

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 “UNEA-5 pathway involving the Multilateral Environmental Agreements”, serves as an additional background document for consideration under agenda item 3.1 Preparations for the resumed meeting of the fifth session of UNEA – structure and format.

Members of the two Bureaux are invited to share their views on the proposed pathway, with a view to promote an active engagement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the preparations for and organisation of UNEA-5.2, as appropriate.

## UNEA-5 pathway involving the Multilateral Environmental Agreements

This paper presents possible avenues for enhancing the engagement of UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in the preparations for and organisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> session of UNEA (UNEA-5), as called for by some Member States in the context of the CPR review process to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the UNEP governing bodies.<sup>1</sup> To this end, UNEP invited the secretariats of MEAs administered by UNEP to explore options to enhance cooperation between UNEP/UNEA and the MEAs/COPs in relation to UNEA-5.

In particular, the note outlines ideas for engagement with MEAs in relation to the resumed session of UNEA-5, scheduled for 28 February – 2 March 2022 (UNEA-5.2) and has been developed in consultation with the secretariats of UNEP-administered MEAs. The non-UNEP administered MEAs will also be invited to contribute to the preparations of and participation at UNEA-5.2, as appropriate.

Given the uncertainties relating to COVID-19 meeting restrictions, the proposed pathway should be considered and implemented with flexibility and the experiences from its implementation should feed into the planning of the future UNEA sessions.

The theme of UNEA-5 – *Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the SDGs* – remains highly pertinent for many MEAs, as it offers numerous policy entry points to protect nature and the environment, while contributing to the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

A non-exhaustive list of concrete options for MEA engagement in UNEA-5.2 include:

1. Engage and consult with MEAs secretariats in the preparation of substantive documentation and draft resolutions for UNEA-5
  - a) Systematically consult with the MEAs in the development of relevant UNEA- 5 working documents developed by the UNEP Secretariat.
  - b) Identify ways through which partnerships under the leadership of specific MEAs can obtain visibility relating to the UNEA-5 theme and thus create “champions” within the MEA community.
  - c) Continue to consult the MEAs during the Member States-led resolution development process, to facilitate the provision of information by the Secretariat to Member States on complementarities or possible duplications with existing mandates at various COPs. MEAs involvement in the resolution development process may also encourage their active role in the implementation process.
2. Involve the MEAs secretariats in the organization of key events organized in person and/or virtually by UNEP and its partners leading up to and during UNEA-5, such as the Science-Policy-Business Forum, UNEP@50 events, regional environment ministers’ meetings, as well as other relevant events organized by UNEP Regional Offices, to leverage MEAs’ scientific, policy, legal, thematic and outreach expertise.
  - a) Consult with MEA Secretariats in the development of event concept notes and include relevant representatives of MEAs secretariats as speakers in the ministerial dialogues linked to the theme of UNEA-5 and provide visibility to partnerships with MEAs.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted however that some other Member States, while positive in principle, may look at this with some caution as they fear duplication of decisions and mandates between UNEA and MEAs COPs.

- b) In consultation with respective MEAs secretariats, prepare a factsheet on MEA contributions to the UNEA-5 theme that could be used for UNEA related events.
  - c) Involve representatives of MEA secretariats in UNEA-5 leadership dialogues, major group activities and side events, where relevant and possible.
  - d) Facilitate science-policy interface by engaging prominent MEA scientific panels such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the International Resource Panel, the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and other relevant scientific bodies in UNEA events, where relevant and possible.
3. In addition, the following modalities could be further explored with a view to further deepen MEA engagement at UNEA-5.2:
- a) Contribute to the consideration of agenda item 8 “Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
  - b) Consider possible contributions from MEAs to other relevant UNEA-5 agenda items, for example through a dedicated leadership dialogue session with MEA representatives at the opening plenary or during the high-level segment.
  - c) Contribute to the UNEA Special Session on UNEP@50 scheduled for 3-4 March 2022.

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