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## **United Nations Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific Office**

Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific  
5-7 October 2021, Suwon City, Republic of Korea

Discussion Document for Agenda Item 3

**Regional input to the second session of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly outcome**

## **Regional input to the second session of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly outcome**

***Discussion Document -- Not for quotation or citation.*** The purpose of this document is to facilitate discussions during the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, 5-7 October 2021, Suwon City, Republic of Korea. Comments are welcome and should be sent to [uneproap@un.org](mailto:uneproap@un.org).

## **Draft resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session**

The operative paragraph 9 of UNEA Decision 5/3, “Strongly encourages Member States, without prejudice to the rules of procedure, in particular rule 44, to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the Environment Assembly at the resumed meeting of the fifth session at an early stage, preferably at least eight weeks in advance of the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, to allow for a productive period between the online and resumed meetings of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, taking into account the limited time and resources available for the negotiation of such draft resolutions.”

At the Preparatory retreat on 24 June, Member States were “Encouraged to present draft resolutions for UNEA-5.2 at the meeting of the annual subcommittee scheduled for the last week of October 2021”. Consultations on draft resolutions will start at or shortly ahead of the 8th meeting of the annual subcommittee and continue under the Committee of Permanent Representatives in November – December 2021 and January-February 2022. Final negotiations of draft resolutions will take place at the resumed 5th meeting of the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-5), 21-25 February 2022. The process will be consolidated online by the secretariat under a dedicated resolution paper smart portal.

Accordingly, Member States are invited to submit or announce draft resolutions to the secretariat of the Governing Bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme in time for the 8th meeting of the annual subcommittee (25-29 October) if possible and no later than 20 December 2021.

With regard to consideration and negotiation of draft resolutions, the CPR recommended, at its extraordinary meeting on 23 June 2021, that the Vice-Chair of the Committee “representing the Latin American and Caribbean States be tasked with the coordination of the negotiating processes of draft decisions and draft resolutions to be submitted for the consideration of the Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, including during the resumed fifth session of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, and that the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly consider designating a representative of the Latin American and Caribbean States to chair a sessional committee of the whole, if established, at the fifth session of the Environment Assembly.”

At the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, Member States may consider sharing relevant concepts or draft resolutions to be submitted to the Regional Office and the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies. The senior officials may wish to make a brief presentation of these initiatives at the Forum and call for possible co-sponsorships.

## **Draft guidelines for the submission of draft resolutions**

*Annex to the Chair's Summary of the 7th annual meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, held online in Nairobi in October 2020*<sup>1</sup>

### **Criteria, modalities, and timing for presenting and negotiating draft resolutions and decisions**

Without prejudice to the UNEA Rules of Procedure, in particular rule 44, and to relevant decisions by the Governing Council of UNEP and by UNEA, encourage an early, inclusive and transparent inter-sessional preparatory process with appropriate Secretariat support for the timely submission, consideration and negotiation of draft resolutions and decisions tabled for adoption at future sessions of the UN Environment Assembly by recommending Member States to:

- (a) Devote at least half a day of the meeting of the meeting of the annual subcommittee in the year preceding a UNEA session, to identify areas suitable for the tabling of draft resolutions and decisions and indicate, where possible, early intentions to submit draft resolutions and decisions.
- (b) If delegations indicate their intention to submit draft resolutions on a same or similar topic, engage with each other to foster collaboration, co-sponsorship, consolidation of the proposals, avoiding duplication of work.
- (c) Include a standard agenda item in all CPR meetings in the period between the meeting of the annual subcommittee and the OECPR, whereby Member States and the Secretariat are invited to provide status updates to the Committee on the development and/or preparation of draft resolutions and decisions.
- (d) Include a standard agenda item in joint meetings of the UNEA and CPR Bureaus between the meeting of the annual subcommittee and the OECPR to facilitate, in close consultation with the CPR, the identification of facilitators to chair the informal consultations on the draft resolutions and decisions as soon as possible for their in-depth consideration and to make efficient use of the intersessional period.
- (e) Respect, as far as possible, the following guidance:
  - i. Announce the intention to table a draft resolution or decision at the annual subcommittee or at least 12 weeks in advance of UNEA.
  - ii. Provide a concept note for the draft resolution that explains the rationale and context behind the initiative, which may include relevant information on the UNEA theme, the UNEP Programme of Work, the Sustainable Development Goals, and emerging global issues that may have an impact on the environment, and UNEP's Programme of Work.
  - iii. Submit a draft resolution or a decision at least 10 weeks in advance of UNEA, for further consideration and in-depth discussion by the CPR and its working groups in preparation for the OECPR.

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<sup>1</sup> NB – these guidelines are yet to be formally adopted by the CPR and UNEA

Taking into account different working processes of Member States, draft resolutions and decisions shall be given the same status and recognition regardless of the timing of their submission or communication of the intention to submit draft resolutions or decisions.

- (f) Outline, in the operative part of draft resolutions, the actions to be taken or promoted and the addressees of the action (e.g. member States, the UN system and specific stakeholders), as well as guidance to the UNEP Secretariat to facilitate reporting and follow up.”