
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Wednesday 1 September 2021
10:00 am - 12:00 pm, GMT+3
Conference Room 9

Agenda Item 4: Preparation for the 155th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the 8th annual subcommittee meeting

This note, entitled “Possible key areas of importance for consideration at the resumed session of UNEA-5”, has been prepared as a background document for the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its meeting on 1 September 2021, for consideration under agenda item 4: Preparation for the 155th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the 8th annual subcommittee meeting. It identifies a list of key areas which are expected to require action during the resumed session of UNEA-5, scheduled for 28 February – 2 March 2022.

The members of the Bureau are invited to provide guidance on the way forward to prepare for a meaningful, impactful and manageable outcome of UNEA-5, in view of further discussions with Member States and Stakeholders that are expected to take place at the 155th meeting of the CPR and at the 8th meeting of the meeting of the annual subcommittee.

Based on this guidance, the secretariat will revise the document and present it as an updated a background document for the 68h meeting of the annual subcommittee.

Possible key areas of importance for consideration at the resumed session of UNEA-5

A. Introduction

1. This note is prepared in preparation for the 8th meeting of the annual subcommittee, with a view to identify a list of areas which are expected to require action during the resumed session of UNEA-5, scheduled for 28 February – 2 March 2022. The list builds on a note that was initially made available in document [UNEP/CPR/ASC/7/7](#) which was considered at the [7th meeting of the annual subcommittee](#) held 12-16 October 2020. It made a distinction between decisions that may be considered procedural, and issues of a more substantive nature, based on a legal analysis.
2. At the online session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.1), [three decisions were agreed](#):
 - (a) Decision 5/1: Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
 - (b) Decision 5/2: Medium-term strategy for 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023
 - (c) Decision 5/3: Adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
3. In [UNEA decision 5/3](#), Member States agreed, 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);
 - take note of the reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session on progress achieved in the implementation of resolutions of the Assembly [...] and to review those reports at the eighth annual subcommittee meeting in 2021 and defer taking action thereon until the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly in February and March 2022 (paragraph 4);
 - that the CPR, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue to review the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Environment Assembly (paragraph 5).
4. Uncertainties related to the spread of COVID-19 and the uneven rate of vaccinations in different countries do not at this stage allow us to predict when and under which conditions in-person negotiations with universal participation will take place, despite the commitment and current expectation that the resumed session of UNEA-5 should take place as a physical meeting at the UN compound in Nairobi,
5. To this end and also taking into account that the resumed session of UNEA-5 will be a three-day meeting, the Secretariat recommends Member States to prioritize a manageable and streamlined set of resolutions and decisions to be adopted at resumed session of UNEA-5. The Secretariat also continues to recommend consideration of possible “omnibus” resolutions or decisions which may capture one or more of the identified areas. This approach may be particularly useful with regard to decisions of a procedural nature, whereby the Secretariat may be requested to provide a first draft for in-depth consideration and negotiation by Member States.
6. This note has been developed by the secretariat to facilitate such a discussion, by recalling which areas that are expected to require action at the resumed session of UNEA-5, taking into account existing mandates and processes deriving from previous UNEA resolutions. When reviewing the list as presented to the 7th meeting of the annual subcommittee, it should be noted that two of the ten identified areas were addressed and concluded at the virtual session of UNEA-5, and will not require further action and resumed session of UNEA-5.

7. The areas where it is expected that further action is required at resumed session of UNEA-5 are as follows:

i) Decisions of a procedural nature

- a) Draft procedural decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as provided for by the UNEA rules of procedure, on the basis of a proposal from the Executive Director.
- b) Draft procedural decision on the logo/visual identity of the United Nations Environment Programme, on the basis of a proposal from the Executive Director.
- c) Draft procedural decision on the proposed Action plan for the implementation of subparagraphs (a)–(h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ([UNEP/EA.5/23](#)), as mandated by [UNEA decision 4/2, paragraph 14](#)

ii) Resolutions resulting from existing intergovernmental processes, as mandated by UNEA-4

- d) Draft resolution on the [outcome of the consensual process for review](#) by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as mandated by [UNEA decision 4/2, paragraphs 9-13](#).
 - e) Draft resolution on the outcome of the ad hoc expert group on marine litter and microplastics, on the basis of a report from the Executive Director ([UNEP/EA.5/8](#)), as mandated by [UNEA resolution 4/6](#).
 - f) Draft resolution on the future of the Global Environment Outlook process, on the basis of a progress report from the Executive Director ([UNEP/EA.5/17](#)) and subsequent work undertaken by a steering committee established by [UNEA resolution 4/23](#).
 - g) Draft resolution on the future of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), on the basis of the outcome from a GPA Intergovernmental Review Meeting which is yet to be convened.
 - h) Draft resolution on the implementation of [UN General Assembly resolution 73/333](#), entitled “Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277”, possibly submitted by co-facilitators appointed for that process.
8. Members of the CPR Bureau are invited to provide guidance on the way forward in view of further discussions with Member States and Stakeholders that are expected to take place at the 155th meeting of the CPR and at the 8th meeting of the meeting of the annual subcommittee. Based on this guidance, the secretariat will revise the document and present it as an updated a background document for the 8th meeting of the annual subcommittee.