

DRAFT

Oslo/Nairobi, 28 September 2021

Informal guidance on the submission of resolutions to the resumed session of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

We are all involved and well underway with the preparations for the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), scheduled to take place from 28 February to 2 March 2022. The ultimate goal of our joint work is to have an impactful UNEA-5.2, with outcomes that enhance actions for nature, so that we may reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

The most urgent administrative decisions were effectively dealt with in the online session earlier this year. We are now looking forward to discussing more substantive matters at the resumed session, to ensure that UNEA fulfils its mandate to set the global environmental agenda and provides overarching policy guidance and responses. The tabling of draft resolutions is an important aspect in this regard. Therefore, careful consideration regarding this process has been initiated by the Bureaux of UNEA and CPR.

Thus, in our capacities as President of the UN Environment Assembly and as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, we come together to provide some informal guidance to Member States on resolutions in the overall ambition for a successful outcome of UNEA-5.2. The resumed session is subject to extraordinary circumstances that will have an impact on our preparations. Firstly, the evolving COVID-19 pandemic is posing significant uncertainties relating to the restrictions applicable to the resumed session and its preparatory meetings. Secondly, there are high expectations that the resumed session will conclude consideration of all the many issues that were put on hold during the online session of the Assembly (UNEA-5.1) in February 2021, meaning that we already have a sizeable agenda. Thirdly, the resumed session of UNEA-5 will only have three days at its disposal instead of the standard period of five days. Lastly, delegations are also expected to engage on the special session on UNEP@50 and on the United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333.

Clearly, the situation demands more of us than usual in terms of preparation in order to stay in command of the many tasks before us. Thus, we recommend the following:

1. We shall strive to make the agenda and organization of the resumed session and its preparatory meeting, the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR), manageable and realistic for all.
2. Member States may recall that there are already certain decisions that UNEA 5.2 will need to take. These include a decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of UNEA; the election of the Bureau for the sixth session; the finalization of the preparation of a draft political declaration pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/333; and inputs to the International Meeting on Stockholm+50. In addition, Member States may wish to consider adopting resolutions on the Reports of the Executive Director that were submitted to the 5th session in February 2021 as well as resolutions that emanate from existing intergovernmental processes under the auspices of UNEA.
3. Therefore, and notwithstanding the right of Member states to submit national initiatives and respecting the agenda-setting role of UNEA, delegations are encouraged to show very careful consideration in presenting additional draft resolutions that cover new ground.

4. To assist with the process of consultations of the resolutions under the Committee of Permanent Representatives, we encourage delegations to share their draft proposals, or plans to present a proposal, preferably at the 8th Annual Sub-committee meeting scheduled for 25-29 October. This will allow the CPR to initiate the consideration of draft resolutions and decisions as early as possible and allowing time management planning so that each proposal actually gets considered responsibly. For Member States in a position to do so, they may communicate early intentions and/or concept notes or drafts already to the CPR subcommittee meeting scheduled for 14 October 2021.
5. Delegations that are not in a position to announce or table draft resolutions at the Annual Sub-committee meeting but plan to do so, are invited to submit them to the secretariat as early as possible, and by 20 December 2021 at the latest. This is in accordance with paragraph 9 of [UNEA Decision 5/3](#) and without prejudice to the rules of procedure.
6. Delegations who intend to present a draft resolution are invited to prepare an accompanying cover note that explains the rationale and context of the proposal. This could, for instance, consider how the draft relates to the theme of the fifth UN Environment Assembly, possible links to other relevant resolutions and/or initiatives, and include an indication, if possible, about potential financial implications of the draft resolution, should it be adopted. We understand that the UNEP secretariat may offer proponents assistance in this respect, and welcome further details from the Executive Director on this matter.

In accordance with its mandate, as set out in [Governing Council decision 27/2](#), the Committee of Permanent Representatives will undertake informal in-depth consultations and knowledge building on the draft resolutions and decisions, in the period from the annual subcommittee and to the OECPR, to be held from 21 to 25 February in Nairobi, where negotiations take place with universal participation and involvement from capitals, in view of final adoption of outcomes at UNEA-5.2.

All draft resolutions will be made available on a dedicated resolutions platform, which will be shared by the secretariat at a later stage.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to a successful resumed session of UNEA-5.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Signed

Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn
President of the fifth session of the
United Nations Environment Assembly

Ms Luisa Fragoso
Chair of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives

To:
UNEA Focal points in all Member States
All UN Permanent missions in Nairobi and Geneva