

## USA Intervention, ASC, Agenda Item 4a

This week's Annual Sub Committee is a very important milestone in our collective preparation for UNEA 5.2.

To ensure 5.2's success, we all need to be realistic about what can be accomplished given limited in-person meetings and the time available to us.

At present, there are simply too many outcomes swirling around UNEA 5.2, UNEP@50 and the 73/333 process.

The background documents for this agenda item alone identify ten mandates from previous UNEAs that Member States need to resolve in one or way or another.

My delegation is also aware of at least 13 resolutions that various groups and Member States are considering.

Mr. Chairman, that's 23 substantive decisions or resolutions on the table and this UNEA is shorter than in previous years.

As we expressed at the September 28 CPR meeting, the United States remains concerned that if Member States cannot prioritize the workload before us, then there is a real risk that the Nairobi environmental agenda will collapse under the weight of its own unrealistic expectations.

Such a collapse would negatively impact UNEP as an organization, the UNEP@50 Commemoration and UNEA-6.

To help ensure a streamlined and successful 5.2, the United States proposes that the CPR and UNEA Bureaus work together on Three Action Items:

--First, develop a VERY limited list of headline resolutions and decisions that will move the global environmental agenda forward and reinforce UNEA as a meaningful multilateral environmental event;

--Second, guide the preparations of one high-level political declaration to communicate environmental commitments and ambitions for UNEA 5.2 and its adjacent processes.

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--Third, create a flexible meeting format that both ensures substantive negotiations include meaningful capital participation and avoids favoring those who are able to attend in person.

Mr. Chairman, if Member States manage to reach agreement at 5.2 on a launch mandate for a marine litter INC, it will be a landmark achievement that will draw positive global attention to Nairobi, UNEP and UNEA.

All of us should be willing to delay action on less essential items in the interest of reaching a truly meaningful and larger goal.

Thank you.