

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and
the Committee of Permanent Representatives
24 June 2021
14:00 – 15:30 and 16:00 – 19:00 (GMT+3)
Online meeting

Agenda Item 3.1: Preparations for the resumed meeting of the fifth session of UNEA – structure and format

This note, entitled “Possible structure and format for UNEA-5.2”, serves as background document for consideration of agenda item 3.1 Preparations for the resumed meeting of the fifth session of UNEA – structure and format.

The note serves as an initial proposal for further discussions on the format and structure of UNEA-5.2, taking into account the joint message from UNEA-5.1, decision 5/3, and previous guidance from the UNEA Bureau and from Member States and Stakeholders with regard to the preparation of UNEA sessions.

Members of the two Bureaus are invited to review the note and provide additional guidance to the Secretariat, as a basis for further preparations for UNEA-5.2.

Given the importance of early preparation and organization of UNEA 5.2, as well as of the of the 50th commemoration of the creation of UNEP, the Secretariat invites the Bureau to set a deadline by end-September for the approval of the structure of UNEA 5.2 by the Bureau of the Assembly, after consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its regular meeting scheduled for 21 September 2021.

Possible structure and format for UNEA-5.2

1. In light of the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and based on broad consultations Member States decided that the UNEA-5 should take place in a two-step approach. The first part (UNEA-5.1) was held online and broadcast live on 22-23 February 2021 with a revised and streamlined agenda that focused on urgent and procedural decisions. Substantive matters that require in-depth negotiations, as well as the Ministerial Declaration under the theme of UNEA-5 have been deferred to a resumed session of the fifth session of the Assembly (UNEA-5.2) scheduled for 28 February – 2 March 2022.
2. UNEA-5.2 will be followed by a Special Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-SS), to be held 3-4 March 2022, which will be devoted to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP in 1972.
3. The [joint political message](#) endorsed by UNEA-5.1, entitled “Looking ahead to the resumed UN Environment Assembly in 2022 –Message from online UNEA-5, Nairobi 22 –23 February 2021”, states, *inter alia*, that The Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will “*reconvene in person for the resumed fifth session of UNEA5 in Nairobi in early 2022 to continue our joint efforts, to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and to make further progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions from previous sessions of the Environment Assembly, including on the future of the Global Environment Outlook, and on marine litter and micro plastics*”.
4. In [UNEA decision 5/3](#), Member States decided, *inter alia*:

“To adjourn the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and to resume the session by convening at its headquarters in Nairobi from 28 February to 2 March 2022 to conclude the consideration of its agenda;” (paragraph 1)

“That the United Nations Environment Assembly shall, at the resumed meeting of its fifth session, finalize implementation of the mandate entrusted to it by General Assembly resolution 73/333 of 30 August 2019 to prepare a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting and invites the General Assembly to consider the appropriate event for the adoption of such a declaration, including the option of adopting it as one of the outcomes of the special session of the Environment Assembly to be held to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the result of further consultations on the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 73/333” (Paragraph 5)

5. The assessment and lessons learned of UNEA-5.1 report developed by the Secretariat concluded that there is a strong collective wish from all delegations as well as the Secretariat to organize in-person meetings again as soon as the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted, as a pre-condition for a successful UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50.
6. The assessment also concluded that the use of online or hybrid (a combination of online and in-person meetings) is nevertheless likely to continue beyond the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted – for practical, environmental and financial reasons. Online or hybrid meetings can be especially effective for informal and/or consultative meetings of the UNEP’s governing bodies.
7. Furthermore, paragraph 8 in [UNEA decision 5/3](#) states that: “*the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly shall consist of plenary meetings, a sessional committee of the whole and a high-level segment, including leadership dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue*” (Paragraph 8)
8. On this basis, and taking into account experiences from previous UNEA sessions, the secretariat has developed a first draft structure for OECPR-5.2, UNEA-5.2 and the Special Session on UNEP@50, as outlined in Annex I.

9. In addition, the Secretariat has put in place plans for an early organization of side events to be held in conjunction with the resumed session of UNEA-5.2
10. Against the above background, Members of the two Bureaus may wish to consider the following questions as a basis for further preparations for UNEA-5.2:
 - a) *Do the draft structures presented for the resumed OECPR and UNEA-5.2 reflect the expectations from Member States? How can it be improved?*
 - b) *Given the inter-connected nature between UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50, how can the Presidency and the Bureau of UNEA-5 work in tandem with the incoming UNEA-6 Presidency and Bureau, to ensure effective planning and communication to Member States and Stakeholders?*
 - c) *Taking into account the need for undertaking early planning and preparations, do the bureaux agree to an early launch of calls for side events and expositions such as the sustainable innovation expo and similar gatherings?*
 - d) *Which elements and advantages of online conferences and hybrid events should be taken into account in the planning of UNEA-5.2?*
 - e) *Taking into account the evolving nature of the situation, what is the best way to organize formal negotiations on draft resolutions and on the Ministerial Declaration and can some of these informal preparatory consultations on draft resolutions on the Ministerial Declaration under the auspices of the CPR take place in a hybrid format?*

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Annexes

Annex I: Draft structure of OECPR-5.2, UNEA-5.2 and the UNEA Special Session on UNEP@50

ANNEX I: Draft structure of OECPR-5.2, UNEA-5.2 and the UNE Special Session on UNEP@50

	<i>Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum/Youth Assembly – Exact date TBC</i>	<i>Sustainable Cities Forum – Exact date TBC</i>	<i>Science, Business, and Policy Forum – Exact date TBC</i>		
DRAFT STRUCTURE OF THE RESUMED OECPR-5.2					
	Monday 21 February 2022	Tuesday 22 February 2022	Wednesday 23 February 2022	Thursday 24 February 2022	Friday 25 February 2022
9:00–10:00	Regional Groups Meetings Bureau Meetings	Regional Groups Meetings Bureau Meetings	Regional Groups Meetings Bureau Meetings	Regional Groups Meetings Bureau Meetings	Regional Groups Meetings Bureau Meetings
10:00–13:00	Opening Plenary Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda Statements by Regional and Political Groups Statements from the Major Groups Adoption of minutes of the 156 th meeting of the CPR Organization of work Consideration of draft resolutions ACEFRS	Contact groups Informal consultations Draft resolutions E	Plenary Stock-taking of the informal consultations on draft resolutions Organization of work ACEFRS	Contact groups Informal consultations Draft resolutions E	Contact groups Informal consultations Draft resolutions E
13:00–15:00	BREAK				
15:00–18:00	Contact groups Informal consultations Draft resolutions E	Contact groups Informal consultations Draft resolutions E	Contact groups Informal consultations Draft resolutions E	Contact groups Informal consultations Draft resolutions E	Closing Plenary Consideration of decisions and outcomes of UNEA-5.2 Other matters Consideration and adoption of a draft Chair’s summary ACEFRS
18:00–19:00	BREAK				
19:00–21:00	Informal consultations led by the Presidency <i>Ministerial Declaration</i> E	Contact groups Informal consultations Draft resolutions E	Informal consultations led by the Presidency <i>Ministerial Declaration</i> E	Contact groups Informal consultations Draft resolutions E	

ACEFRS – Refers to official languages of the United Nations **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish**. All plenary sessions will be translated in the 6 UN languages. * The dates for the associated events (GMGSF/Youth Assembly/Sustainable Cities Forum/SBPF) are still yet to be determined and may be subject to change

