



## **UNEP CPR Sub-Committee Meetings on Programme Performance Review of 27 May and 3 June 2021**

### **Statements by Switzerland**

#### **General comment**

Switzerland commends the Secretariat for its 2020 Programme Performance Report. This report has continuously improved over the last years. It is informative and easily readable, substantial and not too long. We like its structure and in particular the chapter on opportunities, challenges and lessons learned.

We commend UNEP on a successful programme performance under difficult circumstances. The Covid pandemic marked last year and yet, the reference to this pandemic in the report is quite general and superficial. We suggest that a new chapter be included in the introduction on the overall impact of the pandemic on the programme performance.

#### **Subprogramme Climate Change**

We see that the “available resources” (327m) are almost tripled with respect to the “budgeted” (127.8m) ones, which is remarkable. However only half of the available resources were spent during the reporting period. What are the reasons for the significant underspending?

With this impressive amount of earmarked funding. In this context, it would be interesting to better understand where UNEP sees its “niche” or added value compared to other UN agencies or programmes, to ensure that this money is invested in the most impactful manner. Where does UNEP see its strengths (also in comparison with operational UN actors such as UNDP and which areas of its programme of work are considered to be the most successful ones? How is coordination with other UN agencies or programmes such as UNDP ensured?

To what extent is the topic of fossil fuel subsidies part of the ongoing project portfolio of the Secretariat?

#### **Subprogramme Healthy and Productive Ecosystems**

In the area “Cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks” UNEP helps countries, among others in monitoring, and we assume reporting on ecosystems. To what extent are you promoting and applying synergies among the biodiversity related conventions. Where do you see further potential to explore synergies in country reporting activities?

The UNEP Financial Initiative is an innovative initiative to mobilize private sector funding for sustainable development. An impressive number of financial institutions have signed up to the Principles for Responsible Banking. What concrete results have been achieved through this initiative in the reporting period and how does UNEP ensure that the financial institutions live up to what they’ve signed up to.

## **Subprogramme Environmental Governance**

Several UN system-wide sustainability strategies have progressed with UNEP's engagement. The report does not mention the work on the system-wide framework of strategies on the environment. In our understanding, this framework of strategies are in the implementation phase and the strategy is supposed to be updated. Could you provide us with the latest update on the work on the system-wide framework of strategies on the environment?

The Joint Inspection Unit published last year a Review of the Mainstreaming of Environmental Sustainability across organizations of the UN, which analyzes the implementation of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN 2020-2030. UNEP had a key role in the development of this strategy and has a key role in its implementation as chair of the Environment Management Group. What follow-up has UNEP given to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit?

The programme performance report extensively speaks about the support of member states at the national level for developing their capacities in international environmental law. However, the report does not mention UNEP's own Montevideo Programme. The secretariat mentioned that today the first meeting of national focal point is taking place. Could you give us an update on the new Programme cycle as adopted at UNEA 4?

In the chapter on opportunities, the UN Development Systems reform is mentioned. A long time has passed since the last briefing of the CPR on this reform and on UNEP's engagement. We suggest that a new briefing is offered at the next CPR meeting to keep the CPR abreast of these important developments.

## **Subprogramme Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality**

Switzerland supports UNEP's call for a strengthened science policy interface for chemicals & pollution. This issue should be addressed at the next UNEA.

The mentioned indicators are the numbers of ratifications of selected conventions (e.g. p.43). The forecast of the tremendous increase of the turnover of the chemicals industry underlines not only the importance of the topic but also the need for good indicators to measure the implementation of a sound management of chemicals and waste. The ratifications can only reflect a limited element. We recommend UNEP to continue to develop relevant indicators, including by working on the SAICM process 2020.

The complex scheme on the different consequences of plastic use, shows the importance to well coordinate the work on plastic within UNEP and with the different stakeholders. We understand that UNEP takes on a cross-subprogrammatic approach on the topic. As it is a global emerging environmental concern that spans the whole life cycle of plastics. Here you are only reporting on it under the chemical and waste subprogramme while it should also be a topic of the subprogrammes for Resource Efficiency, Ecosystems or even Environmental Governance. Can you briefly indicate how you tackle this issue within UNEP?

## **Subprogramme Environment under Review**

We note with appreciation the progress that has been made in the Word Environment Situation Room project, which can make a critical contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, amongst others.

Could you elaborate whether and how the internationally agreed environmental goals and the INFORMEA are also going to be part of the WESR and how is linked to the SDGs?