report from the Joint Inspection Unit on Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability. EU and Member States support UNEP’s continued leadership role in raising the ambition.
- The EU and its Member States support the need to expand UNEP’s resource base to increase its reach, including in relation to efforts to strengthen national legislation and interagency collaborations, and in particular of the Montevideo Programme V as a good opportunity to strengthen national legislation.
- On the sub-programme “Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality” the EU and its Member States congratulate the results of UNEP’s work with governments, businesses, industries and civil society to reduce pollution and improve waste management. However, we find it important to continue to strengthen the activities in this regard.
- On the sub-programme “Resource efficiency”, the EU and its Member States support UNEP’s promotion of the inclusion of sustainability in their policies and practices carried with public and private sector actors on the support of countries and regions in their transition to sustainable development. We welcome UNEP to continue its leadership role in supporting Member States and addressing this in the wider UN system.
- The EU and its Member States subscribe UNEP’s work to develop and disseminate knowledge on how individuals may adjust their lifestyles, how businesses may choose sustainable suppliers, products or services, and how governments can provide the infrastructure, services and products in that sense.
- On the sub-programme “Environment under Review”, the EU and its Member States stress the Report’s results on filling the gap between the producers and users of environmental information to enable evidence-based decision-making on the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
- The EU and its Member States want to stress UNEP’s efforts towards transparency and accountability as a results-based organization through the use of performance monitoring, which has been enhanced with the development of dashboards.

- The EU and its Member States appreciate the efforts undertaken on gender integration and that an increasing number of projects approved will contribute meaningfully to gender equality. We look forward to further improvements under the new MTS.
 - The EU and its Member States welcome the information provided under “Executive Direction and Management” on how improvements have been made in how the organization operates, including information on UNEP’s strategies and guidance documents for transitioning to a successful remote workplace considering the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The EU and its Member States believe that this report is an opportunity for UNEP and its stakeholders to reflect upon successes, lessons learned, as outlined in each programmatic, and as means to provide guidance for the future. Therefore, we would like to reiterate UNEP’s commitment on achieving the ambitious and expected results. We acknowledge that the success of UNEP depends on partners who champion and fund its mission and are therefore pleased to note that overall contributions to UNEP have increased in 2020.
-