

**Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meetings  
(Nairobi, 27 May 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 "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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.