

8th Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Agenda Item 4.c) Preparations for the resumed session of UNEA-5 - Briefing on the consultations on a draft ministerial declaration for UNEA-5.

Statement of the EU and its 27 Member States

- The EU and its MS express their support for the consultation process as communicated by the UNEA 5 Presidency. It describes an inclusive process, for which we believe that the Member States will be able to provide their inputs and participate in consultations, as well as enabling stakeholders to provide their contributions.
- The EU and its MS trust the leadership of the Presidency of UNEA 5 to find the right balance taking into account the different points of view towards developing an ambitious and substantial ministerial declaration.
- The EU and its MS agree that a clear focus should be given to the overall theme of UNEA 5: Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the sustainable development goals. The ministerial declaration should also reflect the key international environmental governance debates and outcomes. In that regard, the EU and its MS thank the UNEA 5 Presidency for including two placeholders for reference for outcomes from the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference and to the outcomes on the discussions on marine litter and plastic pollution and for referring to the adoption of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the 15th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The EU and its MS underline that the ministerial declaration offers a good opportunity for the input of UNEA 5.2 to Stockholm+50, as mandated by paragraph 7 of the General assembly resolution 75/280. The EU and its MS request a placeholder for an operative paragraph regarding this event. The EU and its MS believe that it might be suitable that UNEA 5.2 highlights Stockholm+50 as an occasion for action-oriented solutions for a healthy planet.
- Furthermore, the EU and its MS identify several key issues, we would like to see addressed, in particular around the following points:
 - The urgent need to take action to address the triple planetary crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Concrete actions on the following key action areas of climate, biodiversity protection, restoration and sustainable use, sustainable food systems, resource efficiency, circular economy and sustainable consumption and production, fight against pollution and marine litter and plastic pollution - should be incentivized, and wherever possible in a coherent manner that takes into account synergies and optimizes resource use.
 - The relevance of promoting nature-based solutions that protect and/or restore ecosystems, while transforming our production system toward more sustainability and resilience;
 - The opportunity to build back better in the recovery after the COVID crisis;

- The important role of the scientific community in highlighting for the policymakers key science–policy interfaces, for optimizing the effects of policy;
 - The need for partnerships across sectors and society so that all stakeholders are encouraged to take action towards our common global goals;
- Overall, the EU and its MS recognize that the current Zero Draft forms a balanced document and a good basis for further work. The EU and MS will provide detailed comments in the framework of the consultation process in November.